

EXTRA EXTRA!

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Eau de toilet? Scientists invent fatberg perfume

This is an edited version of a story from
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Fatbergs are foul masses of waste found blocking up sewers. But now they're being used to create a pine-smelling chemical that can be used as an ingredient in perfumes.

This is thanks to the field of bioengineering. It is great news for the environment because bioengineering can recycle waste and help to make things more sustainably.

Professor Stephen Wallace is among those turning the fatbergs into perfumes. "It's a crazy idea," he admits to me, "but it works."

Prof Wallace adds specially modified bacteria to material extracted from fatbergs. The fatberg material gradually disappears, as the bacteria eat it, producing the chemical with the pine-like smell.

He is working with two perfume companies that are interested in the process because it is more sustainable than the method they currently use, which involves making the fragrance from chemicals extracted from fossil fuels.

One of Stephen's colleagues, Dr Joanna Sadler, has also created microbes that turn used plastic, that would otherwise damage

the environment, into vanilla essence and other useful chemicals.

The possibilities are endless, and innovation has accelerated because of the development of cheap and accurate ways of manipulating DNA. It means it is now much easier to harness and adapt the power of nature to create all sorts of things.

However all those possibilities require funding. The Government's chief scientific advisor Professor Angela McLean has been looking into this.

"Engineering biology is something the UK is really good at and the world is going to need. It is in its infancy and we need to keep on investing in it as a country."

However, scientists agree that without public trust, this shining new industry is going nowhere. They think that there are considerable benefits to this technology. But if the public won't accept it, no one will buy the products.

"The sector needs to ensure that the general consumer and citizen can begin to understand this technology," says Professor Paul Freemont.

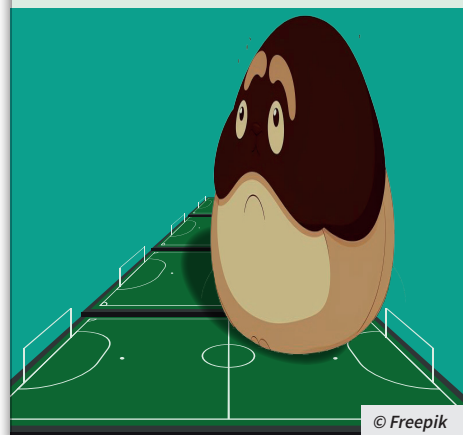


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TRUE OR FALSE?

Not all news is based on truth. Do you think this story is based on true or false news?

The largest fatberg ever found was the size of four football pitches!



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what fatbergs are.



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WHAT	WHO	WHERE	WHEN	WHY	HOW
does the perfume smell like?	is the Government's chief scientific advisor?	are fatbergs found?	did Dr Sadler first use microbes to create vanilla essence?	are perfume companies interested?	is the pleasant scent produced?
ANSWER: Pine	ANSWER: Professor Angela McLean	ANSWER: Sewers	ANSWER: Five years ago	ANSWER: It's a more sustainable method	ANSWER: By adding bacteria to the fatberg material



Recycling
And
**GIVING
BACK**

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