



Spotlight on Women in Geothermal USA - November 2024

Sherri Christensen, Plant Operations Specialist at Cyrq Energy



Sherri Christensen’s story is one of resilience, adaptability, and passion. From a jewelry store to geothermal operations, she has embraced every opportunity with grit and determination. Her journey is a powerful reminder that no challenge is too great for those willing to take it on.

The Resilient Geothermal Advocate

Sherri Christensen, Plant Operations Specialist at Cyrq Energy, embodies an inspiring tale of perseverance and commitment, carving her path in the geothermal industry with determination and hands-on experience. Unlike many professionals who have entered the field through formal education and training, Sherri’s path was forged through hard work and perseverance, driven by a passion for learning and adapting. In this spotlight, we explore her journey from an administrative assistant to a key figure in geothermal operations at Cyrq’s Milford, Utah, plant.

Rising to the Challenge

Sherri's career journey is both inspiring and unconventional. She didn't attend college, a fact she humbly mentions, but rather began working as a teenager to support her family after the passing of her father. “I was working as a sophomore in high school,” she shares, explaining how she balanced responsibilities early on. This sense of responsibility and determination has been a constant throughout her career, driving her to seek out new challenges and opportunities.

In 2009, Sherri applied for an administrative assistant role at Cyrq Energy, not realizing at first that the company operated a geothermal plant. The position was just 15 minutes from her home, and it marked the beginning of what has now been a 15-year career in the geothermal industry.

From Admin to Operations Specialist

For the first 14 years, Sherri served as the administrative assistant at the Milford plant, but her role quickly expanded beyond traditional administrative duties. She played an instrumental part in various operational aspects of the plant, which started as supporting a single facility and has since grown to five geothermal plants across multiple states. “We had to do everything ourselves,” she explains, referencing the early days when the plant’s small team handled everything from HR to safety protocols.

Her deep involvement in the day-to-day workings of the plant and her willingness to learn have led to her current position as Plant Operations Specialist, a title that only recently changed but reflects the variety of responsibilities she has taken on over the years. Despite this promotion, Sherri humbly admits, “I don’t really do anything different.” However, her experience tells a different story—she is, in many ways, a critical member of her plant’s operations.

A Multifaceted Role

Sherri’s knowledge of the plant’s intricacies is deep. She monitors everything from well performance to equipment functionality and can even step in to operate the surface facilities when needed. “If we have an outage, I watch the screen and communicate with the field operators to resolve alarms,” she explains. Her ability to manage multiple aspects of the plant has made her a key figure in Cyrq Energy’s operations, and her leadership has been instrumental in preventing costly downtimes and improving efficiency.

Sherri’s extensive involvement extends even beyond the plant’s walls. She has served as a trainer, helping new administrative staff integrate into Cyrq’s growing network of geothermal plants across Nevada, Utah, and New Mexico. Her expertise has also led her to assist Cyrq’s corporate office in areas like accounting and administrative processes, showcasing her versatility and commitment to the company’s success.

Embracing Geothermal and Its Future

What truly sets Sherri apart is her passion for geothermal energy. “I’ve always been intrigued by geothermal, but I never knew a lot about it,” she says. That curiosity has driven her to immerse herself in the industry, learning everything she can about the technology and its impact. Today, she proudly works closely with the Operations team and monitors one of Cyrq’s key plants, knowing that the power they generate goes directly to Anaheim, California, providing clean energy to thousands of homes.

Life Beyond the Plant



Outside of work, Sherri enjoys spending time with her family, particularly her grandkids. An avid competitive archer, she balances her love for geothermal with hobbies that keep her grounded. Her dedication to both her career and personal life demonstrates the multifaceted nature of this geothermal leader.



As the geothermal sector continues to grow, Sherri sees exciting opportunities ahead, especially with next-generation projects like Fervo and FORGE located near her plant. She expresses enthusiasm for how these innovative approaches may shape the future of geothermal energy. “It’s very exciting,” she says, “and it’s fun to see the projects going on.”



A Voice for Women in Geothermal

Despite her many accomplishments, Sherri has faced challenges, particularly as a woman in a male-dominated field. She remains the only female working at her plant and acknowledges that, while she has always felt empowered to speak up, the growing size of Cyrq Energy has introduced new dynamics. “I know my plant, I know what’s going on,” she says, reflecting on how her deep knowledge and experience gives her the confidence to advocate for her ideas and pushing for what she knows is right.

Sherri is a strong advocate for women in the geothermal industry. Her involvement in Cyrq’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee is one way she is working to pave the way for more women to enter the field. “If you believe in yourself, others will believe in you,” she says, encouraging women to pursue careers in geothermal, even if it feels intimidating. Sherri’s story is a testament to the fact that success doesn’t always come from formal education—it comes from hard work, determination, and the willingness to seize opportunities.

As she looks to the future, Sherri is hopeful that more women will join her in the geothermal industry and that she can continue to be a voice for those who are underrepresented. Her ultimate goal? To keep learning, growing, and making an impact in an industry she loves.

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