



Emily Kavanagh - Project Engineer Ringsend WwTP Upgrade Project

Irish Water Engineer and Westmeath native, Emily Kavanagh, has always been passionate about engineering since watching her Dad working in the local Water Treatment Plant when she was growing up.

Born and raised near Moate, Emily now lives in Dublin with her engineering husband and three young children. Having studied Civil Engineering in UCD, she went on to gain a Post Graduate Diploma in Environmental Engineering from Trinity College Dublin, before enjoying a very varied career working in the water industry. For 5 years she worked with leading consultancy group RPS, developing and delivering water supply and wastewater strategic planning for the Dublin Region, working on a number of projects including the Water Supply Project and flood modelling. She then transferred to Dublin City Council where she worked for 2 years on the Water Supply Project before joining Irish Water in 2014 as part of the Sustainability Team.

She now works as a project engineer on the upgrade project for Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant, the largest wastewater treatment plant in the country, which will deliver, on a phased basis, the capacity to treat the wastewater for a population equivalent of 2.4 million while achieving the standards of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.

Speaking about her role, Emily said “No two days are the same and I enjoy the challenge of working to solve different issues that arise on a daily basis that require collaboration with a variety of people from many backgrounds and skillsets, including contractors, consultants and internal stakeholders to progress the project.”

Speaking about why she thinks engineering is a great career choice, Emily commented “A qualification in engineering opens the door to many opportunities to allow you to find a career that

will play to your strengths. These can range from the roles that are highly technical, to those roles that are more people focused. There is a wide-ranging choice of areas to choose from within the field of engineering and in that respect, there are no limitations to what you can achieve.”

Irish Water is delighted to promote Engineers Week 2022 with colleagues from across the country sharing stories about their varied careers in the water industry and highlighting the size and scale of the work in safeguarding Ireland’s water and wastewater infrastructure for the future. For further information, please visit <http://www.water.ie/engineersweek>.