Bridget R. Scanlon (born 1959) is an Irish and American [hydrogeologist](#) known for her work on groundwater depletion and groundwater recharging, and of the [effects of climate change](#) and land usage patterns on groundwater. She is a senior research scientist in the Bureau of Economic Geology at the [University of Texas at Austin](#), where she is head of the Sustainable Water Resources Program. Her research has included the use of GRACE satellite data to compare drought conditions in [Texas](#) and [California](#).

Education and career

Scanlon is originally from [County Kerry](#) in Ireland. She earned a bachelor's degree in geology at [Trinity College Dublin](#) in 1980, and worked with the Geological Survey of Ireland before moving to the US for graduate study.

She earned a master's degree at the [University of Alabama](#) in 1983, with a master's thesis based on her field work in the basin of the [River Maine](#) in Ireland, and completed a Ph.D. at the [University of Kentucky](#) in 1985, studying the [karst](#) landscape of the inner Bluegrass region of [Kentucky](#).

After briefly working at a consulting firm, she joined the Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas at Austin in 1987. Since 2004 she has also held an adjunct faculty position at the [University of Nebraska](#).

Recognition

Scanlon became a Fellow of the Geological Society of America in 2005, and a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union in 2015. She was elected a member of the [National Academy of Engineering](#) in 2016 "for contributions to the evaluation of groundwater recharge and aquifer depletion".

Scanlon was the 2007 Birdsall–Dreiss Distinguished Lecturer of the Geological Society of America, which also gave her their 2019 O. E. Meinzer Award. The National

Ground Water Association gave Scanlon their 2016 M. King Hubbert Award. The International Association of Hydrogeologists gave her their 2018 Presidents' Award.

Scanlon holds the William L. Fisher Endowed Chair in Geological Sciences.

Selected publications

Scanlon's Meinzer Award citation selected the following four papers of Scanlon for particular attention, noting their high citations. It stated that the first two made Scanlon "the leading global expert on groundwater recharge", while the second two demonstrated her more recent interest in climate change and sustainability, and included pioneering work in the water resources used by hydraulic fracturing: