Water Resource Recovery Operator

AVERAGE SALARIES IN NEW YORK

Entry level: **$40,340**
Experienced*: **$70,650**

*depending on level of experience and size of utility

SOURCE: NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OCCUPATIONAL WAGES, HTTPS://LABOR.NY.GOV

Most operators receive overtime pay, paid vacations, holidays, sick leave, life insurance, medical and dental benefits and retirement benefits.
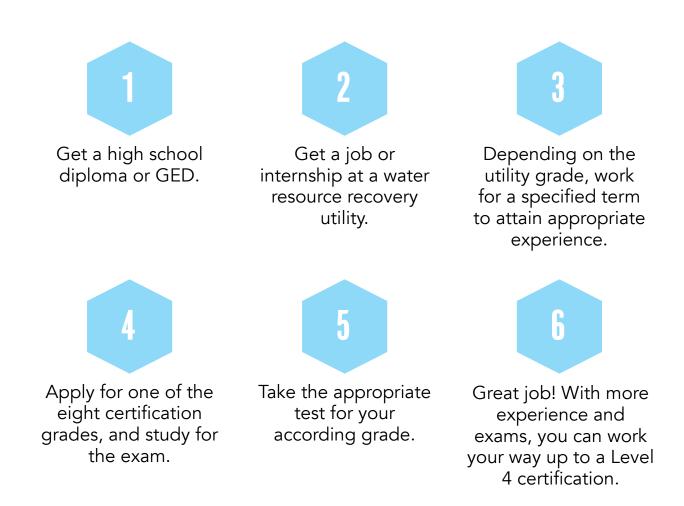
THE WATER INDUSTRY IS A CAREER, NOT JUST A JOB. MOST MANAGEMENT POSITIONS ARE FILLED BY OPERATORS WHO "WORK THEIR WAY UP."

There is great opportunity for advancement and varied experiences

JOB ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Learn the water resource recovery processes.
- Protect public health by ensuring that all water regulations are met.
- Operate equipment and analyze system performance using computer software.
- Diagnose and fix problems in the treatment system – mechanical aptitudes.
- Take, test and record water samples.
- Adjust the treatment system in response to water sampling – chemical or biological aptitudes.
- Organize work priorities, exercise independent judgment, wisdom, common sense and initiative.
- Clear, verbal and written communication with customers, coworkers and oversight boards.
- Respond to emergencies – leaks, flooding, power outages, etc.

HOW TO GET CERTIFIED TO BE A WATER RESOURCE RECOVERY OPERATOR

1
Get a high school diploma or GED.

2
Get a job or internship at a water resource recovery utility.

3
Depending on the utility grade, work for a specified term to attain appropriate experience.

4
Apply for one of the eight certification grades, and study for the exam.

5
Take the appropriate test for your according grade.

6
Great job! With more experience and exams, you can work your way up to a Level 4 certification.

Follow these links for more information:

Pre-Certification Classes (required for certification)
www.nywea.org/SitePages/Operator-Certification/

NYWEA Operator Certification
www.nywea.org/SitePages/Operator-Certification/

CAREER OUTLOOK

There are many water operators that will retire in the next 10 years. In the US, the water industry will need 29,700 new water operators to replace these retirees. Then, due to growth and development, 7,020 new water operator jobs will be needed to serve new and larger communities (6% job growth rate). This job is recession proof! No matter what the economy does, everyone still needs reliable and clean water.