Horizon
The EU Research & Innovation Magazine

European Commission



Methane-munching bacteria that can help save the environment

Professor Mike Jetten of Radboud University believes he can help tackle global warming by uncovering bacteria that consume methane before it reaches the environment.

27 January 2014 - By MICHAL ZUK

Horizon sent a camera crew to the Netherlands to see Prof. Jetten and his team knee-deep in mud as they hunt for bacteria.

They know that methane is consumed below the waterline, and they are searching ponds and rivers to find the bacteria responsible.

‘We want to find these organisms because we want to understand why methane is already consumed under the water table,’ said Prof. Jetten, whose research has been funded by the European Research Council.

‘Later on, we can use these new bacteria for new processes in waste water treatment systems.’

More info

Radbound University