

## **Sustainable resource management in post disaster situations** *Extending the application of industrial symbiosis*

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Resource Efficiency has been a welcome key theme of the current German G7 Presidency. Encouraging a more sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and management has a major role to play in growing the economy while continuing to improve the environment and protect human health. We need to move from the old-fashioned linear approach of 'make, use and dispose' towards a more circular economy. A key component to this is keeping material resources in circulation, where it makes environmental, economic and societal sense.

At the G7 Leaders summit in June, it was decided to establish a G7 Alliance on Resource Efficiency, to act as a platform for knowledge sharing and networking to advance best practice. Linked to this there will be a number of workshops on specific themes that will take place within the Alliance.

The UK is pleased to be jointly hosting a G7 Alliance event with Germany in Birmingham on 29-30 October 2015 which will focus on industrial symbiosis for delivering resource efficiency. Both days will provide an opportunity to highlight case studies and best practice with a strong focus on innovation from the UK and other G7 countries as well as emerging economies.

Directly linked to the main event and in tune with the proposed topic we are pleased to announce a satellite event on the afternoon of October 28<sup>th</sup> 2015, which will focus on post disaster and post conflict situations and where resource and waste management in these circumstances can contribute to the steps necessary to achieve a long term sustainable economy.

This event will provide an opportunity to discuss current good practices and will explore whether resource management and waste recovery can be managed more sustainably, and resilient economies built in the recovery stages of a disaster, by the adoption/adaptation of an industrial symbiosis toolkit such as that developed and successfully deployed by International Synergies Ltd. across five continents.

The event will bring stakeholders together who are working directly on the ground both as enablers and funders in the immediate/emergency response phase, and in the longer term recovery phase of a post disaster/post conflict environment.

The aim of the workshop will be to identify unmet needs and unexplored opportunities in the field to complement and improve existing good practice. It will potentially identify longer term cost savings (in development aid) and sustainable, durable solutions to support the local economy, inter alia, through infrastructure development utilising industrial symbiosis networks, and an improved healthcare and physical environment. Other outcomes may be to explore where humanitarian aid resources (such as shelters, food parcels, emergency packages, and medication) could be efficiently reused and, where necessary, managed in a safe and appropriate manner.

**Further information will follow once the programme for this workshop has been finalised but you may wish to note the date in your diary.**