

The future prospects for biorefining: Feedstocks, Technologies & Products

15-17 October 2025 at Mercure Sheffield St Paul's Hotel and Spa, Sheffield, S1 2GE

The 4th BBNet conference will showcase examples of cutting edge science, viewed through the real-world lens, that promote a greener, cleaner, circular economy. Celebrating the impact of the biomass biorefining network, we will highlight projects supported by grant funding - demonstrating their impact on the economy and society.

Provisional programme:

This is a provisional programme - please check the [BBNet website](#) for a list of confirmed speakers. Further updates and the final programme will be shared in the coming weeks. Titles are provisional at this stage.



Day 1: Wednesday 15th October	
Time	Event
11:00	Registration, coffee and exhibition
From 12:00	<i>Lunch</i>
12:45	Welcome
12:55	Session 1: The future of biorefining <i>Chair: Clare Halpin, University of Dundee</i>
13:00	Keynote: title to be confirmed Lee Lynd , Dartmouth College
14:00	UK biorefinery feedstock <i>Adrian Higson, Director, Alder Bioinsights (formerly NNFCC)</i>
14:30	Coffee break
15:00	Session 2: Lignocellulose as a feedstock <i>Chair: Neil Bruce, University of York</i>
15:05	Lignocellulosic feedstocks and the digestibility challenge <i>Leonardo Gomez, Senior Research Fellow, University of York</i>
15:30	From waste to wealth - Lixea's waste biomass biorefinery scale-up journey <i>Krisztina Kovacs-Schreiner, CEO, Lixea</i>
15:55	Enzyme discovery for lignocellulose biorefining <i>Mario Murakami, Director, Brazilian Biorenewables National Laboratory (LNBR)</i>
16:20	Biorefining lignocellulose: an industrial perspective <i>Marisa Coral, Corporate E2G Process and Development Manager, Raizen, Brazil</i>
16:45	From second generation to second chance <i>Jeremy Jentys, BioConsulting GmbH</i>
17:10	Key collection / break
18:30	Poster session and networking
19:30	<i>Dinner</i>

Day 2: Thursday 16th October	
Time	Event
09:00	Session 3: Plastics and textiles - an abundant feedstock <i>Chair: Andy Pickford, University of Portsmouth</i>
09:05	Bug-busting spandex <i>Helen Hailes, UCL</i>
09:30	Microbial upcycling of non-conventional polyester feedstocks <i>Joanna Saddler, University of Edinburgh</i>
09:55	Fueling a Greener Future with Waste: Hydrogen from Plastics <i>Jack Guo, Protonera</i>
10:20	Polymer recycling technology for the textiles industry <i>Chenyu Du, University of Huddersfield</i>
10:45	Coffee break
11:15	Session 4: Defossilising the chemicals sector <i>Chair: David Bott, The Society of Chemical Industry (SCI)</i>
11:20	Defossilisation of the chemical industry - the scale of the challenge <i>Al Sanderson, Alastair Sanderson Consulting Limited</i>
11:45	Microbial conversion of lignin to monomers for bioplastic production: a case study <i>Victoria Sodré, University of Warwick</i>
12:10	Title: to be confirmed <i>Charles Dimmler, Holiferm</i>
12:35	Flash presentations
12:45	Lunch
14:00	Session 5: The untapped potential of food waste <i>Chair: Gavin Milligan, Green Knight Sustainability Consulting</i>
14:05	Organic waste as a feedstock for bio industries <i>Mark Richmond, WRM</i>
14:20	Food redistribution <i>Mark Game, The Bread and Butter Thing</i>
14:35	Aggregation and processing of segregated food waste streams <i>TBC, Suez</i>
14:50	Barriers and enablers for further segregation at source <i>Paul Buxton, Samworth Brothers</i>
15:05	Panel discussion: barriers and enablers for scaling segregation to aid valorisation opportunities <i>All session presenters</i>
15:30	Coffee break
16:00	Session 6: ECR presentations - on biomass biorefining <i>Chair: Sarah Davidson, Croda Europe Ltd</i>
16:05	Up to eight presentations from members of the BBNet community who are early career researchers, presenting work that fits within the BBNet remit.
17:00	Break/informal networking time
18:30	Poster session and networking
19:30	Dinner and awards presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best ECR poster • Best ECR presentation

Day 3: Friday 17th October	
Time	Event
09:00	Session 7: BBNet impact and future prospects <i>Chair: Mark Gronnow, Biorenewables Development Centre</i>
09:05	Developing a biological route towards the green solvent anisole using <i>Pseudomonas putida</i> <i>Micaela Chacon, University of Manchester</i>
09:15	From Lignocellulosic Biomass To Chemical Wealth <i>Mauro Rinaldi, University of Hull</i>
09:25	Exploring novel valorisation routes for red seaweeds <i>Federico Sabbadin, University of York</i>
09:35	De-centralised flower waste biorefinery: towards continuous supply of feedstock for the fine chemical industry <i>Parimala Shivaprasad, University of Nottingham</i>
09:45	Pulcherrimin: a bio-derived mineral catalyst for 5-HMF oxidation <i>Jonathan Wagner, Loughborough University</i>
09:45	BBNet working group updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed-cultural anaerobic fermentation in the circular bio-economy - Yue Zhang, University of Southampton • Integrating Thermal and Bio-Conversion and the Future of the EBNet Biochar Working Group - Meredith Barr, London South Bank University • The Continuous Bioflow Network - Sebastian Cosgrove, Keele University
10:15	Interactive session on future priorities and working groups
10:30	Coffee break
11:00	Session 8: Biorefining - the future prospects <i>Chair: Patricia Thornley, Aston University</i>
11:05	Biorefining landscape report - A review of biorefining in the UK, 2014-2024 and barriers to scale up <i>Adrian Higson, Director, Alder Bioinsights</i>
11:30	Mission Innovation biorefinery mission - implementation/policy/barriers. <i>Kees Kwant, Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland (Netherlands Enterprise Agency)</i>
11:55	Developing the bio-based industry <i>Jen Vanderhoven, BBIA</i>
12:20	Update from BBSRC <i>Stephen Webb, BBSRC</i>
12:30	Panel discussion: prospects in biorefining <i>All session presenters</i>
12:40	Closing remarks <i>Neil Bruce, Director of BBNet</i>
12:50	End of meeting and lunch