

Public Lecture

A Synthetic Biology Solution To Polystyrene Degradation

University of Leicester 2012 iGEM Team

At present, polystyrene is uneconomical to recycle due to the current methods of industrial degradation involving harmful chemicals and huge amount of manual labour required.

Recently, a species of bacteria naturally existing in soil has been discovered that could solve the problem. Unfortunately, it has been estimated that the bacteria could take several hundreds of years to degrade polystyrene, far too long to be of any use in tackling the vast amounts of polystyrene being sent to landfill each year. A team of students from the University of Leicester set themselves a challenge – to genetically modify the bacteria to increase the rate of degradation.

In this lecture, the students will provide an introduction to synthetic biology and share their research and discoveries. Can it be done? Come and find out.

Thursday 4th October – 6:30pm
Peter Williams Lecture Theatre


All Welcome


Please confirm attendance by emailing igem@le.ac.uk if possible.

Follow the team's progress:

 <http://uoleicesterigem2012.blogspot.co.uk>

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 University of Leicester iGEM Team

 <http://2012.igem.org/Team:Leicester>

