

Seawater sourcing for renewable hydrogen and chemicals


Workshop: seawater sourcing for renewable hydrogen and chemicals


In a joint workshop, the European Innovation Council, the Directorate-General Research and Innovation, the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking, Hydrogen Europe Research, the EuroTech Universities Alliance and the EU-funded project [ANEMEL](#) will deep dive the pressing question of **minimizing water impact** for the future large-scale production of **renewable fuels** and **valuable minerals** in all regions.


The production of renewable fuels of non-biological origin (RFNBO) or the sustainable supply of valuable minerals is a highly promising pathway to climate mitigation. However, most of the conversion or extraction technologies necessitate fresh or highly pure drinking water as feedstock that, due to regular aridness, is becoming a scarce worldwide resource.¹

The goal of this workshop is to explore the use of seawater sources with a multidisciplinary expert group from industry, academia and policy. Desalination methods will be discussed, as well as highly innovative techniques where seawater serves as direct feedstock for water electrolysis or as a source for valuable minerals. Circular concepts will be explored, where water is co-captured from the air, together with carbon dioxide, and where the necessary energy is provided by the subsequent production of certain e-fuels. As well exploiting desalination concentrate, so-called brine, for minerals recovery or using seawater and carbon dioxide for co-electrolysis will be discussed.

The workshop will contribute to build a white paper and an ambitious agenda on low-impact water sourcing for RFNBOs and chemicals to inspire future funding topics and set up data-driven policies.

 **Date:** 8 and 9 June 2023, Lunch-to-lunch conference

 **Location:** DG RTD, Atrium, Rue du Champ de Mars 21, Brussels ([Map](#))

 **Format:** Plenum talks (everybody on the same level) & discussions in dedicated groups

¹ For more information, please refer to the [SUNERGY Strategic R&I Agenda](#), Appendix.

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Tentative Agenda	
Thursday, June 8, 2023	
11:30 - 12:00	Welcome and Registration
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch & Welcome by the organizers
13:00 - 13:20	Opening Talks on trends and drivers for seawater utilization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Philippe Schild (DG RTD): Seawater as a source for energy applications - Prof. Chrysi Laspidou (Water Europe): The water - energy nexus
13:20 - 13:40	Marie-Laure Thielens (Engie): <i>Industrial Desalination Technologies</i>
13:40 - 14:00	Vincenzo Antonucci (CNR-ITAE): <i>Direct Seawater Electrolysis Technologies</i>
14:00 - 14:20	Stig Irving Olsen: <i>Life-cycle assessments for seawater sourcing technologies</i>
14:20 - 15:00	How does it work in practice? Project pitches to showcase the state-of-the-art <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prof. Cédric Tard (École Polytechnique): XSeaO2 - Prof. Pau Farras (U Galway): Anemel - Antonino Arico (CNR-ITAE): Anione - George Brik (CEO): Hydrovolta
15:00 - 15:20	Coffee Break
15:20 - 15:40	Patrik Jones (Imperial College): <i>Seawater-based Microbial Biotechnology</i>
15:40 - 16:00	Alberto Figoli (CNR-ITM): <i>Brines Exploitation</i>
16:00 - 17:00	Working groups: which way to go? <i>Technological pathways for seawater usage energy and materials applications</i> (Dr. Carina Faber, Prof. Joanna Kargul) <i>Value chain considerations and exploitation pathways for seawater usage</i> (Dr. Francesco Matteucci, George Brik) <i>Environmental Impact of Future Technologies</i> (Prof. Stig Irving Olsen, Dr. Joachim John)
17:00 - 17:10	Summary from the working groups
17:10 - 18:00	Get together

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Tentative Agenda	
Friday, June 9, 2023	
09:00 - 09:30	Welcome Coffee
09:30 - 10:00	Opening Talks on trends and drivers for seawater utilization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jan Mertens (ENGIE): CirculAIR or CirculoCEAN? Emerging technologies - Converging on the oceans - Bertrand Vallet (DG RTD): Desalination in the context of EU water research and innovation activities - Joanna Kargul (UWarsaw): SUNERGY technological roadmap
10:00 - 10:20	Guillem Gilabert (DuPont): Membrane-based brine mining and subsea desalination
10:20 - 10:40	Matthew Suss (Technion, MIT): Desalination Fuel Cell Technology
10:40 - 11:00	Dimitris Xevgenos (TU Delft): Circular Desalination
11:00 - 11:20	How does it work in practice? Project pitches to showcase the state-of-the-art <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bill Ireland: Seafuel - Vasily Artemov (EPFL): Aqueous Batteries - Matteo Fasano: MEloDIZER
11:20 - 11:40	Coffee Break
11:40 - 12:20	Panel discussion: Which technological pathways to support?
12:20 - 13:20	Working groups: which way to go? <i>Technological pathways for seawater usage energy and materials applications</i> (Dr. Carina Faber, Prof. Joanna Kargul) <i>Value chain considerations and exploitation pathways for seawater usage</i> (Dr. Francesco Matteucci, George Brik) <i>Environmental Impact of Future Technologies</i> (Prof. Stig Irving Olsen, Dr. Joachim John)
13:20 - 13:40	Summary from the working groups and Goodbye
13:40 - 14:30	Goodbye Lunch

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