

A living wage is the amount of money an individual must earn to meet their basic needs for quality of life, such as **food**, **housing**, **transportation**, **health care**, and **child care**. The living wage differs from the minimum wage in that the minimum wage is set by law and can fail to meet the requirements to have a basic quality of life and leaves individuals and families to rely on government programs for support.

*These are averages of the 2018 urban and rural rates per earner according to the Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office.



ORDER OF Water Engineer

Eighty seven thousand sixty (~41.86/hour)

Entry-Level Education Needed:

MEMO Bachelor's Degree

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\$ \$87,060

2019 median full-time annual salary

DOLLARS

22,900 annual predicted job openings nationwide*

DATE Career Paycheck

*According to the U.S. Department of Labor's 2019-2029 labor predictions

What Do They Do?

A water engineer is a type of civil engineer. Water engineers design and develop new systems and equipment that help manage human water resources.

This Career is Great if You Like:

- Mathematics
- Design
- Technology

Did You Know?

A civil engineer created the slippery part of a water slide. A civil engineer designed a pumping system to circulate just the right amount of water to the flume. Without the right flow of water, there is no ride.



Engineers **design** physical structures including **bridges**, **water systems**, and **power plants**. Engineers often spend time in offices, on job sites, and at client meetings.





DOLLARS

Forty seven thousand seven hundred sixty (~22.96/hour)

Entry-Level Education Needed: MEMO High School Diploma (GED)

9,200 annual predicted job openings nationwide*

*According to the U.S. Department of Labor's 2019-2029 labor predictions

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What Do They Do?

Water and wastewater treatment plant and system operators manage a system of machines to transfer or treat water or wastewater. Operators of drinking water facilities provide safe drinking water to the public. Operators of wastewater treatment plants ensure that clean, treated water is released back into the state's rivers, lakes, and groundwater.

This Career is Great if You Like:

- Mechanics
- Chemistry
- Hands-on work

Did You Know?

Vermont's 92 municipal wastewater treatment facilities process more than 15 billion gallons of wastewater per year.

Environmental & Natural Resources

Environmental and natural resources professionals **improve** the ways people interact with the outdoors by developing sustainable **logging** programs, measuring **renewable energy**, and measuring the environmental impacts of **mining** processes. They often work with private companies, or government industries in offices and field sites.





\$39,080

ORDER OF Water Maintenance and Repair Worker

2019 median full-time annual salary

DOLLARS

Thirty nine thousand eighty (~\$18.79/hour)

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Entry-Level Education Needed: MEMO High School Diploma (GED)

139,400 annual predicted job openings nationwide*

*According to the U.S. Department of Labor's 2019-2029 labor predictions

What Do They Do?

Water maintenance and repair workers install, maintain, and repair water services, valves, mains, meters, and hydrants; operate heavy equipment used in water service work; and perform a variety of skilled maintenance trades work.

This Career is Great if You Like:

- Mechanics
- Building and construction
- Hands-on work

Did You Know?

Vermont's 92 municipal wastewater treatment facilities process more than 15 billion gallons of wastewater per year.



Technicians **apply** ideas through building **houses**, fixing **cars**, and taking survey **samples**. They work in a variety of job sectors in offices, garages, and public agencies.