Cellulose recovery from municipal waste water

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During Aquatech 2015 the Dutch technology developer Brightwork set in the spotlight the recovery of cellulose from waste water. The project Cellulose Assisted Dewatering of Sludge (CADoS) aims at separating cellulose fibres from toilet paper from waste water using finescreening technology. After separation the fibres serve as a filter aid for effective dewatering of biological sludge. The benefits are immediately apparent: sludge dewatering is very simple, chemical consumption is minimized, lower electricity consumption for aeration, less chance of phosphate release and much lower sludge volume to discharge resulting in reduced transport movements and costs. CADoS is in operation as a full scale prototype at the WWTP Ulrum in the Netherlands.

In addition to the operational benefits the screenings (cellulose) provide a valuable product for further processing: initially for the production of biogas, but eventually as a raw material for bioplastics or board. The CADoS concept can be used in small as well as large sewage treatment plants in the Netherlands and internationally.

CADoS pilot plant at WWTP Ulrum, The Netherlands (Waterboard Noorderzijlvest)

CADoS is a joint venture of six Dutch parties: Brightwork, Waterboard Noorderzijlvest, Wetterskip Fryslân, University of Groningen, Attero, and Centre of Expertise Watertechnology. The project was awarded the Water Innovation award 2014. This project is co-funded by SNN and the Dutch provinces of Groningen, Drenthe and Friesland.

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