

## **The Viennese startup's wetland wall that will soon have us drinking toilet water**

Currently on display in the Hundertwasser Kunsthaus gallery is some clever nature-based technology that would delight Hundertwasser himself – a plant-based wetland wall that transforms wastewater into reusable water.

Made up of different specific plant species in a particular arrangement, the wetland wall, dubbed the vertECO, cleanses polluted water through microbiological activity in the plant's roots.

The Vienna science and nature-based tech startup, alchemia-nova, is behind developing the creative circular economy technology.

Developed at their Homebase in the cellar of a Penzing villa, the vertECO wall has already been adopted by hotels in Spain and a house in Upper Austria.

Special interest is being shown by companies with high water usage, such as hotels and camping sites, while it is expected to be an attractive and eye-catching solution for shopping centres and companies in the processing industry.

The vertECO's completely chemical-free system recycles wastewater from showers, baths and wash basins for possible reuse for toilet flushing, garden irrigation and the washing of clothes.

The technology is currently being further developed so the vertECO could potentially have the ability to turn wastewater into drinking water in the near future.

The wetland wall also has an aesthetically pleasing design, and can be mounted on building's walls, with the first building to be fitted with the technology in the coming months. The said building being the old Viennese villa alchemia-nova is based in. One whole façade will be covered in the vertECO technology.

'This green wall can cut 50% of water usage in a building, and it's also beautiful and green,' says Johannes Kisser, CEO alchemia-nova.

'Also, the vertECO doesn't only recycle water, but it also stores and processes CO<sub>2</sub>, produces oxygen, and cleans the surrounding air.'

'It even enhances building's insulation when installed on a wall's outer façade – it's some very powerful nature-powered technology.'

With Austria just emerging from one of its driest summers in recent history, the topic of sustainable water management – which was once just a concern for southern countries – is increasingly becoming a topic earning the ears of those in the Austrian government and business world. alchemia-nova is one of the most experienced Austrian companies in the

field of circular economy and nature-based technologies that work towards closing the cycle in how we use resources on a daily basis, such as water.

The vertECO, is part of a larger exhibition running until the 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2019, showcasing an innovative public toilet solution developed by alchemia-nova and the Viennese design studio EOOS.

#### **Press contact**

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#### **FAKTEN**

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|-------------------------------|---|
| Ausstellungsort               | KUNST HAUS WIEN<br>Untere Weißbergerstraße 13, 1030 Wien  |
| Kuratorin                     | Verena Kasper-Eisert  |
| Ausstellungsdauer             | 18.10.18 – 13.01.2019   |
| Programm                      | Sa., 15.12.2018 10:00 – 18:00<br>Sonderprogramm zum 90. Geburtstag von<br>Friedensreich Hundertwasser                             |
| Öffnungszeiten                | Täglich von 10 bis 18 Uhr<br><br>Zugang zur Garage frei   |
| Pressekontakt Kunst Haus Wien | Eva Engelberger<br>+43 1 712 04 91 43<br><a href="mailto:eva.engelberger@kunsthauswien.com">eva.engelberger@kunsthauswien.com</a> |
| Fotos (mit Bildnachweis)      | <a href="https://kunsthauswien.com/de/presse/eoos">https://kunsthauswien.com/de/presse/eoos</a>                                   |