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REPORT



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- ACTION: A3 Valorising Activated Carbon from Cellulose (WOW-AC) for Micropollutant Elimination in Constructed Wetlands
- SUBJECT: D 3.3 Finding most suitable locations for AC-production (larger STP) and possible application in Constructed Wetlands -Case Study



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1 Introduction

Micropollutants have been detected ubiquitously in the aquatic environment. In addition to pesticides and industrial chemicals, pharmaceutical agents used in human and veterinary medicine have become the focus of discussion.

As a large number of micropollutants cannot be retained in a targeted manner or only inadequately in conventional mechanical-biological sewage water treatment plants, their targeted elimination by means of micropollutant elimination stages (ozonation, adsorption on activated carbon, etc.) currently is being intensively investigated. However, micropollutant elimination stages are mainly used in larger sewage water treatment plants. Simple and robust solutions for smaller sewage water treatment plants are hardly available. However, small sewage water treatment plants sometimes have a major impact on water quality because they discharge into small receiving water bodies. A simple and effective option are constructed wetlands with activated carbon layers or AC-soil mixtures for micropollutant adsorption. High elimination efficiencies of more than 80 % have been demonstrated by (Brunsch et. al, 2018)). As an alternative to conventional activated carbon biochar can be used. Biochar is a carbon material that can be produced by carbonisation (pyrolysis: combustion in the low-oxygen environment) of various bio-based materials. Activation of the biochar further increases its surface area and improves its adsorption capacity. Within the framework of WOW! project, the production of biochar from cellulose from wastewater (toilet paper) as feedstock has been proved (WOW, 2020). However, the activation of the biochar showed only low efficiency. Therefore, the pyrolysis of cellulose at low temperature in combination with biological activation was tested. (Vendetti et al., 2023) showed high removal efficiency for a biological activated biochar consisting of 50% biochar and 50% straw. In the following, biologically activated charcoal from a cellulose-straw mixture is referred to as WOW_{Biochar}.

In the report, solutions for biochar production (on larger sewage treatment plants (STPs)) and subsequently their use in Constracted Wetlands as WOW_{Biochar} (on smaller STPs) are developed for three different areas in NWE.



2 Description of process technology

2.1 Production of WOW_{Biochar}

Sewage water contains a lot of cellulose, which is well suited for biochar production. The share of cellulose in the total COD in the influent of the wastewater treatment plant is about 30% (Ruiken, 2013). Fine sieves can be used to remove the cellulose from the wastewater. It can then be dewatered, dried and pressed into pellets. For the case study, a mixture of cellulose pellets and straw (50% cellulose and 50% straw by volume) was considered to produce biochar, which is carbonised under lack of oxygen at high temperatures and subsequently biologically activated. Studies by (Vendetti et al, 2023) showed the highest micropollutant elimination rates for this type of biochar.

Cellulose is mainly found in fibrous form in municipal sewage water and can be removed with high efficiency using fine sieves. For cellulose separation, especially "rotating belt fine sieves" can be used. This involves two processes: Separation of solid particles and their subsequent thickening in a space-saving form.

The sewage water passes through the continuously moving filter belt. The speed of rotation changes depending on the amount of charged sewage water flow. The mesh size can be chosen between 90 and 2000 microns, depending on the wastewater quality and the purification objective. Suspended solids and solids larger than the pore diameters are retained and help to remove finer materials from the sewage water. The sievings are washed in a cellulose scrubber and dewatered in a screw press. Figure 1 shows an example for the fine sieves.



Figure 1: Fine sieves in Ede (WOW, 2022)

With the removal of cellulose from the sewage water, the COD-load to biological treatment stage is reduced. The required oxygen demand in the biological stage for oxidation of the carbon compounds and thus the required energy demand is reduced. However, with the use of cellulose for $WOW_{Biochar}$ production, less energy-rich primary sludge is available on the STP that can be used in the digestion stage for biogas production. In the case study, therefore, only simultaneously aerobically stabilizing STPs on which no primary sedimentation and no digester are installed were considered for the integration of fine sieves.



2.2 Elimination of micropollutant with WOW_{biochar} in constructed wetlands

Constructed wetlands are used as a nature-based sewage water treatment technology in rural areas (DWA-A 216, 2006) and for the treatment of discharge water from combined sewer systems (Grotehusmann, 2015). Studies by (Brunsch et al., 2018), showed that with constructed wetlands micropollutants such as heavy metals and pharmaceutical residues can be eliminated in the effluent of a STP by the addition of activated carbon. (Vendetti et al. 2022a, 2022b) demonstrated on a pilot scale level that also high elimination rates for micropollutants can be achieved with the use of biochar in constructed wetlands. (Venditti et al. 2023) showed on a pilot scale that a comparably high elimination performance of 80% on average can be achieved with the biologically activated WOW_{biochar} from recovered cellulose from sewage water. The results show that this nature based technology can achieve elimination rates comparable to technical processes for micro-pollutant removal such as ozonation and GAK filters. Due to the simple design and low operational effort, the use of constructed wetlands with integrated char is particularly suitable for small STPs.

The structure of a conventional constructed wetland for the purification of discharge water from combined sewer systems is shown in Figure 2. The filter body of sand (diameter 0.063-2 mm) has a layer thickness of 0.75 to 1 m. It is dewatered by a drainage system situated below the filter layer (filter gravel 2-8 mm diameter). Beneath the drainage layer the constructed wetland is sealed against the ground with an impervious membrane. The water can be supplied either from above (vertical flow) or from the side (horizontal flow). Distribution channels ensure an even distribution of the sewage water. As the water percolates through the filter layer, both physical (adsorption) and biochemical (microbiological cleaning) processes take place, purifying the wastewater. In general, constructed wetlands are planted with reeds to ensure a permeable filter surface. (E. Christoffels, 2014).

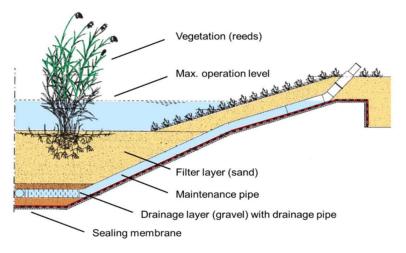


Figure 2: Filter construction of a conventional Retention Soil Filter ((E. Christoffels, 2014))

For the case study, $WOW_{biochar}$ is used for the elimination of micro-pollutants in constructed wetlands. According to (Venditti et al. 2023), a 65 cm high layer with a mixture of 85 vol.% sand with grain size 0-3 mm and 15 vol.% WOWbiochar was chosen for the filter design (see Figure 3). The efficiency of the biologically activated WOW_{biochar} was expected at an average of 80 % for micropollutant elimination.



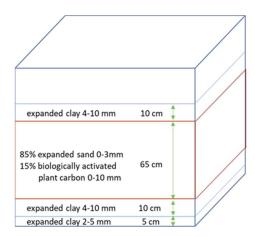


Figure 3: Filter structure of retention soil filter (RSF) with addition of biologically activated plant carbon (WOW_{Biochar})

2.3 Design of constructed wetlands and fine sieves

2.3.1 Constructed wetlands

For the determination of the required filter area of the constructed wetlands with WOW_{biochar}, the following two approaches can be considered according to (Venditti et al., 2023):

- specific area of 0.4 m²/p.e.
- average hydraulic surface loading of 200 L/m²/d or maximum hydraulic surface loading of 400 L/m²/d

The larger yield area was used in the following calculation. Length and width were chosen according to the space available. For the sand and $WOW_{biochar}$ proportions, the ratios according to chapter 2.2 were taken into account. For the calculation of the $WOW_{biochar}$ mass, a char density of 1,500 kg/m³ was used. Figure 4 shows as example the dimensioning and the design of a soil filter for the STP Haupersweiler in Saarland (Germany) with a serving size of 3,033 population equivalents (PE).



WWTP	Unit	Haupersweiler	
		Input Data	
Connected PE	PE	3,033	
	m ³ /a		EVS WWTP Haupersweller
Annual flow Waste water flow to	m /a	794,346	
constructed wetland	m³/a	525,600	
Treating process	111 / a	BB/DN/AS	
Receiving water	-	OSTER	
			Distribution structure
		Wetlands Data	Distribution structure
Area	m²	3630	
Length	m	66	
Width	m	55	
Filterbody	m ³	2360	
Volume: Sand	m ³	2006	
Volume: WOW _{Char}	m ³	354	55x66=3620 m ² 1810 m ²
Amount of WOW _{Biochar}			
(50% straw/cellulose)	kg	530,888	
Investment costs			
without WOW _{Biochar}			1810 m ²
production costs	€	2,050,801	ő
Transport costs			
WOWBiochar	€	4,202	
Transport costs			
Cellulose	€	-	
Total investment costs			
of constructed			and the second s
wetland	€	2,585,890	
Average filter velocity	m/h	0.013	Sickelmeesbach
Average Hydraulic			sobach
Volume Rate	L/(m²⋅d)	323.967	

Figure 4: Example for RSF design for small STP Haupersweiler in Catchment area Blies in Saarland (Germany)

2.3.2 Fine sieves

The fine sieves were designed for the maximum sewage water flow. For the maximum hydraulic capacity of a fine sieve module, 484 m³/h was taken from a manufacturer's quotation. When determining the number of fine sieve, a reserve module was always included. The purification performance of the fine sieve was determined analogously to a separation performance of a primary clarifier with a hydraulic retention time of 1.5-2 h according to (DWA A 131, 2016).

2.4 Investment cost

2.4.1 Constructed wetlands

In order to determine the investment costs, specific costs in €/m^2 were applied depending on the filter surface area according to (Grotehusmann, 2015). These investment costs refer to the year 2014 and were therefore extrapolated to the year 2021 with an inflation rate of 6% (conversion factor: 1.689). The cost curve calculated with this data is shown in Figure 5.



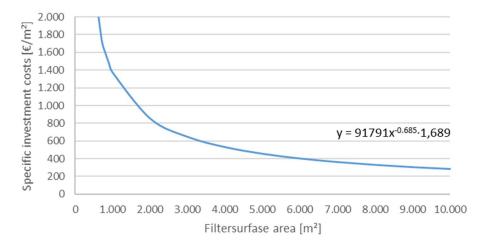


Figure 5: Specific investment costs for constructed wetlands of combined sewer overflows depending on the filter surface area for the year 2021 (modified data from (Grotehusmann, 2015) reference year 2014)

Table 1 shows the cost shares for the constructed wetlands. In addition, the costs for pyrolysis and biological activation of the WOW_{Biochar} must be taken into account. Based on manufacturer's data, a price of $1,000 \in$ /ton was estimated.

Table 1: Constructed wetlands with WOW_{Biochar} cost breakdown (modified, Dieter Grotehusmann, M. U. (2015))

Constructed wetlands cost	Capital expenditures	Depreciation
breakdown	breakdown in %	period in years
Earthwork and filters		
installation	45 %	25a
Inlet and outlet structures	25 %	40a
Sealing	10 %	25a
Instrumentation and		
control engineering (ICE)	10 %	10a
Plants	5 %	25a
Rest	5 %	10a
	WOW _{Char} Costs	
WOW _{Char}	Costs without WOW _{Char}	25a
Sum	100%+WOW _{Char} Costs [%]	

2.4.2 Fine sieves

Table 2 shows the costs for the fine sieves for cellulose recovery. The number of fine sieves depends on the maximum inflow volume flow. The costs of instrumentation and control engineering are estimated at 15% of the costs for the machine technology. The integration of the cellulose recovery plant into an existing STP is estimated to be about 50% of the total investment costs.



Table 2: Investment Cellulose fine sieve

	Cellulose finesieve cost breakdown							
		Depreciation						
Pos.	Name	period (year)	Preis (€)					
1	Cellulose Screen	15	100,000					
2	Cellulose scrubber	15	35,000					
3	Screw press	15	40,000					
	Instrumentation and							
	control engineering							
	(ICE): 15% Machine							
4	technology	15	15%					
	Integration: 50% total		50% total					
5	costs		costs					

2.5 Case Study

Considering the described design approach and the prementioned costs, concepts for recovery of cellulose and subsequent production of WOWBiochar on larger STPs and the construction of constructed wetlands on smaller STPs were investigated for the following three NWE regions.

- River catchment in Saarland / Germany
- Region in the south-west of Ireland
- Scottland



3 Saarland: River Blies

3.1 Description of the catchment area

The Blies is the largest tributary of the river Saar and lies almost entirely in the Saarland. The total area of the Blies catchment is 1,960 km². The upper part of the Blies catchment selected for further consideration lies entirely in the Saarland and covers an area of 445 km². The catchment area contains 33 STPs with a capacity between 30 and 75,000 PE. The total number of connected inhabitants is 206,000 PE. Drainage usually takes place in combined sewer systems.

On the most important tributary, the Oster, with a flow length of almost 30 km, there are 15 STPs (including the small tributaries) with a capacity between 30 and 4,000 PE and with the following process technology:

- 7 conventional wastewater treatment plants with activated sludge processes (nitrification, denitrification and simultaneously aerobic sludge stabilisation),
- 2 aerated pond plants with sliding immersion tanks,
- 5 SBR plants
- 1 constructed wetland.

The total connected population is 17,777 PE. The catchment area with the STPs is shown in Figure 6.

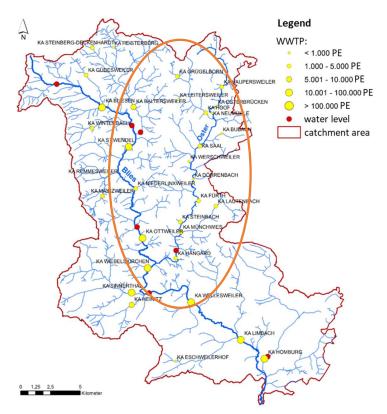


Figure 6: Selected part of catchment area Blies, Saarland (Germany) with considered STP for RSFs installation (modified) (Schmitt et al., 2019)



For the sub-catchment of the Blies described above a study was carried out in 2015 to assess the impact of STPs on the water body (Schmitt et al., 2019). The receiving water bodies of the STPs are relatively small, but some STPs discharge their effluent near the spring area, therefore they have a high influence on the micro-pollutants concentration in the water body. Figure 7 e. g. shows the balanced concentration for the pharmaceutical Diclofenac along the flow path of the river Oster. With the discharge of the Haupersweiler STP, the concentration already rises above the discussed quality criteria of the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD). With the discharge of other STPs, the concentration rises to over 80 ng/l.

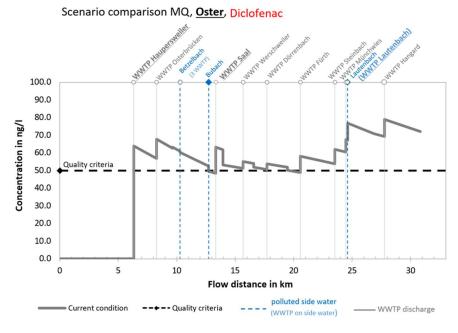


Figure 7: Concentration profile of River Oster for Diclofenac (modified) (Schmitt et al., 2019)

For this sub-catchment, it was investigated whether the quality criteria for the parameter Diclofenac in the Oster river can be met by implementation of constructed wetlandes with $WOW_{biochar}$. Furthermore, it should be examined whether sufficient cellulose for the production of $WOW_{biochar}$ can be recovered in the catchment. Here, only the integration of cellulose recovery with fine sieves at the STP was considered in detail. For the production of biochar, it was assumed that a pyrolysis plant near the Ottweiler STP could be used. This location is centrally located, thus minimising the transport costs for the cellulose and the $WOW_{biochar}$. Two variants were investigated for the Blies catchment:

Variant 1 describes the case where STP Haupersweiler, STP Saal and Lautenbach are extended by constructed wetlands with WOW_{biochar}, with cellulose recovery taking place at the STP Haupersweiler, STP Sinnerthal and STP Ottweiler. STP Haupersweiler has a high influence on the micro-pollutant concentration (see Figure 7) and it is planned to connect additional 800 PE. to the treatment plant. By installing fine sieves, the cost-intensive expansion of the plant can be avoided. STP Saal is an aerated pond system with disc-baffles, which should be converted to an activated sludge system within the next 10 years, resulting in sufficient space for a constructed wetland with



WOW_{biochar}. The STP Lautenbach has a small tributary as a receiving water body, so that the installation of an constructed wetland makes sense here as well.

• Variant 2 combines all treatment plants where it would be possible to install constructed wetland with WOW_{biochar}. Since in this case a much higher quantity of WOW_{Biochar} would be required, the number of treatment plants where cellulose recovery has to be installed increases. The variant is intended to demonstrate the maximum possible reduction of micro-pollutants in water bodies by use of constructed wetlands with WOW_{biochar} at smaller STPs.

Table 3 provides an overview of the two variants.

Table 3:
 Variants for the implementation of constructed wetlands and fine sieves for the river catchment Blies (Saarland, Germany)

	Variant 1		Variant 2		
	Constructed Wetland +		Constructed Wetland +		
WWTP	WOW _{Biochar}	Finesieve	WOW _{Biochar}	Finesieve	
Haupersweiler	Х	Х	Х	Х	
Saal	Х		Х		
Lautenbach	Х		Х		
Osterbrücken					
Werschweiler			Х		
Dörrenbach					
Fürth			Х		
Steinbach					
Münchwies					
Hangard			Х		
Leitersweiler			Х		
Hoof			Х		
Grügelborn			X		
Bubach/Ostertal					
Sinnerthal		Х		Х	
St.Wendel				Х	
Bliesen				Х	
Ottweiler	1	Х		Х	
Wiebelskirchen				Х	

3.2 Variant 1

3.2.1 Implementation of constructed wetlands with WOW_{biochar} at small STPs

For design of the micro-pollutant elimination stage, only the wastewater portion has to be treated. According to (KOM-M.NRW, 2016), the following criteria are recommended for determining the design sewage water flow:

- The design sewage water flow should be greater than or equal to the maximum dry weather runoff in the annual average.
- The design sewage water flow treated with the soil filter must be greater than or equal to 70% of the annual water volume.

The procedure is explained using the STP Haupersweiler as an example. The dry weather days were determined using the polygon of the moving 21-day minima of the daily discharges (ATV-DVWK-A 198.



(2003)). This method considers a time interval of 10 days before and 10 days after the observed day. All daily flows between the minimum daily flow and 1.2 times the minimum daily flow are classified as dry weather flows (see Figure 8). The maximum dry weather flow was determined for these derived dry weather days. This results in a mean dry water flow of 54 m³/h and a maximum dry water flow of 73 m³/h (annual mean value) for the STP Haupersweiler.

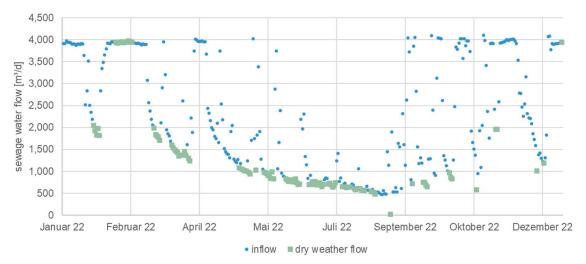


Figure 8: Dry weather days in 2022: STP Haupersweiler

The determination of 70 % of the annual wastewater volume is shown in Figure 9. Due to the high influence of infiltration water, the value is 90 m³/h. Table 4 summarises the results for the three STPs considered. All STPs have a very high amount of infiltration water, leading to large surfaces for the constructed wetlands and associated high costs. For an economic implementation, a reduction of the infiltration water amount is therefore necessary. For the case study, a reduction of the infiltration water content to 30% of the annual sewage water flow was taken into account . This results in a design water volume of 60 m³/h for the Haupersweiler STP, 17 m³/h for the Saal STP and 45 m³/h for the Lauterbach STP.



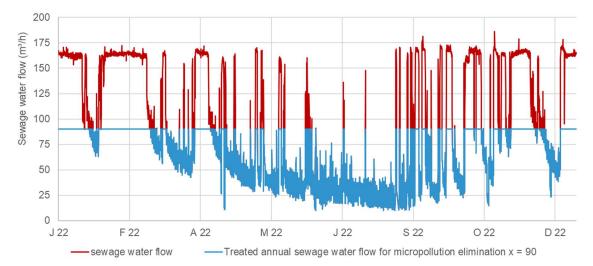


Figure 9: Treated annual sewage water flow of 70% with a design sewage water flow of 90 m³/h

		Hauper	sweiler	Laute	Lautenbach		Saal	
		current	reduce	current	reduce	current	reduce	
		state	infiltration	state	infiltration	state	infiltration	
EW	PE	3,033	3,033	3,118	3,118	1,632	1,632	
annual water flow	m³/a	794,346	509,870	454,448	410,025	204,633	196,194	
sewage water	m³/a	112,438	112,438	154,000	154,000	55,085	55,085	
rain water	m³/a	369,322	369,322	217,525	217,525	127,338	127,338	
infiltration water	m³/a	312,586	28,110	82,923	38,500	22,210	13,771	
infiltration water: share	%	74	20	35	20	29	20	
Fremdwasseranteil	70	74	20	30	20	29	20	
micropollutant		70	(5.4)	70	(62)	70	(5.2)	
elimination: share	%	70	(54)	70	(62)	70	(52)	
micropollutant		2 1 6 0	1 4 4 0	1 4 4 0	1 0 9 0	720	408	
elimination: Max flow	m³/d	2,160	1,440	1,440	1,080	720	408	
micropollutant		74.0	475	462	246		250	
elimination: Max flow	l/PE/d	712	475	462	346	441	250	
Filter surface	m²	5400	3600	3600	2700	1800	1020	
Filter surface	m²/EW	1.78	1.19	1.15	0.87	1.10	0.63	
max hydraulic surface	, I							

 Table 4:
 Design sewage water flow for constructed wetlands with WOW
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load I/m²/d 400



Table 5 summarises the input data and results for variant 1. The required surface area sums up to 7,400 m² for the three STPs and a required WOW_{biochar}-quantity of 1,082 tonnes. Detailed information on implementation is summarised in the fact sheets for each STP in the Annex.

WWTP	Unit	Haupersweiler	Saal	Lautenbach	Sum
		Input Data			
Connected PE	PE	3,033	1,632	3,118	7,783
Annual flow	m ³ /a	794,346	196,194	410,025	
Waste water flow to					
constructed wetland	m³/a	525,600	148,920	394,200	
Treating process	-	BB/DN/AS	BT/STK	BB/DN/AS	
Receiving water	-	OSTER	OSTER	LAUTENBACH	
		Wetlands Data			
Area	m²	3630	1050	2720	7,400
Length	m	66	30	68	
Width	m	55	35	40	
Filterbody	m ³	2360	683	1768	4,810
Volume: Sand	m ³	2006	580	1503	4,089
Volume: WOW _{Char}	m³	354	102	265	722
Amount of WOW _{Biochar}					
(50% straw/cellulose)	kg	530,888	153,563	397,800	1,082,250
Investment costs					
without WOW _{Biochar}					
production costs	€	2,050,801	1,387,483	1,872,587	5,310,871€
Transport costs					
WOWBiochar	€	4,202	760	2,618	7,579€
Transport costs					
Cellulose	€	-	2	20	13,519€
Total investment costs					
of constructed					
wetland	€	2,585,890	1,541,805	2,273,005	6,414,219 €
Average filter velocity	m/h	0.013	0.011	0.012	
Average Hydraulic					
Volume Rate	L/(m ² ⋅d)	323.967	274.286	282.353	

Table 5: Design constructed wetlands with WOW_{Biochar} for variant 1

3.2.2 Implementation of fine sieves on larger STPs

To determine the amount of cellulose, a specific cellulose content in the wastewater of 32 g/PE/d was used according to (WOW, 2019). Since the WOW_{Biochar} is produced from a cellulose-straw mixture, the amount added to the pyrolysis is twice as large. The pyrolysis and biological activation processes result in high feedstock losses, and the total yield of activated WOW_{Biochar} is 20%. Only larger STPs without pre-treatment and sludge digestion were considered as sites for cellulose recovery. In the catchment area, 6 STPs could be equipped with cellulose recovery under these boundary conditions (see Table 6). For variant 1, three STPs were selected for cellulose recovery. This results in an annual cellulose amount of 371 t/a and 148 t/a WOW_{Biochar}, resp. (see Table 7). With this amount of WOW_{Biochar}, the selected STPs can be equipped with constructed wetlands for micro pollution elimination within 8 years (see Table 8).



Name	Connected PE	Annual flow m³/a	Primary clarifier yes / no	Digester yes / no	Finesieve Anzahl	Amount	WOW _{Biochar} Amount kg/d
Haupersweiler	3033	714102	no	no	2	96	38
Ottweiler	9,628	1,712,649	no	no	2	305	122
Sinnerthal	19,381	3,080,558	no	no	3	614	246
St.Wendel	13,316	2,400,343	no	no	3	422	169
Bliesen	7,082	1,433,392	no	no	2	224	90
Wiebelskirchen	8,996	971,596	no	no	2	285	114

Table 6: Selected STP for finesieve installation in the catchment area

Table 7: Total production per year for Variant 1

WOWBiochar	kg/a	148,297
Straw-Amount	t/a	370.742
Cellulose-Amount	t/a	370.742
The ammount to		
be pyrolyzed		
(Straw +		
Cellulose)	t/a	741.484

Table 8: Time schedule for variant 1 for the implementation of constructed wetlands with WOW_{biochar}

Year	kg WOW _{Biochar} (Cell.+	Straw)
24 - S		Haupersweiler
1	148,297	
2	148,297	
3	148,297	
4	148,297	530,888
		Saal
5	210,596	153,563
6	205,331	Lautenbach
7	148,297	
8	148,297	397,800

3.2.3 Impact of the fine sieving on the treatment capacity

With the integration of the fine sieves on the STPs, the COD load to the biological stage is reduced. This has an influence on the required activated sludge tank volume as well as on the required oxygen demand. In order to quantify the influence, the biological stage for the Haupersweiler STP and the Ottweiler STP were designed according to German design rule (DWA-A 131, 2016). The results are shown in Figure 10. Compared to the current state (szenario 0), the integration of a fine sieve (scenario 1) reduces the required activated sludge tank volume for both STPs by about 40 % and the required oxygen demand at the average annual temperature by about 20 %. At the Haupersweiler STP, additional 800 PE could be served without exceeding the existing basin volume. At the Ottweiler STP, wastewater from nearby plants in Mainzweiler and Niederlinxweiler can be transferred, resulting in an additional load of 3,600 PE. With the increase in



serving capacity, the required air volume flow for the biological stage also increases. However, it is in the same order of magnitude for both plants compared to the current state. For comparison, the required reactor volume is shown that would be necessary for the planned increase in serving capacity without integration of fine sieving. In this case, the reactor volume and the aeration system would have to be expanded by about 20 % underlining the positive effect of the cellulose extraction.

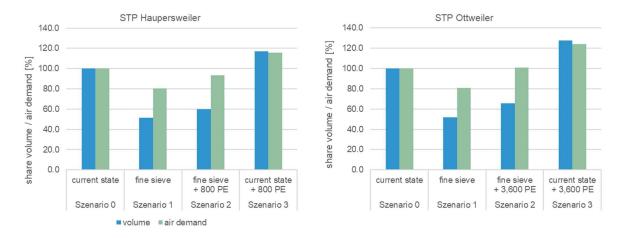


Figure 10: Influence of the fine sieve on the treatment capacity and air volume for aeration of STP Haupersweiler and STP Ottweiler for different scenarios

3.2.4 Logistic WOW_{biochar}

The following logistic must be taken into account for the implementation of the WOW_{biochar} approach:

- Transport of the cellulose from the STPs with cellulose recovery to the pyrolysis plant.
- Transport of the WOW_{biochar} to the small STPs for construction of the constructed wetlands.

For the location of the pyrolysis plant, an industrial area near STP Ottweiler was identified. This site is centrally located in the selected sub-catchment area, which allows short transport distances and times. For the calculation, specific transport costs for cellulose as well as for WOW_{biochar} of $10 \notin/(\text{truck·km})$ and a loading quantity of 25 t per truck were assumed. This results in transport costs of $13,519 \notin$ for the cellulose and $6,874 \notin$ for the WOW_{Biochar} (see Table 9 and Table 10) in the 8 years period.

	V	ariant 1					
Transport of cel	Transport of cellulose from large KA towards the pyrolysis						
plant (locatio	n: Industria	al area nea	ar WWTP	Ottweiler)			
from	km	t/a	€/a	to			
Haupersweiler	19	35	382	Ottweiler			
Sinnerthal	8	111	416	Ottweiler			
St.Wendel	10	224	892	Ottweiler			
Sum			1,690				
Total transport co	osts for rec	overed ce	llulose or	large WWTPs			
with corre	sponding o	constructio	on times:	8 years			
			13,519	€			

Table 9: Transport cost of cellulose and WOW_{biochar} for variant 1



Table 10: Transport cost of WOW_{biochar} for variant 1

	V	ariant 1		
Transport of WO	W _{biochar} fr	om pyroly	sis plant to	o constructed
	w	etlands		
from	km	t/a	€/a	to
Haupersweiler	19	531	4,202	Ottweiler
Saal	13	154	936	Ottweiler
Lautenbach	11	398	1,736	Ottweiler
Sum			6,874	

3.2.5 Investment cost

Table 11 shows the investment costs and the cost break down for the installation of the three constructed wetlands with WOW_{biochar} for variant 1. The investment costs without consideration of the WOW_{biochar} production were calculated with the specific area-related investments costs from section 2.4.1. The WOW_{Biochar}-production costs were assumed to be 1,000 \notin /t. This results in overall investment costs of 6.4 million \notin . Compared to a conventional constructed wetland, additional costs of 21% are incurred for the production and transport of the WOW_{biochar}.

Table 12 shows the cost composition for cellulose recovery for variant 1. In total 8 fine sieves modules are required on the three STPs. For each STP with cellulose recovery system, a screw press and a switch cabinet have to be considered.

The total investment costs for both the constructed wetlands with WOW_{biochar} and the fine sieves for variant 1 sums up to \in 8.86 million.

Constructed wetlands	Capital	Depreciation	Capital
cost breakdown	expenditures	period	expenditures
Variant 1	breakdown in %		breakdown in €
Earthwork and filters			
installation	45 %	25	a 2,389,892€
Inlet and outlet structures	25 %	40	a 1,327,718€
Sealing	10 %	25	a 531,087€
Instrumentation and	10 %	10	a 531,087€
Plants	5 %	25	a 265,544€
Rest	5 %	10	a 265,544€
WOW _{Char} including			
transport costs	21%	25	a 1,103,348€
Sum	121%		6,414,219€
spezif. cost CWetl.			682 €/m²
spezif. cost inkl. WOW _{Char}			824 €/m²

Table 11: Cost breakdown of constructed	wetlands for Variant 1
---	------------------------



	Cell	ulose finesieve (cost breakdov	wn	
		Depreciation			
Pos.	Name	period (year)	Preis (€)	Amount	Total (€)
1	Cellulose screen	15	100,000	7	700,000
2	Cellulose scrubber	15	35,000	7	245,000
3	Screw press	15	40,000	3	120,000
	Instrumentation and control engineering (ICE): 15% Machine				
4	technology	10	159,750		159,750
	Installation: 50% total				
5	cost				1,224,750
	Total				2,449,500

Table 12: Cost breakdown of cellulose fine sieves for Variant 1

3.3 Variant 2

3.3.1 Implementation of constructed wetlands with WOW_{biochar} at small STPs

In variant 2, 9 STPs (total 13,863 PE) in the Oster catchment area are upgraded with constructed wetlands with WOW_{biochar}. The integration of constructed wetlands is not technically possible at the remaining STPs. The filter area was determined for the additionally considered STPs using a specific area of 0.4 m²/PE, as no data on the sewage water volume was available. Table 13 summarises the input data and results for variant 2. The required surface area sums up to 13,545 m² for the 9 STPs and a required WOW_{biochar}-quantity of 3,107 tonnes.



		Haupers		Wersch		Lauten		Leiters		Grügel	
WWTP	Unit		Saal	weiler	Fürth	bach	Hangard	weiler	Hoof	born	Sum
				Input	Input Data						
Connected PE	PE	3,033	1,632	525	1,482	3,118	1,806	517	935	815	13,863
Annual flow	m³/a	794,346	196,194		193,971	410,025	207,288	73,471			
Waste whater flow to											
be treated in RSF	m³/a	525,600	148,920		155,177	394,200	165,830	58,777			
Treating process	,	BB/DN/AS	BT/STK	BT/STK	SBR	BB/DN/AS	SBR	BB/DN/AS	BB/DN/AS BB/DN/AS BB/DN/AS	BB/DN/AS	
Receiving water	.т.		OSTER	ZUR OSTER OSTER		LAUTENBA OSTER		HOTTENBA BETZELBAC BLEISCHBA	BETZELBAC	BLEISCHBA	
			3	Constructed Wetlands Data	Vetlands Dá	ata					
Area	m ²	3630	1050	210	2135	2720	2275	820	375	330	13,545
Length	٤	99	30	21	61	68	65	41	25	22	
Width	E	55	35	10	35	40	35	20	15	15	
Filterbody	m³	2360	683	137	1388	1768	1479	533	244	215	8,804
Volume: Sand	۳	2006	580	116	1180	1503	1257	453	207	182	7,484
Volume: WOW _{char}	m³	354	102	20	208	265	222	80	37	32	1,321
Amount of WOW _{char}	kg	530,888	153,563	30,713	312,244	397,800	332,719	119,925	54,844	48,263	1,980,956
Investment costs											
without WOW _{Char}											
production costs	£	2,050,801	1,387,483	835,703	1,735,055	835,703 1,735,055 1,872,587 1,770,117 1,283,525 1,003,166	1,770,117	1,283,525	1,003,166	963,573	12,902,010 €
Transport costs											
WOW _{char}	ŧ	4,202	936	215	1,385	1,736	728	827	491	441	10,960 €
Transport costs											
Cellulose	£					,	-	-		-	20,953€
Total investment costs											
of constructed											
wetland	€	2,585,890 1,541,981	1,541,981	866,631	2,048,683	2,048,683 2,272,123 2,103,564 1,404,277 1,058,500 1,012,276	2,103,564	1,404,277	1,058,500	1,012,276	14,914,879€
Average filter velocity m/h	m/h	0.013	0.011		0.008	0.012	0.008	0.008			
Average Hydraulic	VL 2	Ċ									
volume kale	r/(m ·a)	323.90/	714.280		199.130	565.282	CU1.941	190.381			

Table 13: Design constructed wetlands with $\mathsf{WOW}_{\mathit{Biochar}}$ for variant 2



3.3.2 Implementation of fine sieves on larger STPs

Due to the higher demand for $WOW_{biochar}$ compared to variant 1, 6 STPs are equipped with a cellulose recovery system. This results in an annual cellulose yield of 711 t/a respective 284 t/a $WOW_{Biochar}$ (see Table 6 and Table 14). With this amount of $WOW_{Biochar}$, the selected STPs can be equipped with constructed wetlands for micro pollution elimination within 7 years (see Table 15).

Table 14: Total production per year for Variant 2

WOW _{Biochar}	kg/a	284.338
Straw-Amount	t/a	710,845
Cellulose-Amount	t/a	710,845
The ammount to		
be pyrolyzed		
(Straw + Cellulose)	t/a	1.422

Table 15: Time schedule for variant 2 for the implementation of constructed wetlands with WOW_{biochar}

Year	kg WOW _{Char} (Cell.+S	Straw)			
		Haupersweiler			20 20
1	284,338				
1000		0.0000000000			
2	284,338	530,888			
		Leitersweiler	Saal		
3	322,127	119,925		153,563	
		Fürth			
4	332,977	312,244			5
		Grügelborn	Hoof		Werschweiler
5	305,072	48,263		54,844	30,713
		Lautenbach			
6	455,591	397,800			
		Hangard			
7	342,129	332,719			

3.3.3 Logistic WOWbiochar

The following logistic must be taken into account for the production and installation of the WOW_{biochar}:

- Transport of the cellulose from the STPs with cellulose recovery to the pyrolysis plant.
- Transport of the WOW_{biochar} to the small STPs for the construction of the constructed wetlands

For the location of the pyrolysis plant, the industrial area near STP Ottweiler was chosen. This site is centrally located in selected sub-catchment area, which allows short transport distances and times. In the calculation, the specific transport costs for the cellulose as well as for the WOW_{biochar} of $10 \notin /(\text{truck·km})$ and a loading quantity of a motor vehicle of 25 t/truck were assumed. This results in transport costs of 20,953 \notin for the cellulose and 10,960 \notin for the WOW_{Biochar} (see Table 16 and Table 17).



Table 16: Transport cost of cellulose and WOW_{biochar} for variant 2

	Ň	Variant 2		
Transport of cellu	lose from	large KA t	owards th	e pyrolysis plant
(location:	Industrial	area near	WWTP O	ttweiler)
from			€/a	to
Haupersweiler	19	35	382	Ottweiler
Sinnerthal	8	111	416	Ottweiler
St.Wendel	10	224	892	Ottweiler
Bliesen	16	0	1,132	Ottweiler
Ottweiler	0	82	0	Ottweiler
Wiebelskirchen	3	104	172	Ottweiler
Sum			2,993	
Total transport o	osts for re	covered o	ellulose o	n large WWTPs
with corr	esponding	construct	ion times:	7 years
			20,953	€

Table 17: Transport cost of WOW_{biochar} for variant 2

Variant 2						
Transport of cellulose from large KA towards the pyrolysis plant						
(location:	Industrial	area near	WWTP O	ttweiler)		
from			€/a	to		
Ottweiler	19	531	4,202	Haupersweiler		
Ottweiler	13	154	936	Saal		
Ottweiler	11	398	1,736	Lautenbach		
Ottweiler	11	31	215	Werschweiler		
Ottweiler	11	312	1,385	Fürth		
Ottweiler	5	333	728	Hangard		
Ottweiler	17	120	827	Leitersweiler		
Ottweiler	16	55	491	Hoof		
Ottweiler	22	48	441	Grügelborn		
Sum			10,960			

3.3.4 Investment cost

Table 18 shows the investment costs and the cost break down for the installation of the nine constructed wetlands with WOW_{biochar} for variant 2. The investment costs without consideration of the WOW_{biochar} production were calculated with the specific area-related investments costs from section 2.4.1. The WOW_{Biochar}-production costs were assumed to be 1,000 \notin /t. In comparison, the costs for conventional activated carbon are aprox. 1,600 \notin /t. This results in overall investment costs of 14.9 million \notin . Compared to a conventional constructed wetland, additional costs of 16% are incurred for the production and transport of the WOW_{biochar}.

Table 19 shows the cost composition for cellulose recovery for variant 2. In total 14 fine sieves modules are required on the six STPs. For each STP with cellulose recovery system, a screw press and a switch cabinet have to be considered.

The total investment costs for both the constructed wetlands with WOW_{biochar} and the fine sieves for variant 2 sums up to 19.81 million \in .



Constructed wetlands cost	Capital	Depreciation	Capital
breakdown	expenditures	period	expenditures
Variant 2	breakdown in %		breakdown in €
Earthwork and filters			
installation	45 %	25	a 5,805,904 €
Inlet and outlet structures	25 %	40	a 3,225,502 €
Sealing	10 %	25	a 1,290,201€
Instrumentation and control			
engineering (ICE)	10 %	10	a 1,290,201€
Plants	5 %	25	a 645,100€
Rest	5 %	10	a 645,100€
WOW _{Char} including transport			
costs	16%	25	a 2,012,870€
Sum	116%		14,914,879€
spezif. cost CWetl.			931 €/m²
spezif. cost inkl. WOW _{Char}			1,076 €/m²

 Table 18: Cost breakdown of constructed wetlands for variant 2

Table 19: Cost breakdown of cellulose fine sieves for variant 2

	Cellulose finesieve cost breakdown								
Pos.	Name	Depreciation period (year)	Preis (€)	Amount	Total (€)				
1	Cellulose Screen	15	100,000	14	1,400,000				
2	Cellulose scrubber	15	35,000	14	490,000				
3	Screw press	15	40,000	6	240,000				
	Instrumentation and control engineering (ICE): 15% Machine								
	technology	15	319,500		319,500				
	Integration: 50% total costs				2,449,500				
	Total				4,899,000				

3.4 Summary of the case study: Saarland

3.4.1 Impact on water quality

Figure 11 shows the balanced Diclofenac concentration along the flow path of the river Oster for the current status and for the two variants. For both variants, an elimination rate of 80 % for Diclofenac was assumed for the STPs with constructed wetlands with WOW_{biochar} (see chapter 2.2). With the integration of a micropollutant elimination stage at only three STPs, the quality criteria of the EQS can be met almost over the entire flow path. In variant 2, the Diclofinac concentration can be reduced to below 35 ng/l and is well below the quality criteria of the EQS.



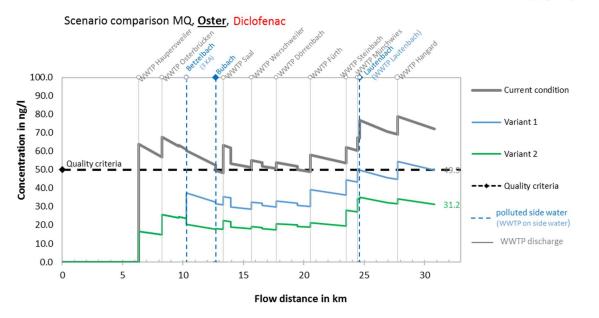


Figure 11: Concentration profile of River Oster for Diclofenac (modified) (Schmitt et al., 2019) for the current condition, for variant 1 and variant 2

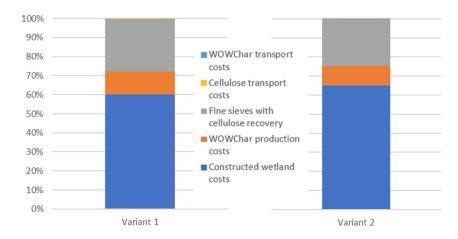
3.4.2 Cost comparison

The total investment costs for variant 1 and variant 2 are shown in Table 20. The costs for variant 2 with 9 constructed wetlands are twice as high as for variant 1. A comprehensive integration of constructed wetlands is therefore not advisable. The integration of micropollutant elimintaion stages should take place only at the STPs with the greatest impact on the water course. The integration of fine sieves should be implemented at STPs that are overloaded or where additional PE are to be connected. This results in cost advantages, as an enlargement of the STP plant can be reduced or even avoided by integrating fine sieves. The costs for constructed wetlands account for 60% of the total costs. The transport costs have only a minor share of the total investment costs if the pyrolysis plant is located close to the catchment area.



Table 20: Total investment costs for variant 1 and variant 2

Investment costs	Variant	1	Variant 2		
Constructed wetland costs	5.310.871€	59,9%	12.902.010€	65,1%	
WOW _{Char} production costs	1.082.250€	12,2%	1.980.956€	10,0%	
Fine sieves with cellulose					
recovery	2.449.500€	27,6%	4.899.000€	24,7%	
Cellulose transport costs	13.519€	0,2%	20.953€	0,1%	
WOW _{Char} transport costs	6.874€	0,1%	10.960€	0,1%	
Total	8.863.014€	100%	19.813.879€	100%	





4 Ireland

4.1 Description of the catchment area

To assess the impact of constructed wetlands with $WOW_{biochar}$ on water quality in a catchment in Ireland, a typical region in the south-east of Ireland was selected with one large STP (Kilkenny STP) and many small STPs. Only STPs located within approximately 20 kilometres distance of the town of Kilkenny and with more than 500 connected residents were considered. On the Kilkenny STP with 35,643 connected residents, the cellulose recovery system is placed. On the other STPs, constructed wetlands with WOW_{biochar} for micro-pollutant elimination are considered.

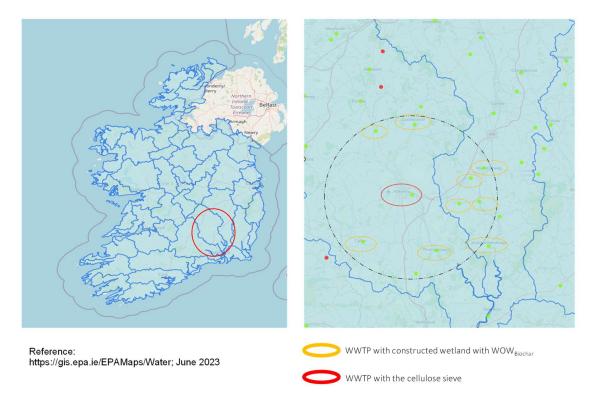


Figure 12: Catchment area in the south-east of Ireland

4.2 Implementation of fine sieves on larger STPs

9 STPs are extended with constructed wetlands with WOW_{biochar}. A total of 26,707 PE are connected to the 9 STPs. The filter area was determined using a specific area of 0.4 m²/PE, as no data on the sewage water volume was available. Table 21 summarises the input data and results. The required surface area sums up to 11,000 m² for the 9 STPs and a required WOW_{biochar}-quantity of 1,107 tonnes, resp. Detailed information on implementation is summarised in the fact sheets for each STP in the Annex.



WWTP	unit	Graignuenama	Callan	Thomastown	Castlecomer	Muinebheag	Ballyragget	Paulstown	Gowran	Goresbridge	Sum
				Inj	out Data						
Connected PE	PE	2,267	2,247	3,522	2,077	12,248	1,920	1,000	826	600	26,707
Annual flow	m³/a	0	0	0	0	466,470	0	0	0	0	
Waste water flow to											
constructed wetland	m³/a	0	0	0	0	373,176	0	0	0	0	
				Wet	ands Data						
Area	m ²	920	900	1,420	840	5,160	780	400	340	240	11,000
Length	m	46	45	71	42	86	39	16	17	12	374
Width	m	20	20	20	20	60	20	25	20	20	225
Filterbody	m ³	598	585	923	546	3,354	507	260	221	156	7,150
Volume: Sand	m³	508	497	785	464	2,851	431	221	188	133	6,078
Volume: WOW _{Char}	m³	90	88	138	82	503	76		33		1,073
Amount of WOW-Biochar	1										
(50% straw/cellulose)	kg	134,550	131,625	207,675	122,850	754,650	114,075	58,500	49,725	35,100	1,351,350
→ Amount of straw	kg	336,375	329,063	519,188	307,125	1,886,625	285,188	146,250	124,313	87,750	
Investment costs without											
WOW _{Char} production costs	€	1,330,902	1,321,719	1,525,892	1,293,305	2,291,066	1,263,463	1,023,769	972,677	871,604	11,894,397
Transport costs WOW _{Char}	€	1,511	1,270	1,539	1,059	7,129	1,080	521	313	413	12,509
Transport costs Cellulose	€	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,569
Total investment costs of											
constructed wetland	€	1,330,902	1,321,719	1,525,892	1,293,305	2,291,066	1,263,463	1,023,769	972,677	871,604	11,944,966
Average filter velocity	m/h	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.008	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	
Maximum Hydraulic Volume											
Rate	L/(m ² ·d)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	198.140	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	

Table 21: Design constructed wetlands with WOWBiochar for the catchment area near the STP Kilkenny

4.3 Implementation of fine sieves on larger STPs

To determine the amount of cellulose, a specific cellulose content in the wastewater of 32 g/PE/d was used according to (WOW, 2019). Since the WOW_{Biochar} is produced from a cellulose-straw mixture, the amount added to the pyrolysis is twice as large. The pyrolysis and biological activation processes result in high feedstock losses, and the total yield of activated WOW_{Biochar} is 20%. For cellulose recovery STP Kilkenny was chosen (see Table 22). This results in an annual cellulose amount of 412 t/a and 165 t/a WOW_{Biochar}, resp. (see Table 23). With this amount of WOW_{Biochar}, the selected STPs can be equipped with constructed wetlands for micro pollution elimination within 9 years (see Table 24).

Name	Connected PE			Digester yes / no	Finesieve Anzahl	Cellulose Amount kg/d	WOW _{Biochar} Amount kg/d
Kilkenny City Waste Water							
Treatment plant	35,643	3,523,345	no	-	4	1130	452

Table 23: Total production per year for the catchment area near the STP Kilkenny

WOW _{Biochar}	kg/a	164,963		
Straw-Amount	kg/a	412,407		
Cellulose-Amount	kg/a	412,407		



Year		kg W	OWBiochar (Cell.+S	traw)	
		Muinebheag			
1	164,963				
2	164,963				
3	164,963				
4	164,963				
5	164,963	754,650			
		Thomastown			
6	235,128	207,675			
		Callan			
7	192,416	131,625			
		Castlecomer			
8	225,753	122,850			
		Ballyragget	Paulstown	Gowran	Goresbridge
9	267,866	114,075	58,500	49,725	35,100

Table 24: Time schedule for the implementation of constructed wetlands with WOW_{biochar} for the catchment area near the STP Kilkenny

4.4 Logistic WOWbiochar

The following logistic must be taken into account for the production and installation of the WOW_{biochar}:

- Transport of the cellulose from the STPs with cellulose recovery to the pyrolysis plant.
- Transport of the WOW_{biochar} to the small STPs for the construction of the constructed wetlands

It was assumed that the site for the pyrolysis plant would be an industrial area near the Kilkenny STP. This reduces the costs of transporting the cellulose. In the calculation, the specific transport costs for the cellulose as well as for the WOW_{biochar} of $10 \notin/(truck \cdot km)$ and a loading quantity of 25 t per truck were assumed. This results in transport costs of 50,569 \notin for the cellulose (see Table 25).

Table 25: Transport cost of cellulose for the catchment area near the STP Kilkenny

V	ariant 1							
Transport of cellulose from large KA towards the pyrolysis plant								
(location KA Ottweiler)								
from	€/a		to					
Muinebheag		1,378	Kilkenny City					
Thomastown		341	Kilkenny City					
Callan		428	Kilkenny City					
Castlecomer		210	Kilkenny City					
Graignuenamanagh Tinnahinch		504	Kilkenny City					
Ballyragget		215	Kilkenny City					
Paulstown		174	Kilkenny City					
Gowran		156	Kilkenny City					
Goresbridge		206	Kilkenny City					
Sum		3,612						
Total transport costs for recovered cellulose on large WWTPs with								
corresponding construction times								
50,569 €								



4.5 Investment cost

Table 26 shows the investment costs and the cost break down for the installation of nine constructed wetlands with WOW_{biochar}. The investment costs without consideration of the WOW_{biochar} production were calculated with the specific area-related investments costs from section 2.4.1. The WOW_{Biochar}-production costs were assumed to be 1,000 \notin /t. This results in overall investment costs of 13.5 million \notin . Compared to a conventional constructed wetland, additional costs of 14% are incurred for the production and transport of the WOW_{biochar}.

Table 27 shows the cost composition for cellulose recovery on the STP Kilkenny. A total of 4 fine sieves modules, one screw press and a switch cabinet have to be considered.

The total investment costs for both the constructed wetlands with $WOW_{biochar}$ and the fine sieves sums up to 14.8 million \in .

Constructed wetlands	Capital expenditures	Depreciation period	Capital expenditures		
cost breakdown	breakdown in %		breakdown in €		
Earthwork and filters					
installation	45 %	25a	5,352,479€		
Inlet and outlet structures	25 %	40a	2,973,599€		
Sealing	10 %	25a	1,189,440€		
Instrumentation and					
control engineering (ICE)	10 %	10a	1,189,440€		
Plants	5 %	25a	594,720€		
Rest	5 %	10a	594,720€		
WOW _{Char} including					
transport costs	14%	25a	1,608,750€		
Sum	114%		13,503,147€		
spezif. cost CWetl.	445 *				
spezif. cost inkl. WOW _{Char}	ar 506 t				

Table 26: Cost breakdown of constructed wetlands for the catchment area near the STP Kilkenny

Table 27: Cost breakdown of cellulose fine sieves for the catchment area near the STP Kilkenny

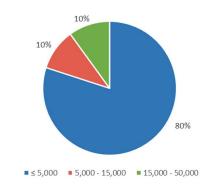
	Cellulose finesieve cost breakdown								
		Depreciation							
Pos.	Name	period (year)	Preis (€)	Amount	Total (€)				
1	Cellulose screen	15	100,000	4	400,000				
2	Cellulose scrubber	15	35,000	4	140,000				
3	Screw press	15	40,000	1	40,000				
	Instrumentation and								
	control engineering (ICE):								
4	15% Machine technology	10	87,000	1	87,000				
5	Installation: 50% total cost				667,000				
	Total				1,334,000				



4.6 Impact on water quality

Figure 15 shows the distribution of size class in the catchment area near the STP Kilkenny. 20% of the STPs are smaller than 15,000 PE. With the integration of 9 constructed wetlands with WOW_{biochar}. a total reduction in micro pollutant discharge of 18.5 % can be achieved. Figure 13 shows the potential Diclofenac reduction in the effluent for each STP size class in the catchment area near the STP Kilkenny.

Distribution of STP sizes in the catchemnt area [%]





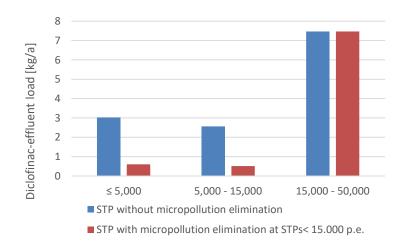


Figure 14: Annual diclofenac effluent load for the catchment area near the STP Kilkenny taking into account constructed wetlands with WOW_{Biochar} for STPs < 15,000 p.e.



5 Scotland

5.1 Description of the catchment area

For this case study, the whole of Scotland was considered in contrast to a single catchment area. To simplify the analysis, Scotland was divided into 4 main regions:

- Region 1 (blue): north
- Region 2 (purple): central on the eastern coast
- Region 3 (orange): densely populated area between Glasgow and Edinburgh
- Region 4 (green): south and on the western coast.

Figure 15 shows the STPs and their allocation to the regions. For each region, the Diclofenac reduction is calculated if all plants with less than 5,000 PE were extended with a constructed wetland with WOW_{biochar}.

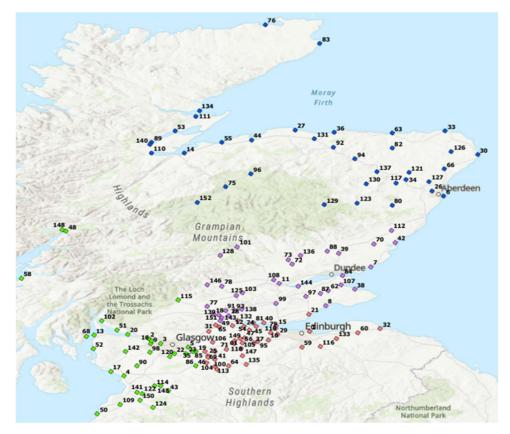


Figure 15: Distribution of the STP in Scotland in Scotland, divided into 4 regions. Region 1- blue, Region 2- purple, Region 3- orange, Region 4- green

5.2 Implementation of constructed wetlands with WOW_{biochar} at small STPs

The installation of a constructed wetland with WOWbiochar was only considered for WWTPs with a connected population of 5000 p.e. or less. Since there was only information about the number of connected inhabitants and no water quantities were available, a specific area of 0.4 m^2 /PE was used for



calculation of the filter area (see also chapter 2.3). All other characteristic values, such as filter layer depth, WOW_{biochar}-density etc. were taken from chapter 2.3

For the calculation of the Diclofenac load, a specific load of 0.78 mg/PE*d from (Schmitt, 2019) was used. For the determination of the reduction amounts, the treatment efficiency of 26.5% and 80% was assumed for a conventional STP and STP with constructed wetlands with WOW_{biochar}, respectively.

5.3 Implementation of fine sieves on larger STPs

For a preliminary assessment, the following sites were chosen for the installation of a cellulose recovery plant (see also Figure 16):

- Region 1: STP Allanfearn and Persley
- Region 2: STP Perth city
- Region 3: STP East Calder
- Region 4: STP Meadowhead

Detailed data on the individual frame conditions would be required for an accurate site selection. For the pyrolysis plant, a site close to the STP with a cellulose recovery plant was chosen. This reduces or even avoids the cost of transporting the cellulose to the pyrolysis plant.

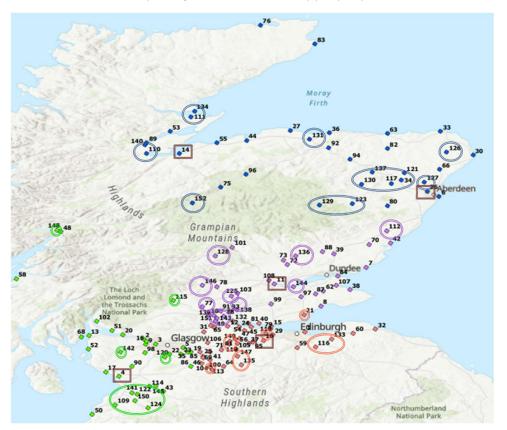


Figure 16: Selected locations of STP for different regions in Scotland where the constructed wetlands with WOW_{blochar} could be installed (circles) and selected STP for cellulose recovery (squares)



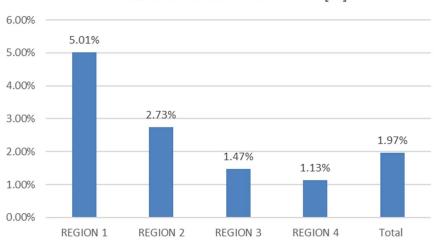
5.4 Investment costs

Table 28 shows the proportion of wastewater treatment plants that are equipped with a constructed wetland with $WOW_{biochar}$, broken down by region. It also shows the duration of expansion and the investment costs for these plants. The constructed wetland accounts for the largest share of the costs. The transport costs, on the other hand, with less than 1% account for only a very small portion of the total costs.

	,	time	Total cost (Filter+WOW _{Bio} _{char} +Transport) [€]	Costs	Char.	Filter costs [€]	Filter costs [%]	costs	Transport costs [%]
REGION 1	39%	11	23,917,875€	2,819,261 €	11.79%	21,050,123 €	88.01%	48,491€	0.20%
REGION 2	29%	4	16,063,112 €	1,719,315€	10.70%	14,306,066 €	89.06%	37,731€	0.23%
REGION 3	21%	4	15,175,986 €	1,756,170 €	11.57%	13,395,278 €	88.27%	24,538 €	0.16%
REGION 4	31%	2	18,530,290 €	2,148,413 €	11.59%	16,336,015 €	88.16%	45,863 €	0.25%

5.5 Impact on water quality

Figure 17 shows the potential Diclofenac reduction for each region and for whole Scotland that can be achieved with the integration of constructed wetlands with WOW_{biochar}. In Region 1, which is characterised by smaller STPs, the theoretically possible reduction is 5 %. The total reduction for Scottland is only 2 %. This low impact on the total pollutant reduction is due to the fact that the small STPs (< 5,000 p.e.) only have a low share of 2.5 % compared to other size classes in Scotland (see Figure 18). Although the overall impact is very low, the improvement which could be achieved at small river catchment areas could be of relevance.



Annual diclofenac reduction in [%]

Figure 17: Annual diclofenac reduction in % for Scottland



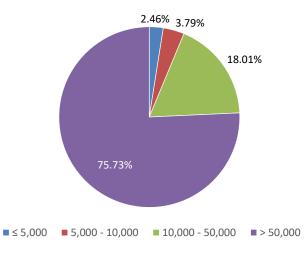


Figure 18: Share of the Diclofenac load in the effluent for Scotland depending on the size of STP in [%]



6 Conclusions

The case studies show that the combination of cellulose recovery with fine sieves in order to provide WOW_{Biochar} for constructed wetlands for micro pollutant removal in a river catchment is possible. Although the load reduction from small STPs in comparison to the total load from all STP in the catchment is small, the impact on the river quality especially for small receiving water courses can be very high. For implementation of the approach, further investigation into hydraulic load and invest costs is necessary. In this concern, costs and GHG-emissions connected with conventionally produced activated carbon have to be taken into account. The requirements and costs of smaller or medium size pyrolysis plants for biochar production must be further investigated in a scale-up with plant manufacturers.

There is still a great potential for optimisation as investigations at a constructed wetland with activated carbon show that the maximum hydraulic load could rise to about 2,6 $m^3/d/m^2$ without clogging (Brunsch et al., 2020). This is significantly higher than the average load of 0.2 and the maximum load of 0.4 $m^3/d/m^2$, resp. which are usually chosen for design of constructed wetlands. The additional treatment capacity that can be achieved for existing biological treatment stages by upstream sieving with cellulose recovery can be of further interest for future upgrade of these plants. Finally, the tailored matching of cellulose recovery and production of biochar by pyrolysis with the life time of carbon-fitted constructed wetlands allows for regional solutions in rural catchment areas in NWE.



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8 Abbreviations

p.e.	People equivalent
STP	Wate water treatment plant
COD	Chemical oxygen demand
$WOW_{Biochar}$	Biochar produced from 50% straw and 50%
	cellulose
BB	Activated sludge srocess
DN	Denitrification/ Nitrification
AS	Aerobic sludge stabilisation
BT	Wastewater treatment pond
STK	Submerged rotary body
EVS	Entsorgungsverband Saar
MQ	Mean flow rate

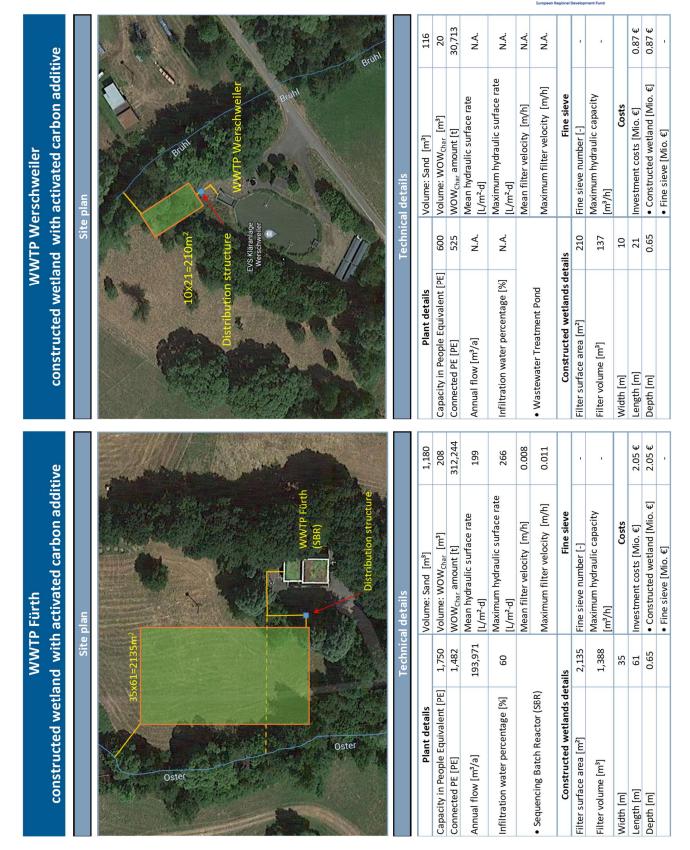


9 Appendix

9.1 Plant characteristics Saarland

constructed wetla	WWT nd with	WWTP Saal constructed wetland with activated carbon additive	ive	WV constructed wetla	VTP Ha nd wit	WWTP Haupersweiler constructed wetland with activated carbon additive	ive	J.1
	Site	e plan			Site	Site plan		
		Ees dr.		en operation of the second sec	1810 m	DBm ⁶ Distribution structure		
	Technic	al details			Technic	Fechnical details		
Plant details		Volume: Sand [m ³]	580	Plant details		Volume: Sand [m ³]	2,006	_
Capacity in People Equivalent [PE]	1,900	Volume: WOW _{char} [m ³]	102	Capacity in People Equivalent [PE]	4,000	Volume: WOW _{Char} [m ³]	354	
Connected PE [PE]	1,632	WOW _{Char} amount [t]	153,563	Connected PE [PE]	3,033	WOW _{Char} amount [t]	531	
Annual flow [m³/a]	204,633	Mean hydraulic surface rate [L/m²·d]	274	Annual flow [m³/a]	714,102	Mean hydraulic surface rate [L/m²·d]	324	
Infiltration water percentage [%]	N.A.	Maximum hydraulic surface rate [L/m²·d]	518	Infiltration water percentage [%]	75	Maximum hydraulic surface rate [L/m²-d]	529	
		Mean filter velocity [m/h]	0.011	 Aerobic sludge stabilisation 		Mean filter velocity [m/h]	0.013	
 Wastewater Treatment Pond 		Maximum filter velocity [m/h]	0.022	 Activated sludge process with deni- and nitrifikation 	ni- and	Maximum filter velocity [m/h]	0.022	
Constructed wetlands details	ails	Fine sieve		Constructed wetlands details	ails	Fine sieve		
Filter surface area [m²]	1,050	Fine sieve number [-]	,	Filter surface area [m²]	3,630	Fine sieve number [-]	2	
Filter volume [m³]	683	Maximum hydraulic capacity [m³/h]		Filter volume [m³]	2,360	Maximum hydraulic capacity [m³/h]	484	
Width [m]	35	Costs		Width [m]	55	Costs		
Length [m]	30	Investment costs [Mio. €]	1.54€	Length [m]	99	Investment costs [Mio. €]	3.29 €	_
Depth [m]	0.65	 Constructed wetland [Mio. €] 	1.54€	Depth [m]	0.65	• Constructed wetland [Mio. €]	2.59 €	_
		 Fine sieve [Mio. €] 				 Fine sieve [Mio. €] 	0.71€	_

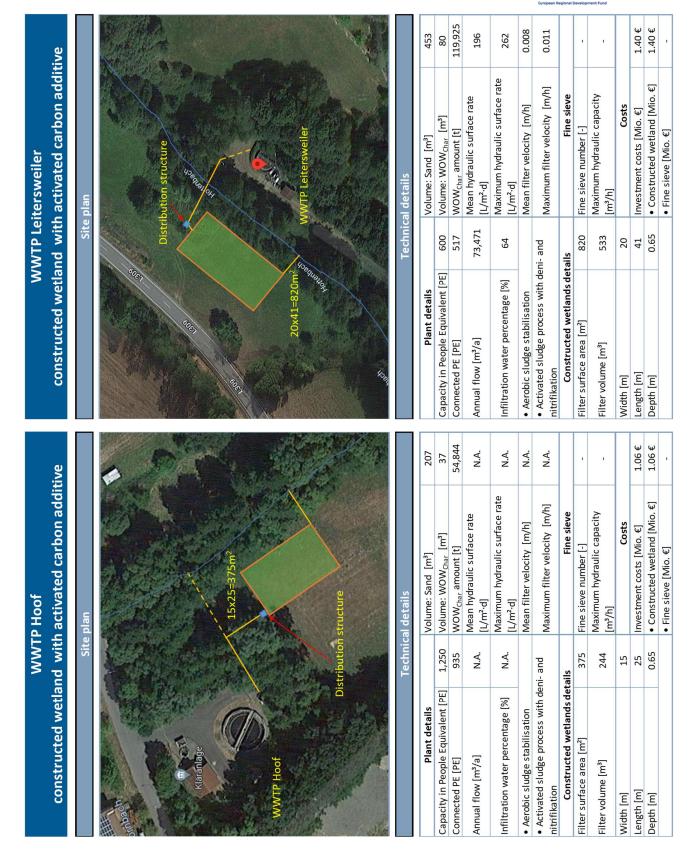










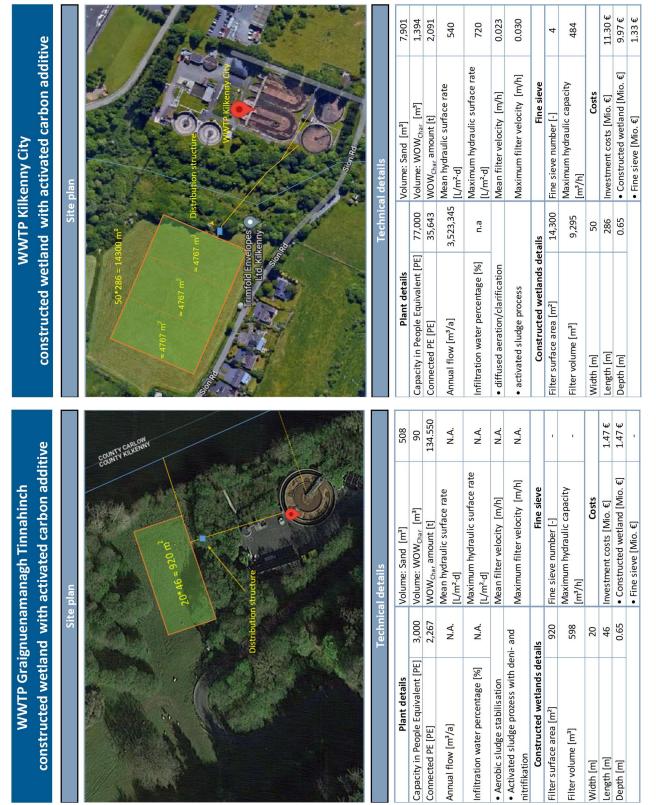




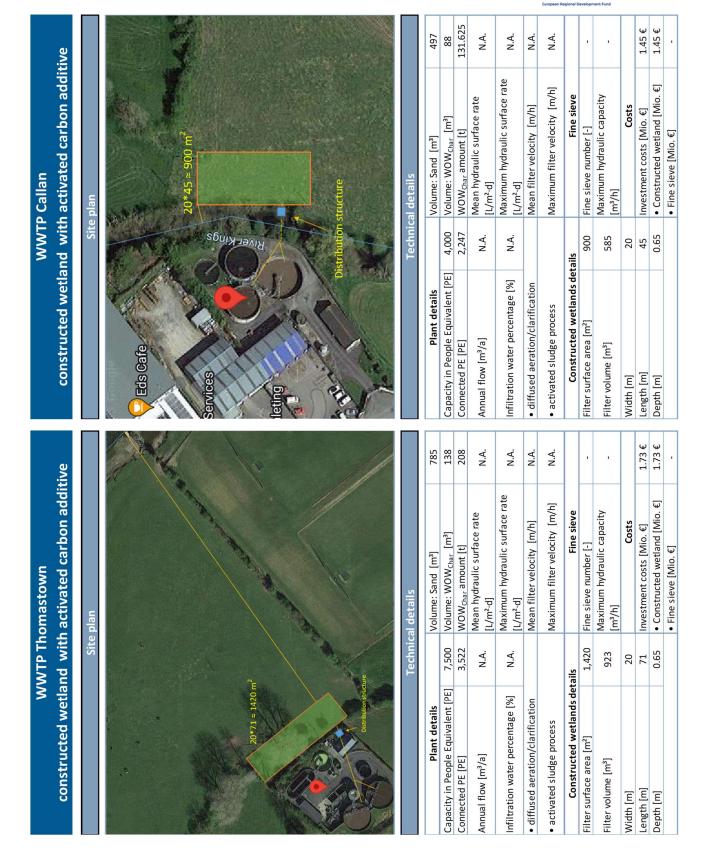
	Site	Site plan	
15x22=330m ² Distribution structur WWTP Grügelborn			Mar A
	Technic	cal details	
Plant details		Volume: Sand [m ³]	182
Capacity in People Equivalent [PE]	1,100	Volume: WOW _{Char} [m ³]	32
Connected PE [PE]	815	WOW _{Char} amount [t]	48,263
Annual flow [m ³ /a]	N.A.	Mean hydraulic surface rate [L/m²-d]	N.A.
Infiltration water percentage [%]	N.A.	Maximum hydraulic surface rate [L/m²·d]	N.A.
 Aerobic sludge stabilisation 		Mean filter velocity [m/h]	N.A.
Activated sludge process with deni- and nitrifikation	and	Maximum filter velocity [m/h]	N.A.
Constructed wetlands details	s	Fine sieve	
Filter surface area [m²]	330	Fine sieve number [-]	ì
Filter volume [m³]	215	Maximum hydraulic capacity [m³/h]	
Width [m]	15	Costs	
Length [m]	22	Investment costs [Mio. €]	1.01 €
Depth [m]	0.65	 Constructed wetland [Mio. €] 	1.01 €
		• Fine sieve [Mio. €]	ı



9.2 Plant characteristics Ireland









WWTP Muinebheag constructed wetland with activated carbon additive	Site plan	to the second se	Technical details	Plant details Volume: Sand [m ³] 2,851	[PE] 5,500 Volume: WOW _{char} [m ³]	12,248	Annual flow [m³/a] 466,470 Mean hydraulic surface rate 198	Infiltration water percentage [%] N.A. Maximum hydraulic surface rate 264 [L/m ² -d]	diffused aeration/clarification Mean filter velocity [m/h] 0.008	activated sludge process Maximum filter velocity [m/h] 0.011	Constructed wetlands details Fine sieve	1,160 Fine sieve number	Filter volume [m³] 3,354 Maximum hydraulic capacity -	Width [m] 60 Costs	Length [m] 86 Investment costs [Mio. €] 3.05 €	Depth [m] 0.65 • Constructed wetland [Mio. €] 3.05 €
WWTP Castlecomer constructed wetland with activated carbon additive	plan	the second	ıl details	Volume: Sand [m ³] 464	Volume: WOW _{Char} [m ³] 82	WOW _{Char} amount [t] 123	Mean hydraulic surface rate N.A. [L/m²-d]	Maximum hydraulic surface rate N.A. [L/m²·d]	Mean filter velocity [m/h] N.A.	Maximum filter velocity [m/h] N.A.	Fine sieve	Fine sieve number [-]	Maximum hydraulic capacity [m³/h]	Costs	Investment costs [Mio. €] 1.42 €	• Constructed wetland [Mio. €] 1.42 €
WWTP Castlec constructed wetland with activ	Site plan	River Dimit	Technical det	Plant details	Capacity in People Equivalent [PE] 2,500	Connected PE [PE] 2,077	Annual flow [m³/a]	Infiltration water percentage [%] N.A.	 diffused aeration/clarification 	 activated sludge process 	Constructed wetlands details	Filter surface area [m ²] 840	Filter volume [m ³] 546	Width [m] 20	Length [m] 42	Depth [m] 0.65



