


[Website](#) | [Forward](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)


## Extracted nutrients from sludge become fertilizers

-Ekobalans' business idea is built on reusing nutrients from nutrient rich waste flows, says the founder Gunnar Thelin, a former researcher at Lund University.

- Ekobalans has developed techniques that selectively extract and refine nutrients from sludge, digestate, and manure. The result is a high quality fertilizer that does not contain heavy metals and other unwanted elements. It is extremely positive that we can pick out the phosphorus from sludge that contains substances such as cadmium among others. The refining process is very effective resulting in a cadmium free fertilizer raw material.

-For the residual organic matter we have developed a process that removes cadmium, mercury, pathogens and unwanted organic substances giving a nutrient rich biochar that can be used for soil fertility improvement.

The company has an installation at the waste water treatment plant (WWTP) Öresundsverket in Helsingborg since 2012. Ekobalans has also since January 2013 extracted struvite at the WWTP in Helsingborg.

-The results are far better than we expected. We are very pleased with the extraction. Even though we encountered several initial problems that caused unexpected stops, we have now managed to solve them. The plant delivers approx. 200 to 500 kg struvite per week to EkoBalans' fertilizer production. Some of the produced fertilizer has been sold to the city of Helsingborg and used to fertilize lawns etc in Helsingborg.

Ekobalans has a flexible business model. As a customer you are able to finance the plant yourself or co-operate with Ekobalans in regards to the financing (contracting the plant and/or the nutrients).

-We are currently working on expanding our business by seeking co-operation possibilities both in Sweden and Denmark. Today, the potential market for struvite extraction is bigger in Denmark because biological phosphorus removal is much more common there, says Gunnar Thelin. On the other hand, the future potential is big in Sweden since including EkoBalans technique significantly improves the probability of a successful shift from expensive chemical phosphorus removal to cheaper biological phosphorus removal at WWTPs.

With the Environmental Protection Agency's investigation commissioned by the government to investigate new quality demands for recycling of phosphorus, Gunnar Thelin is convinced Ekobalans' product is best solution currently out there.

-We are also very pleased that the government has given the Environmental Protection Agency the task to revise the funding support for sewage treatment plants to invest in solutions similar to ours. Hopefully this will lead to an expansion of our business and a higher awareness about our products and the solutions that we provide.

<http://www.anpdm.com/pdf/10507706/414251407046445D457740445F4271>

[Read more...](#)