

## The future prospects for biorefining: Feedstocks, Technologies & Products

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

### Day 1: Wednesday 15th October

Time	Event	Abstract
11:00	<b>Registration and refreshments</b> (Hotel foyer)	
From 11:45	<i>Lunch</i> (Yard Restaurant)	
12.15	<b>Exhibition opens</b> (City Suite Foyer & City Suite A)	
12:45	<b>Welcome</b> (Welcome and all sessions in City Suite B & C) <i>Neil Bruce, University of York</i>	
12:55	<b>Session 1: The future of biorefining</b> <i>Chair: Clare Halpin, University of Dundee</i>	
13:00	<b>Keynote: The future of biorefining</b> <a href="#">Lee Lynd</a> , Terragia Biofuel Inc.; Thayer School of Engineering, Dartmouth; University of Campinas, Brazil; Center for Bioenergy Innovation, Oak Ridge National Lab	01
14:00	<b>Feeding the bioeconomy - UK biomass availability</b> <i>Adrian Higson, Alder BioInsights</i>	02
14:30	<i>Refreshment break</i> (City Suite Foyer & City Suite A)	
15:00	<b>Session 2: Lignocellulose as a feedstock</b> <i>Chair: Neil Bruce, University of York</i>	
15:05	<b>Improving biomass feedstocks for biorefineries</b> <i>Leonardo Gomez, University of York</i>	03
15:30	<b>From waste to wealth - Lixea's waste biorefinery scale-up journey</b> <i>Krisztina Kovacs-Schreiner, Lixea</i>	04
15:55	<b>Enzyme discovery for lignocellulose biorefining</b> <i>Mario Murakami, Brazilian Biorenewables National Laboratory (LNBR), Brazilian Center for Research in Energy and Materials (CNPEM)</i>	05
16:20	<b>From cane to molecule: Raizen's cellulosic ethanol program and integrated ethanol, sugar and bioenergy production model</b> <i>Marisa Coral, Raizen, Brazil</i>	06
16:45	<b>From second generation to second chance</b> <i>Jeremy Jentys, BioConsulting GmbH</i>	07
17:10	<b>Break - key collection</b> (City Suite foyer)	
18:30	<b>Poster session and networking</b> (City Suite Foyer & City Suite A)	
19:30	<i>Dinner</i> (City Suite B & C)	

## Day 2: Thursday 16th October

Time	Event	
<b>09:00</b>	<b>Session 3: Plastics and textiles - an abundant feedstock</b> <i>Chair: Andy Pickford, University of Portsmouth</i>	
<b>09:05</b>	<b>Bug-busting spandex</b> <i>Helen Hailes, University College London</i>	<b>08</b>
<b>09:30</b>	<b>Microbial upcycling of non-conventional polyester feedstocks</b> <i>Joanna Sadler, University of Edinburgh</i>	<b>09</b>
<b>09:55</b>	<b>Fueling a greener future with waste: Hydrogen from plastics</b> <i>Jack Guo, Protonera</i>	<b>10</b>
<b>10:20</b>	<b>Polymer recycling technology for the textiles industry</b> <i>Chenyu Du, University of Huddersfield</i>	<b>11</b>
<b>10:45</b>	Refreshment break (City Suite Foyer & City Suite A)	
<b>11:15</b>	<b>Session 4: Defossilising the chemicals sector</b> <i>Chair: David Bott, The Society of Chemical Industry (SCI)</i>	
<b>11:25</b>	<b>Defossilisation of the chemistry industry – the scale of the challenge</b> <i>Al Sanderson, Alastair Sanderson Consulting Limited</i>	<b>12</b>
<b>11:50</b>	<b>Microbial conversion of lignin to monomers for bioplastic production: A case study</b> <i>Victoria Sodr�, University of Warwick</i>	<b>13</b>
<b>12:15</b>	<b>Accelerating the commercial path of industrial biotechnology</b> <i>Charles Dimmler, Holiferm</i>	<b>14</b>
<b>12:40</b>	Lunch (Yard Restaurant)	
<b>14:00</b>	<b>Session 5: The untapped potential of food waste</b> <i>Chair: Gavin Milligan, Green Knight Sustainability Consulting</i>	
<b>14:05</b>	<b>Organic waste as a feedstock for bio industries</b> <i>Mark Richmond, WRM</i>	<b>15</b>
<b>14:25</b>	<b>Feeding people first: Why edible surplus belongs on plates</b> <i>Vic Harper, The Bread and Butter Thing</i>	<b>16</b>
<b>14:45</b>	<b>Barriers and enablers for further segregation at source</b> <i>Paul Buxton, Samworth Brothers</i>	<b>17</b>
<b>15:05</b>	<b>Panel discussion: Barriers and enablers for scaling segregation to aid valorisation opportunities</b> <i>All session presenters, plus Mark Gronnow, Biorenewables Development Centre</i>	
<b>15:30</b>	Refreshment break (City Suite Foyer & City Suite A)	
<b>16:00</b>	<b>Session 6: ECR presentations - on biomass biorefining</b> <i>Chair: Sarah Davidson, Croda Europe Ltd</i>	
<b>16:00</b>	Presentations from members of the BBNet community in the early stages of their research careers, presenting work within the BBNet remit.	
<b>16:05</b>	<b>Influence of bioeconomy policies in valorisation of beet and cane bagasse</b> <i>Maureen Okibe, University of Surrey</i>	<b>18</b>
<b>16:15</b>	<b>Engineering division of labour in <i>Yarrowia lipolytica</i> for polysaccharide degradation</b> <i>Eliza Atkinson, Imperial College London</i>	<b>19</b>

## Day 2: Thursday 16th October (continued)

16:25	<b>Biomanufacturing chemicals using maritime waste feedstocks: Assessing the carbon footprint of pilot scale processes</b> <i>Joe Penhaul Smith, Sustainable Extricko</i>	20
16:35	<b>Chitin-degrading enzymes: Potential tools for wide biotechnological applications</b> <i>Mohammad Dadashipo, Teesside University</i>	21
16:45	<b>Characterisation of novel biocatalysts with unique properties towards sustainable biocatalysis</b> <i>Henry Madubuike, University of Salford</i>	22
16:55	<b>Developing frameworks that deliver whole-system sustainability benefits for the bioeconomy</b> <i>Daniel Taylor, Aston University</i>	23
17:05	<b>Break and informal networking time</b>	
18:30	<b>Poster session and networking</b> (City Suite Foyer & City Suite A)	
19:30	<b>Dinner and awards presentation</b> (City Suite B & C) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Best ECR posters - sponsored by Green Knight Sustainability Consulting Ltd</li> <li>Best ECR presentations - sponsored by Croda Europe Ltd</li> </ul>	

## Day 3: Friday 17th October

Time	Event	
09:00	<b>Session 7: BBNet impact and future prospects</b> <i>Chair: Mark Gronnow, Biorenewables Development Centre</i>	
09:05	<b>Developing a biological route towards the green solvent anisole using <i>Pseudomonas putida</i></b> <i>Micaela Chacon, University of Manchester</i>	24
09:15	<b>Synthetic organelles to convert lignocellulosic biomass into chemical wealth</b> <i>Mauro Rinaldi, University of Hull</i>	25
09:25	<b>Novel valorisation routes of red seaweeds</b> <i>Federico Sabbadin, University of York</i>	26
09:35	<b>De-centralised flower waste biorefinery: Towards continuous supply of feedstock for the fine chemical industry</b> <i>Parimala Shivaprasad, University of Nottingham</i>	27
09:45	<b>Pulcherrimin: A bio-derived mineral catalyst for 5-HMF oxidation</b> <i>Jonathan Wagner, Loughborough University</i>	28
09:55	<b>BBNet working group updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anaerobic fermentation working group - Yue Zhang, University of Southampton</li> <li>Integrating thermal and bio-conversion and the future of the EBNet biochar working group - Meredith Barr, London South Bank University</li> <li>The Continuous Bioflow Network - Sebastian Cosgrove, Keele University</li> </ul>	29 30 31
10:25	<b>Interactive session on future priorities and working groups</b>	
10:30	<b>Refreshment break</b> (City Suite Foyer & City Suite A)	

**Day 3: Friday 17th October (continued)**

<b>11:00</b>	<b>Session 8: Biorefining - the future prospects</b> <i>Chair: Patricia Thornley, Aston University</i>	
<b>11:05</b>	<b>Mission Innovation: Integrated biorefineries mission for fuels and chemicals</b> <i>Kees Kwant, Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland (Netherlands Enterprise Agency)</i>	<b>32</b>
<b>11:30</b>	<b>Biorefining landscape report - A review of biorefining in the UK</b> <i>Adrian Higson, Alder Bioinsights</i>	<b>33</b>
<b>11:55</b>	<b>The UK bio-based sector - Where are we, and where are we headed?</b> <i>Jen Vanderhoven, BBIA</i>	<b>34</b>
<b>12:20</b>	<b>BBSRC Forward Look and funding opportunities</b> <i>Stephen Webb, BBSRC</i>	<b>35</b>
<b>12:30</b>	<b>Panel discussion: Prospects in biorefining</b> <i>All session presenters</i>	
<b>12:40</b>	<b>Closing remarks</b> <i>Neil Bruce, University of York</i>	
<b>12:50</b>	<b>End of meeting</b> <i>Lunch (City Suite A)</i>	