

January Newsletter

You may notice we've started the new year with a new look. Our research teams are busy analysing data and writing papers but have taken time to provide some updates on the work that has been continuing across the partnership.

Our PARTICIPATE programme returned after a December break and if you missed it you can watch the first of our series of webinars highlighting impacts of the project below, and don't forget to register for the [next in the series](#) later this month.

Research Highlights



What is a poor sanitation hotspot and why do we care?

RECIRCULATE's [Water for Sanitation and Health](#) team has been identifying, mapping and performing observations of 'poor sanitation hotspots' to better understand the processes that create them. 'Poor sanitation hotspots' are areas of the community that have particularly unsanitary conditions, or that are prone to extra stresses that mean the cleanliness of the environment is more likely to be compromised. Our research will inform strategies to remove the hotspots or at least reduce their impact.



How we try to answer the question 'How clean is that drinking water?'

RECIRCULATE's [Water for Sanitation and Health](#) team outline how they monitor changes in water quality from standpipe to consumption in the home. By sampling regularly at five stages in the water journey the impact of interventions can be revealed.



Healthy writing retreats: dare to enjoy your writing and joy will abound!

RECIRCULATE Research Scientist Joana Zozimo of the [Entrepreneurship and Innovation](#) team, details the benefits of writing with partners through RECIRCULATE structured writing retreats in our latest FLOW blog.



Blue Skies ahead

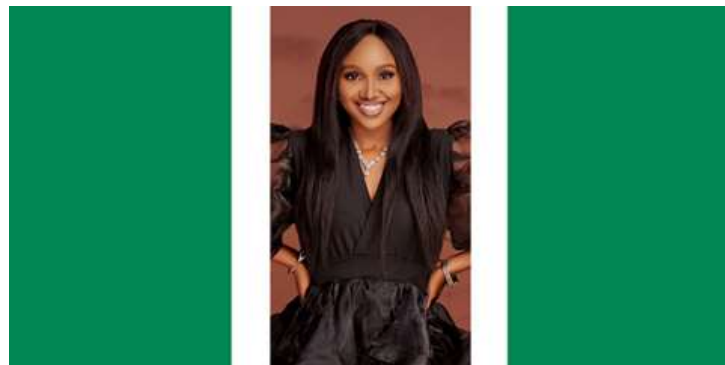
Joyce Tuakly, part of our [Water for Food Production](#) team, showcases RECIRCULATE's research is being put into action at Blue Skies Products Ltd to recycle organic waste (water, plants and food) using anaerobic digestion for sustainable food production in Ghana.

Capacity Building



Back to school in Ghana

This January we saw the commissioning and handing over ceremony of the ACTUATE waste treatment plant by CSIR, Lancaster University and other partners at Umar Bun Hatab Islamic Basic School in Madina Zongo, Accra (Ghana). CSIR-IIR Director Dr Francis Boateng Agyenim and Project Director Prof. Kirk Semple were amongst the speakers at this event.



International Day of Education Spotlight - Onyinye Obiora-Okoye

[We recently spoke with Onyinye Obiora-Okoye](#), head of school for Orenda Schools, Nigeria, to discuss the [UN's International Day of Education](#), which this year focused on showcasing transformations need to provide quality education to meet [SDG4](#).



PARTICIPATE - International Impact Webinar

The International Impact Webinar highlighted work from our researchers and academics. The webinar asked the question - have the RECIRCULATE and ACTUATE Projects influenced the research agenda of young and early career researchers in Africa and what has been their experience?



As part of the PARTICIPATE with RECIRCULATE Impact month, entrepreneur Sylvia B Mwansa spoke to us about her experience with the Women Innovators Network of Africa (WINA) platform and other parts of the project.



In our second spotlight interview, as part of the RECIRCULATE Impact month, we spoke with Nosayamen Destiny Uhunamure, University of Benin, Nigeria, on his experience with the project and the impact it had on his work.

Meet the admin team



Alan Smith is the Project Administrator on the RECIRCULATE Project at Lancaster University. Working closely with the Project Manager, Alan is responsible for the administration of the project from both a logistical and financial angle.

His role currently focuses on the logistical challenges that the project faces. His main role is looking after the financial aspects of the project, including both Lancaster and partner finance, including the monitoring of spend and budget reprofiling. He ensures the smooth running of the project and myriad events that have taken place, responsible for the co-ordination of workshops and residencies in the UK and in Africa, and also the co-ordination of online events for the PARTICIPATE programme.

Before RECIRCULATE, Alan was the Project Administrator for the EU-Horizon 2020 funded CUIDAR project, working with partners in the UK, Italy, Spain and Portugal. His over 15 year administrative experience has covered public, private and educational sectors, including 5 years working in finance for ITV.

"I've worked in administrative roles for the majority of my working life, and had 10 years administrative experience when I joined the RECIRCULATE project, and I can honestly say this has been the most challenging and enlightening role I've had! Culturally and operatively, it has been a real eye-opener working with the various institutions in Africa, which has – for the most part – been a really good experience. Sure, there have been challenges – compared certainly with dealing with institutions in Europe – but it has been a rewarding

The work that has been done on the project by the many varied and talented people across Africa and in the UK is quite extraordinary and I have learned a lot about the issues facing Africa, particular with regards the circular water economy. One of the most fascinating aspects of the project has been the development of techniques to enable the re-use of waste, turning it into a valuable resource that could potentially help to meet some of the challenges Africa faces. It's truly been a unique experience!"

Upcoming events

- Friday 10th February 10:00 - 12:00 - [PARTICIPATE Facebook Live session](#)
- Thursday 23rd February 10:00 - 12:00 - [PARTICIPATE International Impact Webinar: Professionals and Entrepreneurs](#)

Useful resources



[The Earthshot prize](#) kickstarts its second search for the world's greatest eco-innovators and their breakthrough solutions. [Nominators](#) have until March 4th 2022, to submit entries.



[Winter Conference 2022](#) - Ian Dodd, of our '[Water for Food Production](#)' team, presented at Lancaster Environment Centre's 2022 departmental conference "Next Steps in Research", where he showcased work from the RECIRCULATE project and talked on its legacy.



The [Africa Evidence Network](#) presents the [Africa Evidence Leadership Award \(AELA\) 2022](#) - Nominations for the Africa Evidence Leadership Award are now open, to find out more AEN have published a [video detailing the nomination process](#).



[Storytelling for Good](#) have created a map and set of useful questions to help you get started on [communicating impact through storytelling](#), as featured by [Research to Action](#).

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