

“Improvements pay dividends.”

Bio-economy Career Profile

Position: Assistant Plant Manager

Name: Mike Fletcher

Company: Iogen Corporation

Salary Range: \$80,000 to \$100,000 per year



What I do:

My role is assisting in all operational aspects, ensuring the facility reaches its goals. I ensure the health, safety, and environmental issues are taken into account each day.

The Assistant Plant Manager role is a mixture of short-term problem solving and longer-term planning, including building teams and defining employee roles. Hiring people is part of the process, as we are a growing company and always looking for good people. Other duties include assisting in marketing the commercial enzymes that the plant produces for food, pulp and paper, and textiles.

What education and skills do candidates need for this position?

People in the position tend to have a bio-science, chemical engineering, or biology background. However, plant managers are from all sorts of disciplines; as long as you are someone who is willing to learn on the job, and you come to the position with core competencies.

Essential skills include the ability to adapt to changing circumstances to take advantage of opportunities that may arise to better the company. There is also a need to effectively troubleshoot, and keep an open mind to learning new things on the job.

People skills are also important, as the Assistant Plant Manager spends a good part of the day on the plant floor speaking with employees and listening to their concerns.

What are the best parts of your job?

The best thing about this job is having the ability to take some risks in trying to improve the operation of the plant. It is good for morale and good for the company's bottom line when improvements pay dividends.

I encourage people interested in the industry to remain open-minded about the course of their career, and remember that you can learn from anybody. As well, it's important to not be too easily discouraged. You can always work your way up in the bio-economy sector.