



Biotechnology and
Biological Sciences
Research Council



Engineering and
Physical Sciences
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EBNet Newsletter - April 2025

New

EBNet extension

GOOD NEWS! EBNet was originally due to finish in 18 March 2025 but has been extended to 31 January 2026.

Whilst we don't have additional funding for proof-of-concept projects or Business Interaction Vouchers, we will be supporting a range of activities and outputs, especially via our Working Groups. The website is being regularly updated with news of events and resources; and we will keep in touch with members via Mailchimp. Stay connected to keep current with the latest in Environmental Biotechnology. Help us by keeping your contact details and preferences up-to-date - see link at the end of this Newsletter to update details or unsubscribe.

[EBNet #EnvBiotechAware week](#)

Our **#EnvBiotechAware** week ran from 3-7 March and is packed with information on EBNet's activities and outputs, including the latest updates from all our Working Groups.

New EBNet Animations

See two new animations in our series on Microbiology/Engineering Interactions: [Microbes in Wastewater Treatment](#) was shown to the Royal Academy of Engineering as part of a presentation by Prof Tom Curtis, while [Aerobic Granules](#) comes from the AG WG led by Dr Yongqiang Liu. Subtitled versions are also available on our main [webpage](#) and [Youtube channel](#).

Microbes Audiobook

Our **Green Stories: Microbes to the Rescue** anthology is now available as a free audiobook.

Each month we will highlight 2-3 stories, equal to about 30 mins listening. This month's selections are available [here](#) - let us know what you think!

Soil Bioremediation Podcast

Don't miss the new [Soil Matters](#) podcast series from the British Society of Soil Science. Episode 1 was sponsored by EBNet and features Prof Fred Coulon and Prof Tony Gutierrez talking about new bioremediation techniques that are completely changing our approaches to reclaiming contaminated land.

Microfluidics event

Through our Environmental Sensors and Wastewater Surveillance ([ESWS](#)) WG, EBNet is supporting the 2nd International Symposium on microfluidics for single cell sensing and sequencing.

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 Environmental Biotech community. See details [HERE](#).

Spotlight On...

*Do you have news to share with other members?
Email us details if you want a shout-out in next
month's newsletter. We can also post News items
on the website.*



Biofilm Policy Consultations

The National Biofilms Innovation Centre ([NBIC](#)) is running two policy consultations, on Climate and Wastewater. See [here](#) for details of the consultations, and of two supporting blogs.

New UKWIR report

UKWIR's recently-published report on '*Efficient Algae Removal during the water treatment process*' considers biological as well as physico-chemical methods. More research reports are available from UKWIR's [website](#).

[IEA Task 37 - AD in food and beverage industries](#)

A new report on 'Implementation of anaerobic digestion facilities in the food and beverage industry' is now available. For this and more information on events and publications see the IEA Bioenergy Task 37 website [here](#).

[IEA Low Emissions Gases Day 2025](#)

Recordings from the International Energy Agency's webinar on Low-Emissions Gases (including biomethane, low-emissions hydrogen and e-methane) are now available [here](#).

[Green Stories Project](#)

Prof Denise Baden will give a talk at Hay Festival w/c 26 May where she will launch a new Green Stories competition. For details on this and other events see [here](#).

[CIWM initiatives](#)

The Chartered Institution of Waste Management's [Festival of the Circular Economy](#) runs from 22-24 May. CIWM also hosts a Technical Group on Bioresources covering biological treatment processes.

[Volunteering Opportunity](#)

Are you interested in helping to organise workshops for the International Water Association Young Water Professionals event? Volunteers are needed who would be willing to come to Brighton and help. Interested? Contact [Dr Maira Anam](#) for more details.

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](#).



Forthcoming Events

Find selected upcoming events below.

Find more at: [KTN events](#)

Webinars

[PFAS: Analytical Methods, contamination during sampling and an Irish Source-to-sink case study](#) - 1 May 2025, CIWEM Webinar

[AI use in the Water Industry: a water company perspective](#) - 1 May 2025, CIWEM Webinar

[Leading the green chemical revolution with bio-based feedstocks](#) - 7 May 2025, BBIA webinar

[Engineering Biology Mission Hubs Showcase: EBIC](#) - 8 May 2025, UKRI webinar

In person events

[Biofilms 11](#) - 13-15 May 2025, Cardiff

[MEWE 11 IWA Conference](#) - 3-5 June 2025, Atlanta, USA

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

[IWA WaterMicro 22](#) - 15-20 June, Amersfoort, Netherlands

[AquaConSoil 2025](#) - 16-20 June 2025, Liege, Belgium

[European Wastewater Management Conference & Exhibition](#), 17-18 June 2025, Telford

[IWA ecoSTP2025](#) - 23-26 June, Stockholm, Sweden

[EBIC Early Career Researcher Event 2025](#) - 8-9 July 2025

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

[Microfluidics Symposium](#) - 29-30 July 2025 **supported by EBNet's ESWS WG**

[China-UK Young Scholars Summer School on Sustainability](#) - 17-26 August 2025, China

[IWA Agro2025](#) - 10-12 September 2025, Istanbul, Turkey. Abstract deadline now **20 April 2025**

[GapSummit 2025](#) - 15-17 September 2025, University of Cambridge

[IWA 1st Photogranules](#) - 17-19 September 2025, Delft, Netherlands. Abstract deadline **15 April 2025**

[4th BBNet conference](#) - 15-17 October 2025, Sheffield

[IWA Sludge Management 19](#) - 21-24 October 2025, Kyoto, Japan. Abstract deadline now **18 April 2025**

Funding

Selected funding opportunities for academia and industry are highlighted below.

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



[EPSRC Programme grant full proposal](#) - open

[EPSRC Network Grant](#) - open

[Knowledge Transfer Partnership](#) - open

[BBSRC Standard Grant 2025 Round 2](#) - 23 April 2025

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

[UKRI Proof-of-Concept 2025](#) - 29 May 2025

[UKRI Future Leaders 2025 Round 10](#) - 18 June 2025

[UKRI Transdisciplinary AMR](#) - 18 June 2025 (notification stage)

[UKRI Cross-Council Pilot](#) - 3 July 2025

[BBSRC sLoLa Stage 1](#) - 24 July 2025

[CBE JU 2023 calls](#) - 18 September 2025

Travel and related awards

[EPSRC Overseas Travel Grant](#) - open

[NBIC Flexible Talent Mobility Account](#) - until 2027

[JSPS Pre/Postdoctoral Fellowships \(Short Term\)](#) - 26 May 2025

[Royal Society Short Industry Fellowship](#) - 28 May 2025

[BBSRC International Travel Award](#) - 30 September 2025



Jobs, Training, Awards & PhDs

We still have funding available for Share-with-a-peer (SWAP) exchanges - for details see EBNet website

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

[Research Fellow in Fungal-Based Bioenergy](#)

- 27 April 2025, Cranfield University

[Research Fellow in Fungal Metabolic Engineering](#)

- 27 April 2025, Cranfield University

[Assistant Professor in Theoretical Biological Modelling](#)

- 28 April 2025, Durham University

PhDs (see [FindaPhD](#))

[Mapping the Microbial Communities of Domestic Drains: Can Consumers Drive](#)

[Sustainable Maintenance?](#) - 18 April 2025, University of Essex

[Sono-Bio for solids: Treatment of contaminated solids and soils using a new sono-bio technology](#) - 23 April 2025, University of Surrey

[In situ biomethanisation of CO₂ for gaseous fuel transition and long-term carbon capture and utilisation](#) - 30 April 2025, University of Southampton

[Removal of Emerging Micropollutants From Wastewater in Biofilm Reactors](#) - 31 August 2025, University of Southampton

[Enhancing the Efficiency of Biological Waste Treatment with Nanobubbles](#) - 31 August 2025, University of Southampton

Training

[BBNet: Introduction to Life Cycle Assessments](#) - 2-4 June, York

[CIWEM: Potable Water Treatment](#) - 9 June 2025 (10 weeks), eLearning

[CIWEM: Municipal Wastewater Treatment](#) - 9 June 2025 (15 weeks), eLearning

[ADBA: Temperatures and Biology](#) - 13 May 2025, online

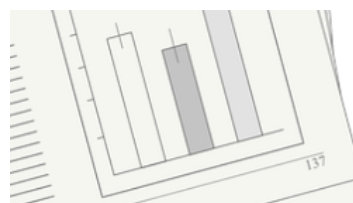
[World Biogas Association: Plant Optimisation Training Course](#) - 30 September 2025, online

Awards and Prizes

[IWA Awards](#) - various

Publications

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



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

Zhang Z., Liu Z., Coulon F., Luo G., Wang Q., Gao X., Lo Z., Song X. 2025. Environmental Research. 267:

[Unveiling the truth of interactions between microplastics and per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances \(PFASs\) in wastewater treatment plants: microplastics as a carrier of PFASs and beyond.](#)

Ma M., Coulon F., Tang Z., Hu Z., Bi Y., Huo M., Song X. 2025. Environmental Science and Technology. 59 (4): 2211-2221

[Co-Digestion of Cattle Slurry and Food Waste: Perspectives on Scale-Up](#)

Bywater, A., Adam, J.A., Kusch-Brandt, S. and Heaven, S., 2025. Methane, 4(2), p.8.

Still here?

Pleasure or pain?

Two recent items capture the pleasure and the pain of Environmental Biotechnology: firstly one all-too-common report of [wastewater discharges](#) linked to emerging pollutants. And secondly an [opinion piece](#) in Nature asking why we don't make more use of microbes to tackle some of these huge challenges. It is indeed an interesting time to work in this sector.

On another theme, if you are lucky enough to be in Murcia in Spain before 27 April, make sure you visit the exhibition of photomicrographs by Prof Francisco Torrella. These superb images bring together art and science in a wonderful display of '[La belleza en lo pequeño](#)'.

Where else to go?

There is a plethora of UKRI-funded Networks, Hubs and Missions working in the Environmental Biotechnology sector. Our sister-NIBB, [BBNet](#), has an extension to January 2026. [Supergen Bioenergy](#) will continue until 2028. [NBIC](#) continues to support 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. These include the [Environmental Biotechnology Innovation Centre](#), which aims to build on and expand some of the ideas in EBNet. Sign up for the EBIC Newsletter [here](#). For details of the two other Hubs with an environmental theme see [Elemental](#) and [P3EB](#).



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