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Microbes Make Electricity from Wastewater

By Tudor Vieru, Science Editor
3rd of August 2009, 09:38 GMT

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ENLARGE

Given our seemingly insatiable efficiency in producing garbage and wastes, it may seem inappropriate to leave all these residues simply accumulate in distant places, and not use them to create something.

According to the research team behind the find, made up from researchers at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and led by Professor Derek Lovley, the microbe can also use mud as a source of raw materials for consumption.

Such systems could be installed in average households, and may help offset some of the costs associated with paying the electrical bill, by decomposing the trash that is generated in homes in vast amounts every year.

The team envisions using the bacteria inside water-treatment plants, possibly in combination with other bio-based treatment systems, so as to convert a now power-intensive clean-up station into a reusable water generator.

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