



Biotechnology and  
Biological Sciences  
Research Council



Engineering and  
Physical Sciences  
Research Council



The Process Integration and Sustainability Assessment Working Group LCA workshop at Chilworth Science Park, 30 April 2024

## EBNet Newsletter - June 2024

### New

#### EBNet Animation Opportunity

As part of EBNet's Engineering/Biology theme we intend to commission some short animations that illustrate interactions between the system microbiology and its engineering envelope in Environmental Biotechnology. This EBNet resource – a collection of publicly available videos – will showcase EB in an accessible way to promote a better understanding of some key concepts and underlying ideas. Examples could include any aspect of EB relevant to EBNet, but ideally should be concise and specific to a single concept rather be of general wide-ranging nature, e.g. how a bioreactor's biological performance is impacted by... mixing and mass transfer, biomass retention and product extraction. Or what it is about a MEC system that makes it so versatile...

If you have an idea for an animation, please get in touch now. Email [ebnet@ebnet.ac.uk](mailto:ebnet@ebnet.ac.uk) by **19 July 2024** with your idea (in 2 or 3 sentences). If selected we'll then ask for your draft script (only 3-400 words), and take it through to production on your behalf.

The intended audience is people with some scientific background or interests but who are not expert in this field: it could range from members of the public to funding panel members, through to policymakers. The maximum length is around 3 minutes. For an indication of what you can fit into this, see the original '[What is Environmental Biotechnology?](#)' clip on our website. Animations will be published on the EBNet YouTube site with authors' names credited and copies will be made openly downloadable.

#### [Mini symposium on microfluidics for single cell sensing and sequencing](#)

23 July 2024, Cranfield University

Join members from the [Environmental Sensors and Wastewater Surveillance Working Group](#) for this event - contact [Professor Zhugen Yang](#) for details.

#### Calling all Water Industry members

Dr Yongqiang Liu, Associate Professor at the University of Southampton, is currently looking for samples from a range of WWTP in the UK with nutrient removal – specifically those working on Aerobic Granules - for the [Aerobic Granulation Processes Working Group](#) on microbiological study. Samples could be attributed or anonymous but would be valuable for research purposes. Can you help?

If you are able to offer help or guidance contact EBNet, or Yongqiang directly by email:

[Y.Liu@soton.ac.uk](mailto:Y.Liu@soton.ac.uk)



## Now Open

*EBNet funding opportunities for academia and industry are highlighted below.*

### [ECR Conference Travel Bursary](#) - Always open

Looking to present your work at a major conference and lack funding? Given the increased cost of international flights we have raised our support to **£2,000** (max.) for full oral presentations to our listed conferences in 2023/24. Send in your application as soon as you are notified - we have a number set aside for each conference!

### [EBNet Placement Call](#) - Always open

These are worth up to £1,500 for UK-based placements and £3,000 for overseas placements.

### [EBNet: Share With A Peer \(SWAP\) Travel Bursary](#)

Always open. Available to Early Career Researchers

Proud of the work going on in your lab? Fancy a visit to another lab tackling similar topics? We have just the thing for you, We can offer **up to £250\*** towards accommodation, meals, and travel per person - just make a short video clip &/or pictures suitable for our website. [Flyer](#).

## Spotlight On...

*Do you have any good news to share with other members? Email us details if you want a shout-out in the next newsletter.*



### **Invitation to Contribute: Workshop on Embedding EDI in the Circular Carbon Economy**

Researchers from the University of Nottingham and University of Surrey are organising interactive workshops aimed at developing a preliminary roadmap to embed Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) in the Circular Carbon Economy. This workshop aims to explore the integration of EDI principles into the circular carbon economy, that encompasses biology, engineering, digital, and social solutions to sustainably manage carbon resources from biobased, fossil, or recycled feedstocks.

The online workshops are planned for 10:00-12:00 BST on 21/06/2024 and from 16:00-18:00 BST on 01/07/2024.

If this topic interests you, sign up to either workshop [here](#) or reach out to the project PI at [oliver.fisher@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:oliver.fisher@nottingham.ac.uk) to learn more.

### **The National Biofilms Innovation Centre - photo and art competition**

The annual NBIC [Biofilm Create! Competition](#) is now open. This competition is part of the [#BiofilmAware](#) Campaign, is open until 18 October 2024. Enter your photos and art to win. you can find beautiful images from prior competitions [here](#) for inspiration.

### **The Environment Agency - Methane report**

The EA has published its "[Methane Action Plan for 2024 to 2026](#)" which sets out how to reduce methane emissions in England as we work towards net zero emissions by 2050.

### **Responsible & Safe Handling of C1 Gases in Microbiology Laboratories**

This handy [Carbon Recycling Network](#) guidance manual is now available [here](#).

### ***Are you getting the latest information from us?***

More people are turning to EBNet for speedy access to events, reports, jobs, PhD/Postdoc positions etc.

Join us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).



## Forthcoming Events

*Find selected upcoming events below.*

*Find more at: [KTN events](#)*

[KTN: Navigating Net Zero: Understanding the Role of Hydrogen](#) - 20 June 2024

[Green and Sustainable Chemistry Symposium](#) - 24 June 2024, York

[The WWF Drinking Water Quality Conference 2024: pre-conference workshop - PFAS and Emerging Contaminants](#) - 24 June 2024, Solihull

[Hydrogen Innovation Showcase](#) - 2/3 July 2024, Manchester

[KTN: Sustainable bio-based Materials and Manufacture \(SusBioMM\) Cafes:](#)

Natural dyes from food waste - 9 July 2024

Reducing carbon emissions in the construction sector and Sustainable Insulation Materials - 10 September 2024

Low carbon modular construction - 8 October 2024

Developing a scalable, urine-based fertilizer – challenges and opportunities - 12 November 2024

Harnessing the power of algae to create valuable products from waste - 10 December 2024

[The Clean Energy Transition Partnership: Joint Call 2024 Launch Event](#) - 12 September 2024

[Global Research & Innovation in Plastics Sustainability \(GRIPS\) 2024](#) - 19 September 2024, Sheffield

[International Forum on Industrial Biotechnology and Bioeconomy \(IFIB\)](#) - 3-4 October 2024, Bologna, Italy

[The CET Partnership Annual Conference 2024](#) - 22/23 October, online

[18th International Conference on Wetland systems for Water pollution Control](#) - 24-29 November 2024, Martinique

[SynbiTECH](#) - 3/4 December 2024, London

[14th IWA International Conference on Water Reclamation and Reuse](#) - 16 March 2025, Cape Town, South Africa

[The Microbiology Society Annual Conference 2025](#) - 31 March-3 April 2025, Liverpool International Convention Centre

[IWA Resource Recovery Cluster Conference](#) - 19-23 May 2025, the Netherlands

[ADBA/Vale Green Energy: Biogas Plant Site Visit](#) - 9 July 2024, Birmingham

## Funding

*Funding opportunities for academia and industry are highlighted below.*

Find more at: [UKRI funding](#)



[The Royal Society: Wolfson Fellowships](#) - opens 12 June 2024

[Innovate UK: New innovators in net zero industry, South West Wales](#) - 19 June 2024

[Innovate UK: New innovators in agri-tech and food technology, Eastern England](#) - 19 June 2024

[The Royal Society: The ISPF International Collaboration Awards](#) - 25 June 2024

[Supergen Bioenergy Impact Hub: Flexible funding - biomass to biobased products](#) - 30 June 2024

[BBNet: BIV](#) - 30 June 2024

[EPSRC Network Plus: Tomorrow's Engineering Research Challenges](#) - 9 July 2024

[Innovate UK: UK-Taiwan Collaborative R&D 2024](#) - 17 July 2024

[Innovate UK: Farming Futures: Nutrient Management Phase 1 - Feasibility](#) - 24 July 2024

[Innovate UK: Farming Futures: Nutrient Management Phase One – Industrial Research](#) - 24 July 2024

[EPSRC: Strategic infrastructure for engineering and physical sciences](#) - 20 August 2024

[NERC: UK-Canada sustainable critical minerals research partnerships](#) - 3 October 2024

[UKRI: cross research council responsive mode pilot scheme: round 2](#) - 19 November 2024

[The Royal Society: Partnership Grants](#) - 29 November 2024

[Work with US-based researchers on environmental science: NERC-NSF lead agency](#) - open



## Jobs, Training, Awards & PhDs

*Did you know we have funds available to help members access placements in industry or academia?*

**Jobs (also see [FindAPostDoc](#) & [Jobs.ac.uk](#))**

[Research Assistant/Research Associate in Biosecurity](#) - Newcastle University, 16 June 2024

[Research Assistant / Associate in Trickle Filters](#) - BEWise, Newcastle University, 23 June 2024

[Senior Lecturer/Reader/Professor of Engineering Biology](#) - University of Glasgow, 23 June 2024

[Lecturer/ Senior Lecturer/ Reader in Environmental Fluid Mechanics](#) - University of Glasgow, 23 June 2024

[Lecturer/ Senior Lecturer/ Reader in Geotechnics for Sustainability and Resilience of Infrastructure](#) - University of Glasgow, 23 June 2024

### Training

[RSC: Biocatalysis: Solving Scale-Up Issues with Biocatalysed Reactions](#) - 17 June 2024

[Aqua Enviro: Optimising Anaerobic Digesters: Sewage sludge](#) - 11 July 2024

[FEMS Summer School for Postdocs 2024](#) - 2-10 September 2024

[Royal Society of Biology Training](#) - various

[CL:AIRE Training](#) - various

### Awards and Competitions

[The IET Excellence and Innovation Awards](#) - 28 June 2024

[Microbiology Society research visit grant](#) - 1 October 2024

### PhDs (see [FindaPhD](#))

[Developing a Comprehensive Management Approach to PFAS](#) - 17 June 2024, Brunel University London

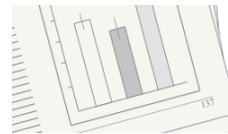
[Understanding the soil microbiome under controlled light conditions](#) - 24 June 2024, University of Greenwich

[Developing non-model microorganisms for a Net Zero future](#) - 30 June 2024, The University of Manchester

[Developing Hybrid Physics-Informed AI Digital Twins for Bioenergy Applications](#) - 1 July 2024, University of Surrey

## Publications

*Have you seen or published anything recently that you would like us to highlight? Send your suggestions in!*



### [Extracting metal ions from basic oxygen steelmaking dust by using bio-hydrometallurgy](#)

By: Ipek Tezyapar Kara *et al.* In: Heliyon. Volume 10, Issue 11, 15 June 2024, e32437

### [Electric Fenton technology with Jacaranda fruit shell biochar as particle electrode for the removal of emerging pollutant ciprofloxacin hydrochloride](#)

By: Yuqin Liu *et al.* In: Environmental Engineering Research 2024;29(6): 240017

### [Unlocking bacterial potential to reduce farmland N2O emissions](#)

By: Elisabeth G. Hiis *et al.* In: Nature (2024) Published: 29 May 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-024-07464-3>

### [Potential for the recovery of xanthan from aerobic granular sludge wastewater systems—A review](#)

By: Manveer Kaur, Bing Guo, Oliver Terna Iorhemen. In: Resources, Conservation and Recycling. Volume 207, August 2024, 107688

### [Biosorption of arsenic \(III\) from aqueous solution using calcium alginate immobilized dead biomass of Acinetobacter sp. strain Sp2b](#)

By: Renu Khandelwal *et al.* In: Scientific Reports volume 14, Article number: 9972 (2024)

### [Bioremediation of waste by yeast strains](#)

By: Obaidullah Mohiuddin *et al.* In: Electronic Journal of Biotechnology. Available online 7 May 2024

### [Design of novel Sb2S3/Polythiophene heterojunction for efficient adsorption and methanol sensing](#)

By: Nafees Ahmad *et al.* In: Separation and Purification Technology. Available online 6 May 2024, 127826.

### [Assessing metal extraction from metalliferous waste: A study using deep eutectic solvents and chelating agents vs. ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid](#)

By: Victoria E. Huntington, Frederic Coulon, Stuart T. Wagland. In: Journal of Environmental Management. Volume 363, July 2024, 121350

And [IWA Publishing](#), through their partnership with [Knowledge Unlatched](#) (KU), a library crowd-funding initiative, have made 19 titles Open Access! See more [here](#).

## Still here?

### **Purdah - a pre-election period of heightened sensitivity**

In the run-up to a general election various rules come into effect but what do they mean for researchers?

In general, government associated entities are not allowed to 'sway' the debate in any way by making big funding announcements, publishing major policy reports or making remarks that are overtly political one way or the other. But this applies to representative bodies rather than individuals. The intent is to avoid public resources being used for party political advantage. FYI - the original meaning of the term 'purdah' or 'pardah' comes from Hindi-Urdu meaning 'curtain' and relates to the social partition of the sexes!

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