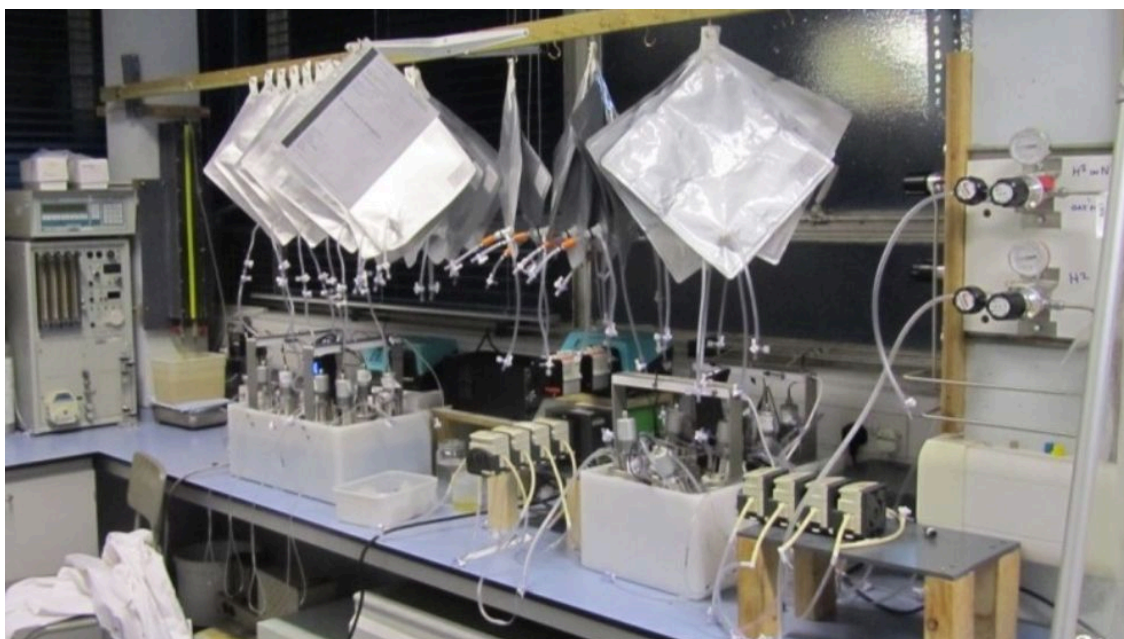




Biotechnology and  
Biological Sciences  
Research Council



Engineering and  
Physical Sciences  
Research Council



*Laboratory set-up with gas bags*

## EBNet Newsletter - January 2025

### New

#### [Don't Miss! BEC Systems – a talk by Dr Deepak Pant, VITO](#)

13.00-14.00, Monday, 13 January 2025

This webinar series is brought to you by the "[Bioelectrochemical Development for Environmental Technology](#)" Working Group. [Dr Deepak Pant](#) is a senior scientist at the Flemish Institute for Technological Research, Belgium - currently working on electrosynthesis and resource recovery, specifically, the design and optimization of bio/electrochemical cells for CO<sub>2</sub> conversion and microbial electrosynthesis. Join him for insight into the latest international research in BEC systems.

For your TEAMS link, Register [HERE](#).

**Can you help?**

We've had an enquiry from someone currently studying for a masters in applied microbiology and biotechnology, looking for a paid or unpaid industrial placement, in the area of waste to renewable energy and sustainability. They have 8 years working experience in the area of wastewater treatment and utilities and are willing to relocate to anywhere in the UK. Are you an industry member who could help? Email us, and we'll put you in touch.



## Now Open

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

### **Last Chance! [CIWEM: Water and Environment Journal - Call for Papers - Environmental Biotechnology](#)**

Submission deadline: 31 January 2025

The guest editors are Dr Tao Lyu, Cranfield University and Dr Anjali Jayakumar, Newcastle University; heads of our PFAs and ECR [Working Groups](#) respectively. This special issue is open for participants of the EBNet ECR conference AND also the whole EBNet community.

Get involved to promote research that impacts EB. Take a look [HERE](#).

### **[Travel Bursary](#)**

Always open

Applications for support are now considered on a case-by-case basis, but *must* occur prior to the end of the Network early next year. Enquire early to see if we can help.

## 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.*



### **Public Trust Survey Results**

[DSIT](#) has released its '[Engineering Biology Public Trust Survey](#)' findings. Whilst only a minority of respondents had previously heard of engineering biology, when asked, 78% thought its use in waste and environment would be an overall positive for society in general. More [here](#).

### **[Confronting risks of mirror life](#)**

A new report in Science by 38 researchers highlights the risks posed by 'mirror life' - synthetic microbes with opposite chirality - and calls for additional scrutiny. Read it [here](#).

## Environmental Biotechnology in Fiction

'Murder in the Climate Assembly' by Prof. Denise Baden is environmental fiction to save our planet. Want to help support publication? This latest book from [Green Stories](#) can be found online [here](#) at Kickstarter.

### **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](#)*

[Workshop on Biotechnology for Metals](#) - 20 January 2025, University of Surrey

[Modela: Industrial Applications of Computational Fluid Dynamics: Opening a Realm of Possibilities](#) - 23 January 2025, webinar

[Universities UK: Universities, sustainability and the climate emergency 2025](#) - 6 February 2025, online

[ESPP: Phosphorus use and recycling in intensive livestock](#) - 4-7 March 2025, San Marlo, France

[Aquatech](#) - 11-14 March 2025, Amsterdam

[Decarb Connect UK](#) - 25-27 March 2025, Liverpool

[Resource Conference Cymru 2025](#) - 26 March 2025, Cardiff

[HVB Annual Meeting](#) - 9-10 June 2025, York

[World Biogas Summit](#) - 9/10 July 2025, NEC, Birmingham

[Ramiran](#) - 15-17 October 2025, Wageningen, The Netherlands. (Call for abstracts: 15 February 2025)

[The 19th IWA Conference on Sludge Management -Toward material cycle and low carbon society](#) - 21-24 October 2025, Japan (abstracts by: 1 April 2025)

[Microbial Solutions for a Changing World Conference](#) - 25-27 November 2025, Melbourne, Australia

[IWA Biofilms Reactors Conference](#) - 16-19 March 2026, Alabama, USA

[The British Science Festival](#) - 16-20 September 2026, University of Southampton

## Funding

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

*Find more at: [UKRI funding](#)*



[Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions: Staff Exchanges](#) - 5 February 2025

[Innovate UK: Knowledge transfer partnership](#) - 12 February 2025

[The Leverhulme Trust: Early Career Fellowships](#) - 20 February 2025

[EPSRC: Critical mass programmes to drive a sustainable future](#) - 4 March 2025

[NERC: Independent Research Fellowship 2024](#) - 3 April 2025

[Philip Leverhulme Prizes](#) - 14 May 2025

[The Leverhulme Trust: Research Leadership Awards](#) - 30 May 2025



## 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](#))

[Microbiology Research Assistant](#) - 14 January 2025, Quadram Institute Bioscience

[Postdoctoral Research Associate in Plant-based Fermented Meat Alternatives](#) - 15 January 2025, University of Reading

[Lecturer in Biotechnology](#) - 21 January 2025, Queen Mary University of London

[Research Fellow](#) - 26 January 2025, University of Warwick

### **Training**

[IBBK: Biogas Training Courses](#) - various

[CIWEM Training: various](#) - next intake date: 17 February 2025

[CL:AIRE: Practical aspects of ground gas, vapour and water monitoring & sampling](#) - 27 February 2025

### **Awards and Competitions**

[The RASE Science and Technology Award](#) - open soon

[Demeter Awards](#) - open soon

The [IWA Specialist Group on Microbial Ecology and Water Engineering \(MEWE\)](#) Call for nominations for the: [Ardern-Lockett Award 2025, IWA MEWE Early & Mid Career Awards](#) - 11 February 2025

[The Royal Society Michael Faraday Prize and Lecture](#) - 21 February 2025

[Playful Research: Mario Markus Prize for Ludic Science 2025](#) - 31 May 2025

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

[The Midlands Integrative Biosciences Training Partnership \(MIBTP\)](#) - 16 January 2025

[Future crop protection: Precision application of biopesticides](#) - 16 January 2025,

University of Warwick

[3 x PhD Studentships on Exploring Economic Viability and Market Development of](#)

[Products from Anaerobic Digestion](#) - 24 Jan 2025, University College Cork

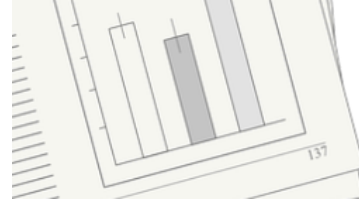
[Tackling metal contamination and demand: Engineering microbial biorecovery of metals](#) - 31 January 2025, The University of Manchester

[Digital twins for biofilm management](#) - 12 February 2025, Loughborough University

[Modelling and Monitoring Greenhouse Gas Emissions with Robots](#) - 30 April 2025, University of Surrey

## Publications

*Have you seen something, or published anything recently, that you would like us to highlight?*



### [Role of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering in Bioremediation of Cadmium Pollution](#)

By: Kumar, A; Mukherjee, G; Gupta, S. In: Nature Environment and Pollution Technology; Karad Vol. 23, Iss. 2, (Jun 2024): 633-648.

### [A Review on Bioremediation of Tannery Effluent using Immobilized Bacteria](#)

By: J. Raveena Jayam and Priya Chokkalingam. In: Nature Environment and Pollution Technology 23 n3 (20240901): 1375-1386

### [The arsenic bioremediation using genetically engineered microbial strains on aquatic environments: An updated overview](#)

By: Mohammed A.E. Naiel *et al.* In: Heliyon 10 n17 (20240901): e36314-

### [The link between ancient microbial fluoride resistance mechanisms and bioengineering organofluorine degradation or synthesis](#)

By: Randy B. Stockbridge & Lawrence P. Wackett. In: Nature Communications volume 15, Article number: 4593 (2024)

### [Co-occurrence of PFASs, TPHs, and BTEX in subsurface soils: Impacts on native microbial communities and implications for bioremediation](#)

By: Zhuanxia Zhang *et al.* In: Environmental Research. Available online 16 December 2024, 120650

## Still here?

### **Conversations and Debate**

Under the Freedom of Speech Act 2023, the [OfS](#) has a statutory duty to ensure universities protect and promote freedom of speech on campus. But that begs the question - what makes a good debate? Starting young helps, and [The Great Debate 2025](#) is a public speaking competition aimed at 10-13 year olds. For adults, there are multiple resources online like [What is an Academic Debate?](#) by the Oratory Club. Looking to get started? The [Society of Cogers](#) claims to be the oldest free speech forum in the world - founded in London in 1755 as a coffee bar debating society. Or check out [Speakers' Corner](#) (the north-east corner of Hyde Park in London) for open-air public speaking, debate, and discussion on any topic.

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