

CEUs for Wastewater Operator Career Outreach

Background: Currently, water utilities face challenges in recruiting, training, and retaining employees. These challenges are exacerbated with roughly one-third of the water sector workforce eligible to retire in the next ten years. Additionally, as the technologies that are used in the water sector become more advanced (e.g., state of the art water reuse technology), there is a growing need to train and employ water protection specialists with specialized technical skills (EPA, 2020).

Oregon DEQ's Operator Certification Program recognizes the need for outreach to generate interest in this important career, and the program, as well as our Operator Certification Advisory Committee, feel that operators are the most qualified to do this important work – and should receive credit for doing it!

- How many CEUs can you attain this way every 2-year renewal period?: **Up to 0.5 CEUs**
 - One complete hour of speaking will be worth 0.1 CEU; two 30-min talks = 0.1 CEU
 - CEUs are rounded to the nearest hour, so 45 minutes = 0 CEUs; 1.5 hours = 0.1 CEU; 2 full hours = 0.2 CEUs, etc.
 - **Talks must be given during your specified renewal period** to receive credit

- Requirements:
 - **You must be a certified WW Collection and/or Treatment operator**
 - **Presentation must include some technical content of wastewater collection and/or treatment**

- **In lieu of a completion certificate**, you must submit a letter with your renewal application/fee from a school/community group administrator on official letterhead that includes the following:
 - Your name
 - Date of completion
 - Total hours of presenting (contact hours)
 - Name of school/community group
 - Signature of administrator
 - *Include the OESAC # on your renewal application

- Additional suggested topics
 - How you discovered this career
 - What you love most about it
 - Your career/educational path/interests
 - Daily duties
 - Time for questions
 - Contact information for DEQ if they have certification questions: opcert@deq.state.or.us

- Other information:
 - You may present to community and/or school groups of any age/group size
 - In-person AND virtual presentations are acceptable
 - Facility tours are NOT acceptable for this course. If you would like to receive credit for facility tours, your facility must submit a CEU request directly to www.oesac.org
 - If you have questions, contact: opcert@deq.state.or.us