

February Newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of the RECIRCULATE newsletter with a great mix of stories from our laboratories, field trials, desk studies and community engagement activities. We're now entering the final funded stages of the project and March will be a busy month, so keep an eye on the [website](#) and contact your local project partners to find out more.

As always, please get in touch with the team at recirculate@lancaster.ac.uk for any further information.

Research Highlights



Making the Business Case for Anaerobic Digestion in Africa

Grace Bridgewater from the Lancaster Environment Centre and Cathy Olphin from Lancaster University Management School summarise the key outcomes of their analysis of business models for anaerobic digestion across Africa, showcasing case studies from Kenya, South Africa, Botswana and Ghana.



A recipe for success

Andrew Amenaghawon and Newton Ihoeghian from the University of Benin share some outcomes of their research on optimising the Anaerobic Digestion process, by establishing the best ratio for combining cattle rumen content (CRC) and food waste (FW) during batch anaerobic co-digestion.



Closing the waste loop

Digestate from previous experiments has been shown to have the potential to solve the problem of soil infertility in Sub-saharan Africa. Valerie Ifeyinwa Ofili Edosa from the University of Benin looks at closing the waste loop; using cattle rumen digestate amended with poultry droppings as bio-fertilizer.

Capacity Building



#FEBRUARY11
Women & Girls in Science



International Day of Women and Girls in Science

On February 11th we marked the [UN's International Day of Women and Girls in Science](#) and with the [7th International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assembly](#) focusing on "*Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Water Unites Us*" we highlighted some of our RECIRCULATE researchers' articles and their fantastic contributions to a range of sciences.



Learning from the students

Five students from Umar Bun Hatab Islamic basic school have written articles to express their appreciation for the ACTUATE project and the implementation of an [Integrated Biodigester and Science laboratory](#) their school.



Connecting the unconnected

The Water for Health and Sanitation team work towards SDG Target 6.2, looking to connect informal toilets to a safe circular water economy: a concerted and sustainable set of actions to capture faecal matter from, and prevent faecal contamination within, informal communities.

Meet the admin team



Centre for Global Eco-Innovation

Paul McKenna is the RECIRCULATE Project Manager at Lancaster University.

As Project Manager he is responsible for overseeing the delivery of all aspects of the research and capacity building programme, chairing the Project Coordination Group and ensuring high quality project reporting, evaluation and monitoring. Working with the Programme Director and administrative teams across all partners, he provides regular progress reports on all operational, financial and contractual aspects of the programme as required by the project's governance structures and funders.

Paul has a PhD in Environmental Science and after 10 years as a researcher has spent the last 16 years working as a project manager and a business development manager for Lancaster University and the UK Environment Agency. Before being appointed to the RECIRCULATE project in 2017 he had worked in Europe, the Middle East, North America and South East Asia.

"RECIRCULATE has been one of the highlights of my career, the scale and ambition of the research objectives is truly inspiring and to be part of the team is a great privilege. I've always found that working in the spaces where different disciplines and sectors meet is exciting and RECIRCULATE has been an opportunity to do exactly that. We have brought together researchers in social science, microbiology, entrepreneurship, engineering and plant sciences with businesses, community members, policy makers, NGOs and media through workshops, meetings and webinars organised by my team.

Managing such a large project over four and a half years has been challenging at times, but working alongside teams of incredibly talented people in Ghana and Nigeria has been hugely rewarding. I've loved meeting people from across Africa, with diverse backgrounds, all with a shared drive to work together on innovative solutions to pressing problems with water use and safety. I'm proud to have played a part in a project that will positively impact the lives of many people."

Upcoming events

- Wednesday 16th March 12:00 - 14:00 GMT - [Pedagogies of capacity development for EIDM in Africa Webinar](#), sign up details to follow shortly.
- Thursday March 24th 10:00 - 12:00 GMT - [PARTICIPATE International Impact Webinar: Enterprise](#)

Useful resources



[The Africa Evidence Network](#) has been holding a series of webinars which launched back in September 2021. The primary focus of these has been enhancing capacity for evidence use in Africa, You can view a list of their [upcoming and previous webinars here](#).



[The Earthshot prize](#) is close to finalising its search for the world's greatest eco-innovators and their breakthrough solutions. The RECIRCULATE team are amongst the [nominators](#) who have until March 4th 2022, to submit entries.



[Research to action](#) have developed [7 guiding principles to underpin the approach to research communications](#) – throughout the lifetime of a project or programme.

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We send information about funding opportunities, news, and events to our contacts to foster collaboration. We hope this has been of interest to you, if so please add us to your contact list.

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