

Dear network member,

Hello and welcome to the final Biomass Biorefinery Network newsletter.

As many of you will be aware BBNet is wrapping up in the next few weeks, and as such this will be our final member mailing where we share news from across the sector alongside BBNet updates.

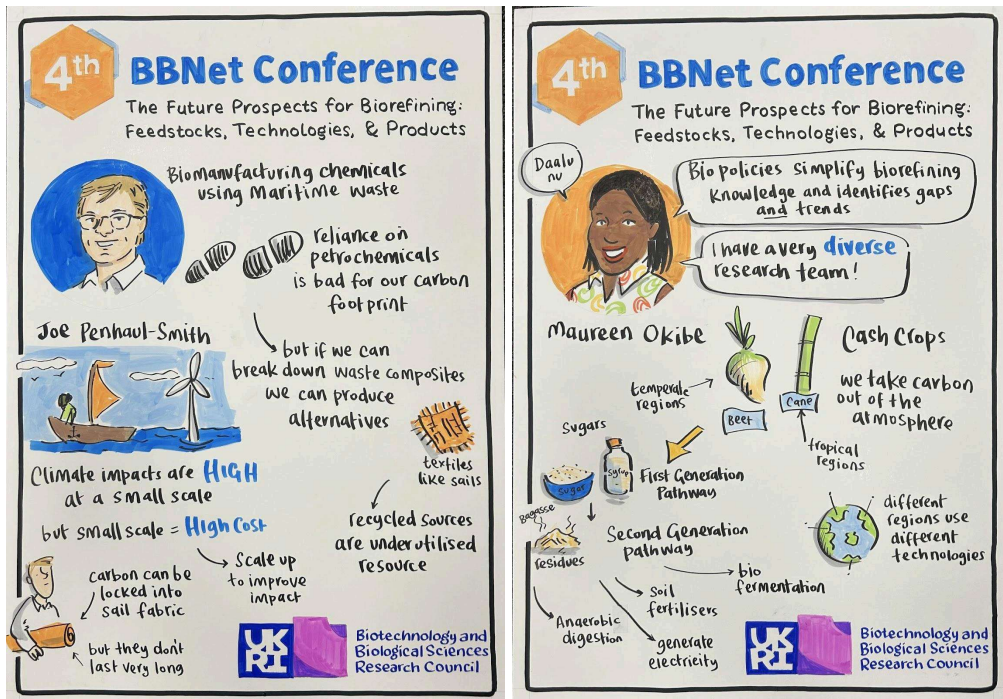
We are busy working on our final outputs which we're looking forward to sharing with you in due course - keep an eye on your inbox to read about the phenomenal impact BBNet has had on our members, and what's next for the biorefining landscape.

Have a great weekend
BBNet team

BBNet

BBNet conference - photo gallery now live

The photo gallery and digital images of the ECR poster boards from session 6 at the 4th BBNet conference are now live and available to members to [view on our website here](#).



BBNet evaluation - book token winners

Thank you to everyone who completed our evaluation survey in the summer

As you may recall, four £50 book tokens were available to be won by anyone who

completed the events evaluation survey. The lucky winning members, chosen at random, were:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ■ Chidinma Angela Tennison-Omovoh | ● Longinus Ifeanyi Igbojionu |
| ■ Henry Madubuike | ● Yunhao Liang |



Sector news and opportunities

Have your say

UK Fermentation and Downstream Processing Capacity Survey - open until end of January

This survey, developed by the Bio-based and Biodegradable Industries Association (BBIA), the Biorenewables Development Centre (BDC) and Pioneer Group, aims to gather information on existing fermentation and downstream processing capabilities within the UK for non-clinical and non-human health uses, including capacity, technical specifications, utilisation, and access models. The insights collected will help identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities in national infrastructure, and will inform future initiatives to support research, commercialisation, and manufacturing growth. [Take the survey.](#)

BBIA Event: Common Biomass Sustainability Consultation Webinar and Stakeholder Feedback

Join this online feedback session to have your say on the Government Common Biomass Sustainability Framework. The Government has launched its long-awaited consultation on a Common Biomass Sustainability Framework. Time: 10:00 - 11:15, 27 January. [Read more.](#)

Sustainable Chemicals Incubator Plus (SCIP)

Workshops: SME scale-up and deployment

Innovate UK's Sustainable Chemicals Incubator Plus (SCIP) is exploring how UK SMEs can rapidly scale and deploy innovations in sustainable chemicals and support the UK's supply chain resilience and industrial strategy. The SCIP activities have included benchmarking UK scale-up support against clusters around the world and analyzing opportunities for chemicals within the UK Industrial Strategy. Innovate UK are now running workshops to explore and refine understanding of the scaling challenges faced by SMEs when moving higher TRL SMEs towards commercial implementation. Dates 10, 24, 26 Feb, 09.30-16:00 - Teeside, London and Manchester. [Read more.](#)

Opportunities

Knowledge Transfer Partnership: 2025 to 2026 round five

UK-registered academic institutions, research and technology organisations or Catapults can apply for a share of up to £10 million to fund innovation projects with businesses. Closing date: 4 Feb. [Read more.](#)

BBSRC Innovation to Commercialisation of University Research (ICURe) Explore 2026

Apply for up to £35,000 to explore the potential market of your bioscience-based idea, increase market awareness, and gain a deeper understanding of your technology's potential applications. Closing date: 6 Feb. [Read more.](#)

ADOPT Facilitator Support Grant: round six

Farming, growing, or forestry businesses based in England can apply for a £2,500 grant to engage an external project facilitator to support the development of a full ADOPT grant application. Closing date: 25 Feb. [Read more.](#)

BB-REG-NET free training available - understanding bio-based and biodegradable products

BB-REG-NET has launched a series of training webinars for policy makers and other key stakeholders to enhance understanding of the bio-based and biodegradable products, and the wider bioeconomy.

- Demystifying the Bioeconomy: Key Terms and Concepts
- From Biomass to Biorefinery: Creating a truly circular economy
- Bio-Based Breakthroughs: Emerging Markets and Materials

Find out more and [access them on their website.](#)

New Green Alliance briefings on hydrogen demand and co-location

With the upcoming refresh of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's UK hydrogen strategy, The Green Alliance has produced two briefings, setting out why the strategy should focus on demand and why hydrogen production should be co-located close to end uses rather than developing national pipelines.

In the [first briefing](#) they explore why a focus on hydrogen demand in the upcoming government strategy, rather than production and supply, could lead to a more economical and efficient use of hydrogen.

In the [second briefing](#) they explore the significant risk posed by hydrogen leakage, and as a result, why co-locating production with end uses should be pursued over a major pipeline network.

Please get in touch with Stuart Dossett on sdossett@green-alliance.org.uk if you would like to know more about this work.

Sector news

Biofuels Mandates Around the World 2026

Biofuels Digest recently released its annual review of biofuels mandates and targets worldwide, covering the status of mandates in 65 countries. Get the latest information on the New Mexico and Canada Clean Fuels Standard, as well as a section on SAF mandates in the EU, and more. [Read more.](#)

Will 2026 be a turning point for renewable fuels?

The renewable fuels industry has reached a critical juncture. After years of incremental progress, false starts, and regulatory uncertainty, the sector is entering a phase that experts describe with cautious optimism. Specialists detail 7 Areas to watch out for in 2026. [Read more.](#)

The 2025 bioeconomy review

2025 was a dynamic year for the biobased sector, with important developments across regulation, innovation, and investment. Overall, scaling momentum continues to grow, particularly in Asia, while biotech investment also shows signs of recovery. [Read more.](#)

Seaweed in 2025: the year in review

Steven from Phyconomy shares his view on the key seaweed developments from 2025. [Read more.](#)

Why Thailand became Asia's rising biobased star

With tax incentives for biobased investors, efficient costs, and abundant feedstocks, the nation is emerging as Asia's rising biobased star in foodtech, industrial biotech, and beyond. Renewable Carbon News looks at why biomanufacturing has flourished in Thailand and the investments that have put it on the map. [Read more.](#)

£6.23 Million in Funding for Celtic Renewables from Scottish Government

Celtic Renewables will put the funding towards the planning and construction of a new £120 million industrial-scale biorefinery at Grangemouth. [Read more.](#)

€170.7 million for new bio-based innovations

The 2026 work programme introduces 13 topics ranging from industrial flagship biorefineries to research actions that strengthen feedstock diversification, circular design, biotech scale-up, and market uptake. The programme aligns with the CBE JU's Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda and the European Commission's recently presented Strategic Framework for a Competitive and Sustainable EU Bioeconomy. [Read more.](#)

Scottish agricultural co-operative unlocks sustainable circular economy opportunity

Funded by Innovate UK, the project brings together industry expertise from farmer-owned co-operative Grampian Growers Ltd with world-renowned researchers from the James Hutton Institute and the University of Aberdeen. This innovative initiative aims to transform potato shaws into high-value bio-derived ingredients for cosmeceutical, nutraceutical, and pharmaceutical applications. [Read more.](#)

Biomass cannot supply everything: New report calls for strategic prioritisation of limited resources

BB-REG-NET has developed a decision-support tool and priority tower that ranks biomass applications by necessity, directing the limited resource toward sectors like chemicals, where no alternatives to biogenic carbon exist. [Read more.](#)

UK Bio-Based Innovation at Risk – New Research Shows £500m Economic Opportunity

The UK is failing to capitalise on its world-leading bio-based innovation, with high-potential companies increasingly moving operations abroad to scale up their businesses, according to new research published today by BB-REG-NET. [Read more.](#)

NATO promotes defence biotech

Biotech is now a defence priority for NATO, according to the alliance's Secretary General, Mark Rutte. This interest from the defence establishment reflects how quickly the policy landscape for Europe's biobased industries has changed in recent years. [Read more.](#)

Biomanufacturing discovers pondweed's potential

Pondweed is the biomanufacturing feedstock of the moment. These freshwater plants entered the mainstream in 2024, when Whole Foods included duckweed in its trend predictions for 2025. [Read more.](#)

Recent publications

Sodré de Souza, L.d.S., de Azevedo, G.T., Leonarski, E., de Souza, G.L., Oliveira, R.L.e., Junior, S.D., Cesca, K., de Oliveira, D., Pereira, A.M. and Kluczkovski, A.M. (2026), **Valorization of the peel and husk of guaraná (Paullinia cupana): oil extraction, chemical composition, cytotoxicity, and antitumor potential.** Biofuels, Bioprod. Bioref.. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bbb.70118>

da Costa, J.C.C.S., Guimarães, L.A., da Luz de Freitas, A., de Souza Vandenberghe, L.P., de Melo Pereira, G.V., Soccol, C.R. and Rogez, H.L.G. (2026), **Insights from meta-analysis for efficient docosahexaenoic acid production in thraustochytrids through advanced cultivation and fermentation strategies.** Biofuels, Bioprod. Bioref.. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bbb.70100>

Lima, C.d.A., Bento, H.B.S., Picheli, F.P., de Oliveira, F., Neto, A.P.d.S., Pedrolli, D.B., Masarin, F., da Silva, S.S. and Santos-Ebinuma, V.C. (2026), **Raw citrus by-product valorization: unlocking the potential of biotransformation by Talaromyces amestolkiae to obtain cellulolytic enzymes and natural colorants.** Biofuels, Bioprod. Bioref.. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bbb.70107>

da Silva Sousa, P., Neto, F.S., de Sousa Junior, P.G., da Silva Aires, F.I., da Rocha Silva, C., dos Santos, K.M., de Castro Bizerra, V., Rios, M.A.S. and dos Santos, J.C.S. (2026), **Valorization of fishing industry by-products for biodiesel production: Unlocking the potential of residual fish oil.** Biofuels, Bioprod. Bioref.. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bbb.70109>

Williams, A., Sempira, J.E., Gottumukkala, L.D., Mamphweli, S., Van Rensburg, E. and Görgens, J. (2026), **Valorization of paper sludge for bioethanol and biogas production.** Biofuels, Bioprod. Bioref.. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bbb.70111>

Pokutsa, A., Rydel-Ciszek, K., Balu, A.M. and Luque, R. (2026), **Effective acetalization of furfural catalyzed by Fe- and Co-oxalates: impact of alcohols structure on products composition**. *Biofuels, Bioprod. Bioref.*.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/bbb.70097>

Conferences and meetings

Biorefine Cluster Europe and Resource.bio announce 2026 Thursday Talks schedule

The Thursday Talks, monthly webinars, will feature experts sharing recent developments in nutrient recycling and management, water recovery, waste-to-energy, biochemicals extraction, bio-based materials, and value-chain assessment. [Read more.](#)

EUBCE accepting late abstracts

The 34th European Biomass Conference and Exhibition (EUBCE) will take place on 19-22 May 2026, in The Hague, Netherlands. The conference will consider late abstract submissions, up to 24 April 2026, for new findings or late-breaking results. [Read more.](#)

BBSRC Sparking Innovation conference 2026

BBSRC's Sparking Innovation conference brings together the UK bioscience innovation community and facilitates knowledge exchange and collaboration to turn research into real-world impact. The conference will take place between 21 and 22 April 2026 in Leicester. [Read more.](#)

BBIA Event: From Waste to Value - Scaling Circular Biotechnology with Microalgae

Join BBIA and MiAlgae for an online webinar exploring how industrial by-products can be transformed into sustainable value through advanced microalgal cultivation. Time: 14:00 - 15:00, 29 January. [Read more.](#)

BBIA Event: Towards a Biobased Chemical Future

Join the Royal Society of Chemistry, RSC, and the Bio-Based and Biodegradable Industries Association, BBIA, for an insightful afternoon considering our chemical future and the role of pioneering sustainable chemical production. When: 26 Feb, 13:00 - 17:00 in London. [Read more.](#)

Unlocking the future of engineering biology regulation

webinar

Are you navigating the complex and evolving landscape of regulation in engineering biology? Join this webinar for a cross-sector webinar designed to demystify the UK's regulatory environment and provide practical, actionable insights for innovators, SMEs, researchers, and policy professionals. When? 10:00 - 12:00, 11 Feb. [Read more](#).

Engineering biology SPARK Award Showcase webinar

The Engineering Biology Innovation Network funded 15 SPARK Awards designed to tackle real-world challenges faced by UK SMEs or to accelerate their journey towards developing new products, processes, or services. Join this online showcase event to learn more about the funded projects, connect with innovators, and explore the Innovation Network. When? 10:00-12:00, 18 March. [Read more](#).

Job opportunities

Do you have a role to advertise?

BBNet members can use our self-service system on the [website here](#) to upload and advertise relevant jobs, and we'll feature them in the newsletter, too.

BBNet membership

Contacts

Email bbnet-manager@york.ac.uk for any queries relating to BBNet funding, events, and membership.

Let us know if you would like to advertise details of a vacancy or other opportunity on our website by completing the [Opportunities form](#) and emailing it to bbnet-manager@york.ac.uk.

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