



How an Innovative WTP Equipment Manufacturer is Investing in Our Next Generation of Experts

My first few minutes waiting in line at Starbucks were enough to prove that times are changing... fast. Local and national news organizations tell us tales of technologic advancement, the rise of artificial intelligence, and changing weather patterns.

As I watch the hive of activity behind the counter, I notice the continuous use of one thing that hasn't changed: Water – the most universally required resource on the planet. Some organisms don't need oxygen but one thing that they all need is water.

We need water. When I was a teenager, I remember the media foreshadowing overpopulation and impending water scarcity. That was 1987. The world had only reached around 5 billion in population and now the United Nations projects a water-hungry population of 8.6 billion by 2030, just 11 years from now!

So, what about water?

An innovative company in Santa Rosa, California has apparently been asking the same question. They've been in the municipal drinking water industry for three decades, manufacturing an elegantly simple secondary containment vessel for chlorine gas designed to process and prevent a chlorine gas release, protecting workers and surrounding communities from a serious health hazard.

TGO Technologies, the maker of the secondary containment vessel called "ChlorTainer," began asking their customers and other industry experts in the waste and water treatment industries one simple question: "What's the most important investment we can make to protect the future of water?"

TGO discovered something interesting and surprising. The overwhelming answer had nothing to do with water... but rather, the stewarding of our water.

Aging Workforce Will Impact Plant Management

The collective knowledge hidden within our workforce is often viewed as the most valuable asset in the waste and water treatment industry.

But the Industry is going to experience a loss of these key knowledge holders, specifically the plant management who guide the current and future direction. In fact, the "2018 Longer Working Careers Survey" of 143 large US employers revealed that while older employees are crucial for business success, 83% of employers "have a significant number of employees at or nearing retirement" (Willis Towers Watson, 2018).

Plant managers look to innovative companies as they adapt to workforce changes. By providing simplified solutions and training, vendors and suppliers like TGO Technologies can become strategic partners to help plant managers shorten the learning curves in plant operations, as less experienced workers replace their retiring colleagues.

"As long as the equipment information is effectively passed on, there shouldn't be any problems for new people," noted Alex Mares, the water utilities supervisor for Lake Havasu City, AZ. "Meanwhile, overall, our city is looking at optimizing training programs to get new guys interested in plant operations, including drawing them from our own distribution system crews, toward getting them interested in training for whole-plant operations."

Another manager noted how the design of the secondary containment vessels, and the manufacturer's training in their use, can help.