



Biotechnology and
Biological Sciences
Research Council



Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council



The EBNet Anaerobic Fermentation workshop, 23/24 January 2025, Birmingham

EBNet Newsletter - February 2025

New

[#EnvBiotechAware week - 3-7 March 2025](#)

We have a week of online content to dip into, changing daily, so be sure to bookmark us at [EBNet](#). Do join us each lunchtime for guest webinars.

We'll have *profiles* of up-and-coming environmental biotechnologists, new *animations* to highlight how engineering and biology work together in EB and our new *audiobook* is coming out! Read specialist *reports* from our working groups, including one of general interest from the Social Science group plus our EBNet *Final Report* will showcase the main activities our members have enjoyed together over the last 6 years.

Do drop in to see what we have for you [online](#).

[WEBINAR: Mixed-Culture Anaerobic Fermentation in the EU](#)

Webinar: 4 March 2025, 1-2pm (UK)

Keeping you up-to-date with pioneering work in Europe, these speakers will cover the HORIZON 2020 projects [VOLATILE/CAFIPLA](#), developments in Standardisation, and insights from Pilot Scale research. Featuring: [Thomas Dietrich](#), TECHNALIA, [Dr Jochen Michels](#), DECHEMA & [Dr Marie-Aline Pierrard](#), DELUX. Don't miss it! Find the TEAMS link on the [WG page](#) or register via [Eventbrite](#) now.

Can you help?

We've had an enquiry from someone currently studying Optical coherence tomography (OCT), looking for help from someone in UK who works with OCT - ideally for biofilm analysis, or for medical purposes. They are hoping for assistance with training to operate OCT and analyse data. Could you offer guidance? Email us, and we'll put you in touch.

[Special Issue Call for Papers](#)

Submission deadline extended: now **30 June 2025**

Guest editors for this call in *CIWEM: Water and Environment Journal: Environmental Biotechnology* 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 the whole EBNet community. Get published [HERE](#).

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.



[The House of Lords Science and Technology Committee Report into Engineering Biology](#)

The report - "*Don't fail to scale: seizing the opportunity of engineering biology*" calls for action in seven key areas: strategy, skills, regulation, infrastructure, investment, adoption and governance. It has several recommendations including a desire to recommit to its £2 billion funding target over 10 years for R&D and ensure stable funding for laboratories.

Find out more [here](#).

[James Hutton Institute/Fidra Report](#)

This is a comprehensive report on assessing environmental risks associated with the agricultural use of sewage sludge, focusing on the impacts of unregulated microplastic, organic chemical and pharmaceutical contaminants on soil health. Read it [here](#).

[The National Interdisciplinary Circular Economy Research Programme Reports](#)

The UKRI [NICER Centre](#) have produced seven useful Insight Reports about the circular

economy ranging from *Technology Insights* to *Human Behaviour* Read more [here](#).

[Science and Technology Survey](#)

The Government Office for Science's Science Capability Analysis Team (SCAN, part of their [Technology Insights, Futures and Foresight](#) team) have prepared their 2025 Science and Technology [Survey](#). The more responses submitted, the more robust their data will be.

[Novafert Survey](#)

The Novafert project invite responses to their survey on a draft guideline for developing footprint communication for bio-based fertilizers (BBFs) based on Life Cycle Assessment.

Take the survey - towards Product Category Rules for bio-based fertilisers - [here](#).

[The Bio-based and Biodegradable Materials Regulatory Science and Innovation Network \(BB-REG-NET\)](#)

BB-REG-NET is an Innovate UK funded network to develop new tools, standards and approaches to evaluate the quality, performance and environmental and economic impact of bio-based, biodegradable and compostable chemicals and materials. Learn more [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](#)

[The World Water-Tech Innovation Summit](#) - 25/26 February 2025, London

[V-KEMS: The Water Sector Meets Mathematics](#) - 4-6 March 2025

[NBIC: Biofilms and food workshop](#) - 5/6 March 2025, Nottingham

[TTB x Innovate UK: Startup Workshops](#) - 14 March 2025

[UKRI: Horizon Europe showcase](#) - 18 March 2025

[IBiolC: Certificate of Upstream Bioprocessing](#) - 25-27 March 2025 & 24-26 June 2025, Heriot-Watt University

[Biofilms 11](#) - 13-15 May 2025, the Mercure Cardiff Holland House Hotel and Spa, Cardiff

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

[Utility Week Live 2025](#) - 20/21 May 2025, NEC Birmingham

[Water Conference 2025](#) - 17/18 June 2025, University of Bath

[IWA: 7th International Conference on Ecotechnologies for Wastewater Treatment](#) - 23-26 June 2025, Stockholm, Sweden

[Northumbrian Water Innovation Festival](#) - 7-11 July 2025

[ISMOS10](#) - 11-14 August 2025

[IWA:Biofilms Reactors Conference](#) - 16-19 March 2026

Funding

Funding opportunities for academia and industry are highlighted below.

Find more at: [UKRI funding](#)



[Innovate UK: Travel support for UK businesses to attend European events](#) - open

[The Carbon Technology Research Foundation Call](#) - 28 February 2025

[REAL Research Hub's Annual Call for Proposals](#) - 28 February 2025

[UKRI: Proof-of-concept funding](#) - 3 March 2025

[Innovate UK: Innovation loans future economy](#) - 5 March 2025

[BBSRC: ICURe Explore](#) - 18 March 2025

[BBSRC Follow-on Fund](#) - 26 March 2025

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

[Environmental sciences: Global Partnerships Seedcorn Fund 2025](#) - 3 April 2025

[EPSRC: Research to advance UK recycling capabilities](#) - 3 April 2025

[UKRI: Doctoral Focal Award in Engineering Biology](#) - 10 April 2025

[BBSRC: Doctoral Focal Award in AI and Data in the Biosciences](#) - 10 April 2025

[BBSRC: New Investigator Award](#) - 23 April 2025

[BBSRC: Standard Research Grant](#) - 23 April 2025

[BBSRC: Fellowships scheme](#) - 7 May 2025

[UKRI: Future Leaders Fellowships](#) - 18 June 2025

[NERC: Pushing the frontiers of environmental research](#) - 16 July 2025

[Pre-announcement NERC: Opening up the Environment](#) - 21 January 2026



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](#))

[NUPAcT Fellowship with Proctor & Gamble](#) - 18 February 2025, Newcastle University

[Postdoctoral Research Associate](#) - 23 February 2025, University of Cambridge

[Associate Professor/Professor in Microbial Biofilms](#) - 28 February 2025, University of Southampton

[Fully Funded Doctoral Landscape Award: NetZero Futures](#) - 28 February 2025, Royal

College of Art

Training

[Conducting a Life Cycle Assessment \(LCA\): from Theory to Practical Application](#) - 19

May 2025, UCL

[AquaEnviro: Wastewater Treatment](#) - 19 March 2025

[AquaEnviro: Optimising Activated Sludge Plants](#) - 26 March 2025

[AquaEnviro: Optimising Anaerobic Digesters: SEWAGE](#) - 2 April 2025

[SCELSE: Summer Course](#) - 23 June-11 July 2025 (apply by: 10 March)

Awards and Competitions

[The Big Bang Competition](#) - 26 March 2025

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

[Innovation Zero Awards 2025](#) - 29/30 April 2025, Olympia, London (award ceremony)

PhDs (see [FindaPhD](#))

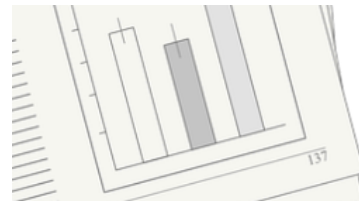
[CASE Project: OptiPol - Optimised composting of poultry manure for sustainable processing of farm waste](#) - 14 March 2025, Teesside University

[A Farewell to Arms: The Trade-off Between Growth and Defence in Bacteria](#) - 14 March 2025, University of York

[Synthetic organelles for biofuel biomanufacturing from waste biomass](#) - 14 March 2025, University of Hull

Publications

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



[Sustainable agrobiorefinery system for advanced ethanol production from Opuntia prickly pear cactus nopales](#)

By: Ernesto Hernandez *et al.* In: Energy Conversion and Management

Volume 321, 1 December 2024, 119052

[Reconstruction of a Closed-Loop Ecological Cycle System Anchored by Large-Scale Load-balancing Biogas and its economic viability assessment](#)

By: Jianjun Li *et al.* In: Journal of the Air & Waste Management Association

[Portable microfluidic devices for monitoring antibiotic resistance genes in wastewater](#)

By: Feng, R., Mao, K., Zhang, H. *et al.* In: Microchim Acta 192, 19 (2025)

[Understanding the limitations of substrate degradation in bioelectrochemical systems](#)

By: Hannah Bird, Sharon Velasquez-Orta and Elizabeth Heidrich. In: Front. Microbiol., 06 January 2025.

[CRISPR-enabled sensors for rapid monitoring of environmental contaminants](#)

By: Yiting Wang *et al.* In: TrAC Trends in Analytical Chemistry

Available online 30 December 2024, 118128

Still here?

Where to next?

There are a plethora of UKRI-funded Networks, Hubs and Missions working in the Environmental Biotechnology sector. Our sister-NIBB, [BBNet](#), has an extension. [Supergen Bioenergy](#) will continue until 2028. [NBIC](#) continues to research into biofilms. [IBioIC](#) serves the biotech sector in Scotland. And there are 6 new [Engineering Biology Mission Hubs and 22 Mission Awards](#) spread across the UK including the [Environmental Biotechnology Innovation Centre](#). Sign up for their Newsletter [here](#). The water sector is served by [Ofwat](#) and [UKWIR](#). The list goes on...

As a Network we've seen the value in connecting like-minded people together across sectors, scales, disciplines and expertise. We hope our members will find new homes that support their continuing efforts to push the boundaries of knowledge and capability in EB.

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