PRESS RELEASE

Wetskills goes USA!

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin – After 14 successful conferences in five years, the Wetskills Water Challenge comes to the United States for the first time June 12-26. Twenty students and young professionals in the water industry from the US, Canada and the Netherlands will compete to develop an innovative concept for five business case studies to create solutions for water issues in a changing world.

During the conference, which takes place at the Global Water Center and the University of Wisconsin School of Freshwater Sciences, students, water experts and companies will compare views on global water innovations, share best practices, and find new solutions on several topics, including:

- metal recovery from sewage and transforming wastewater into a business;
- the use of UV to disinfect re-use of water, energy and nutrients;
- and raising water quality awareness among greenhouse entrepreneurs.

Members of the media are invited to all the events. Of particular interest are the following parts of the program:

- Wetskills kick-off event: The Brain Hurricane on June 17, an interactive brainstorming event where contestants will learn about the case studies, meet the authors, and hear about the water challenges and opportunities in Milwaukee from Wisconsin water experts.
- Team presentations to the international jury during the Milwaukee Water Summit on June 23.
- Announcement of the winner of the Wetskills Water Challenge on June 24 at the Milwaukee Water Summit.

Wetskills Water Challenge is a joint initiative between the water sectors of Milwaukee and the Netherlands. With its high population density, intensive agriculture and industry, the Netherlands often receives international acclaim for its ability to literally keep its head above water through innovations in water management and technology, and for succeeding in producing high quality drinking water without using chlorine.

Milwaukee is among the world's most significant hubs for water research, education, technology development and industry. The Global Water Center is a water research and business accelerator center in Milwaukee's Walker's Point neighborhood. It houses water-related

research facilities for universities, existing water-related companies and accelerator space for new, emerging water-related companies.

Since 2010, about 200 water graduate students and young water professionals from more than 40 international universities and organizations have participated Wetskills Water Challenges, held in Canada, Mozambique, Romania, the Netherlands, Egypt, South Africa, Oman, Indonesia, Morocco and China.

The following organizations are working together to produce the Wetskills Water Challenge:

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Institute for Water Business
Netherlands Office for Science and Technology, Washington DC
Wetskills organization
Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Chicago
Ryerson Urban Water
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, School of Freshwater Sciences
KWR Watercycle Research Institute
Cadens
InSinkErator
Berson UV
Water Authority Delfland
The Water Council
MillerCoors Brewery

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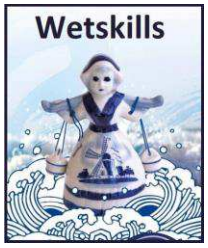
Invitation and assistance interviews

We would like to welcome you at three points during the Wetskills Water Challenge.



Wetskills-USA 2015: overview of study cases

Case 1: KWR Watercycle Research Institute

Metal recovery from sewage – transforming wastewater into business

The vision that wastewater is not a waste, but a resource for water, energy, nutrients and other components, becomes more and more widespread. In a circular economy the recovery and reuse of such resources is key to success. KWR Watercycle Research Institute is currently involved in the development of breakthrough technologies for efficient resource recovery from wastewater. One of the latest areas of focus is the recovery of (rare earth) metal resources from wastewater. Recovering these resources from the water cycle could be of strategic importance to Europe and American countries, as natural reserves of rare earth metals are scarce on those continents. Wetskills participants will investigate the (economic) potential of resource recovery of those materials.

Case 2: Berson UV

Resource recovery from a governance perspective: a bright future for UV in disinfection and the re-use of water, energy and nutrients?

Making the transition from traditional wastewater treatment to an integrated water, energy and nutrients recovery facilities requires a high level of investments. In addition, current priorities among the stakeholders that are involved are not always clear. Therefore, BersonUV, as a specialist in UV water disinfection systems, is interested to develop a clear and concise decision structure that facilitates municipalities and governments to decide on wastewater treatment investments (with particular attention to UV systems). This tool should aid governments in making the transition towards modern water treatment plants in a smooth and financially responsible way.

Case 3: Cadens

Maximizing power production of a multi-turbine micro-hydropower system

Study case owner Cadens develops and deploys micro- to small, low-head hydropower turbines. The turbines are tailored to the unique hydraulic characteristics of the basin in which the turbines are deployed using state of the art technology such as 3D printing. In order to maximize efficiency of such small-scale installations, optimal control of the turbines and reservoir is desirable. The Wetskills participants are expected to come up with a solution that integrates traditional and non-traditional information resources and control practices that improve the operation of Cadens' small-scale hydropower facilities.

Case 4: Water Authority Delfland

Polluters be(a)ware! *Raising water quality awareness among greenhouse entrepreneurs*

Fresh water to use in greenhouses is not a scarce product in the Netherlands. Compared to other substantial financial expenses for greenhouses like energy and wages, it is actually quite cheap. But the environmental impact of discharging water (containing nutrients and pesticides)

to the nearby canals or ditches is very large. In areas with much greenhouse activity the water quality is low despite regulations from the government. Therefore Water Authority van Delfland is looking for a way to create more awareness among the entrepreneurs so that they feel responsible for their own pollution. The challenge to the participants: which technical, social or other solution is necessary to create such awareness for water quality issues?

Case 5: InSinkErator and Waternet

The Efficacy of Food Waste Disposers in the Netherlands

Even though common in the US, the use of food waste disposers is currently prohibited in the Netherlands due to concerns of potential negative impacts on sewage infrastructure and wastewater treatment plants. Yet within the broader trend of transforming wastewater treatment facilities into resource recovery plants, adding additional organic load to the wastewater could be the key to making resource recovery of various products viable. InSinkErator and Waternet therefore challenge the Wetskills participants to come up with an evaluation of the potential benefits and impacts of food waste disposers on the urban water cycle.