

## **Bioreactor to recycle waste**

Researchers at Cranfield University School of Water Sciences in the United Kingdom have reported that submerged membrane bioreactors (SMBs) would be an ideal choice for recycling urban and industrial waste. In a study carried out by researchers, SMB was found to be the most technologically effective system for a range of situations, from a single household to a very large building. An SMB works in the same manner as a large sewage plant where microbes break down waste, which aggregates as particulate and finally settles out as a sludge. However, in an SMB, the particulate matter is caught in a fine sieve.

Additionally, researchers examined the feasibility of recycling so-called "gray water" – used water from the drains of showers, baths and washbasins. It was found that when gray water is aerated even slightly during storage, waste matter is degraded more effectively. *Contact: Cranfield University School of Water Sciences, Cranfield, Bedfordshire MK43 0AL, the United Kingdom. Tel: +44 (1234) 750 111; Fax: +44 (1234) 750 875.*

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