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Home-grown bioremediation process turns harmful industrial sludge into fertilizers

Petrochemicals giant Sasol, which typically incinerates its waste sludge streams or sends them to hazardous waste sites, is increasing its use of composting to treat these streams at its Secunda plant, in Mpumalanga, reducing transportation and disposal costs, as well as air pollution.

The industrial sludge derive from the plant's wastewater treatment processes that use aerobic microbes to capture contaminants in the wastewater, as well as sludge from the bottom of cooling towers. The water is recycled as process water.

The contaminated sludge is then concentrated, but 90% of the volume of the sludge streams incinerated remains water, making incineration an energy-intensive process.

Gas Company provides CO₂ to remineralise AMD

Gaseous carbon dioxide (CO₂), provided by gas products and services company Afrox, has been successfully integrated into a water treatment system at coal miner Optimum Coal's water reclamation plant near Hendrina, in Mpumalanga. The system treats acid mine drainage (AMD) during the remineralisation phase, using CO₂, with lime, to produce a valuable clean water supply for the local community.

New study forecasts doubling of renewables capacity by 2025

The global installed capacity of renewable energy could more than double to 3 203 GW in 2025 from 1 566 GW in 2012, new analysis by Frost & Sullivan shows.

The study, titled 'Annual Renewable Energy Outlook 2014', anticipates an average yearly growth rate of 5.7% and for solar photovoltaic (PV) technology to account for 33.4% of total renewable capacity additions over the period.