A short overview of microplastics

Ralf Bertling

Abstract

The presentation gives a short overview of microplastics.

In the first part, definition and differentiation of several microplastic types are explained as well as identified entry paths, quantities, analyzing methods and associated problems.

The second part describes the role of sewage treatment plants in the context with urban water management, focusing on system boundaries concerning wastewater treatment plants and urban water management.

Results from 14 international studies on microplastics in sewage treatment plants are presented.

In the summary, previous outcomes are discussed, R&D-gaps are highlighted and a look into the future is dared.

Also attempting to establish a link between membrane technology and microplastics.