

[http://www.kwrwater.nl/Resource\\_Recovery\\_in\\_Water\\_Cycle\\_hoe\\_ziet\\_de\\_toekomst\\_eruit/](http://www.kwrwater.nl/Resource_Recovery_in_Water_Cycle_hoe_ziet_de_toekomst_eruit/)

## ARREAU workshop at the Amsterdam International Water Week



On Tuesday, 3 November 2015, the '[Accelerating Resource Recovery from Wastewater](#)' workshop was held during the Amsterdam International Water Week 2015. EIP Water Action Group [ARREAU](#) (Accelerating Resource Recovery from the Water Cycle), together with the [EFGF](#) (Energy & and Resource Factory), [ESPP](#) (European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform), the [Nutrient Platform](#) and [KWR](#) Watercycle Research Institute joined forces to set up the workshop.

Willy Verstraete (IWA), Kees Roest (ARREAU/KWR Watercycle Research Institute) and Christian Kabbe (ESPP/KWB) started off the workshop with short pitches providing different perspectives (international, European, with phosphorus as an example) on the recovery and recycling of raw materials from the water cycle.

Following this aerial view of the world of resource recovery and phosphorus, the participants and panel members were called on, under the guidance of Verstraete, to participate in the interactive component of the workshop. This involved having the audience respond to a series of propositions. The panel, consisting of Christian Kabbe, Pradeep Kumar Mohanty (Finish Society), Coos Wessels (ARREAU/BWA) and Geoffrey Salt (Advanced Minerals Softening Pellets), were given the opportunity to briefly explain and present their visions on each of the propositions. Following this introduction, the participants were given the chance to react.



*The panel headed by Professor Willy Verstraete (photo: Rob Kamminga).*

The first proposition: 'the wastewater ingredients in commercial products must be made clear', attracted variable reactions. On the one hand, it was thought that, from a marketing perspective, indicating the origin of ingredients does not always have a favourable effect. On the other hand, others felt that indicating their origin is an important element in creating consumer awareness. There was more agreement regarding the second proposition: 'recovery at central wastewater treatment plants leads to a lock-in of the existing system'. The participants agreed that, for the time being, no lock-in will take place because recovery in the period ahead will not (as yet) be completely centralised. The third proposition: 'recovery from wastewater is only feasible if it is done in combination with the recovery of raw materials from other waste streams', sparked a discussion about utility and need. Not everybody welcomed the mixing of potentially clean and valuable waste streams with wastewater, for instance, and yet it is actually needed in order to achieve sufficient volumes for an economically profitable operation. Neither did the last proposition: 'raw material recovery makes water treatment cheaper', produce a consensus. Some felt that a more efficient and sustainable use of raw materials is a necessity and its costs are thus acceptable, while others argued that reuse will only make a breakthrough if it involves cost-savings.

In conclusion, one could say that the pitches and viewpoints of the 50-plus participants and panel members stimulated interesting discussions and innovative insights. Further details, including the presentations, regarding the workshop and discussions are online:

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Participants voting with green and red cards (photo: Rob Kamminga).



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