

# The Importance of the Water Industry

by Morgan Johns

From a very young age, I remember my Mom encouraging my brother and I to drink an abundant amount of water daily. So much so, that I did not even find out what soda tasted like until well into my teens. But honestly, I only truly started understanding the benefits of staying *adequately* hydrated, and why my Mom was so insistent on the issue, the last couple years.

Water is important to our everyday lives and key to our survival. It makes up over 60% of the human body and is needed to help maintain a healthy weight, flush toxins from the body, lubricate joints, deliver oxygen throughout the body, boost skin health, regulate body temperature and is the key to a healthy digestive system.

It is incredible to think that three atoms, (two hydrogens and one oxygen atom), would contribute to make up the most essential thing on the planet used by all forms of life! Water is the most common substance found on earth and can exist as a liquid (water), solid (ice) or gas (water vapor/steam). It covers 75% of the earth's surface, however only a very small amount is fresh water that can be used directly by people, animals and plants. 97% of the world's water is in oceans and is too salty for plants, animals and humans to use, and 2% of the earth's water is frozen at the north and south poles, in glaciers and on snowy mountain ranges. Clearly this leaves a very small percentage available for human use and consumption.

Given the *very high* importance to our lives and the *very low* percentage of fresh water available...it is not hard to declare the water industry, *by far*, the most necessary industry in America and globally! The water industry provides clean drinking water and wastewater (or sewage treatment) services to residential, commercial, agricultural and industrial sectors of the economy. This is an essential service that ensures the health of individuals and whole communities.

Raised the child of an Auditor and City Council member (and by a bonus family member who is a Wastewater Technical Advisor and an ex-Public Works Director), I have listened to many conversations over the dinner table about water issues, including lagoons, water towers, cisterns, lift stations – you name it ... and three to four years ago, it was not always clear to me what all the “hype” was about. But since everything we do requires water – for drinking, washing, growing food, for industry, construction and manufacturing *and* given the fact that water is essential for human life to exist – it is now undeniably clear why my mother has always been so passionate about the importance of water and the water industry as a whole. I would like to personally thank the dedicated employees of this industry that are certified, trained and committed to providing clean water to us all! The management and distribution of water is paramount in making sure that this resource is sustainable well into the future.