

WASTE2FUNC

The technology is ready, are we?

End of project - November 2024

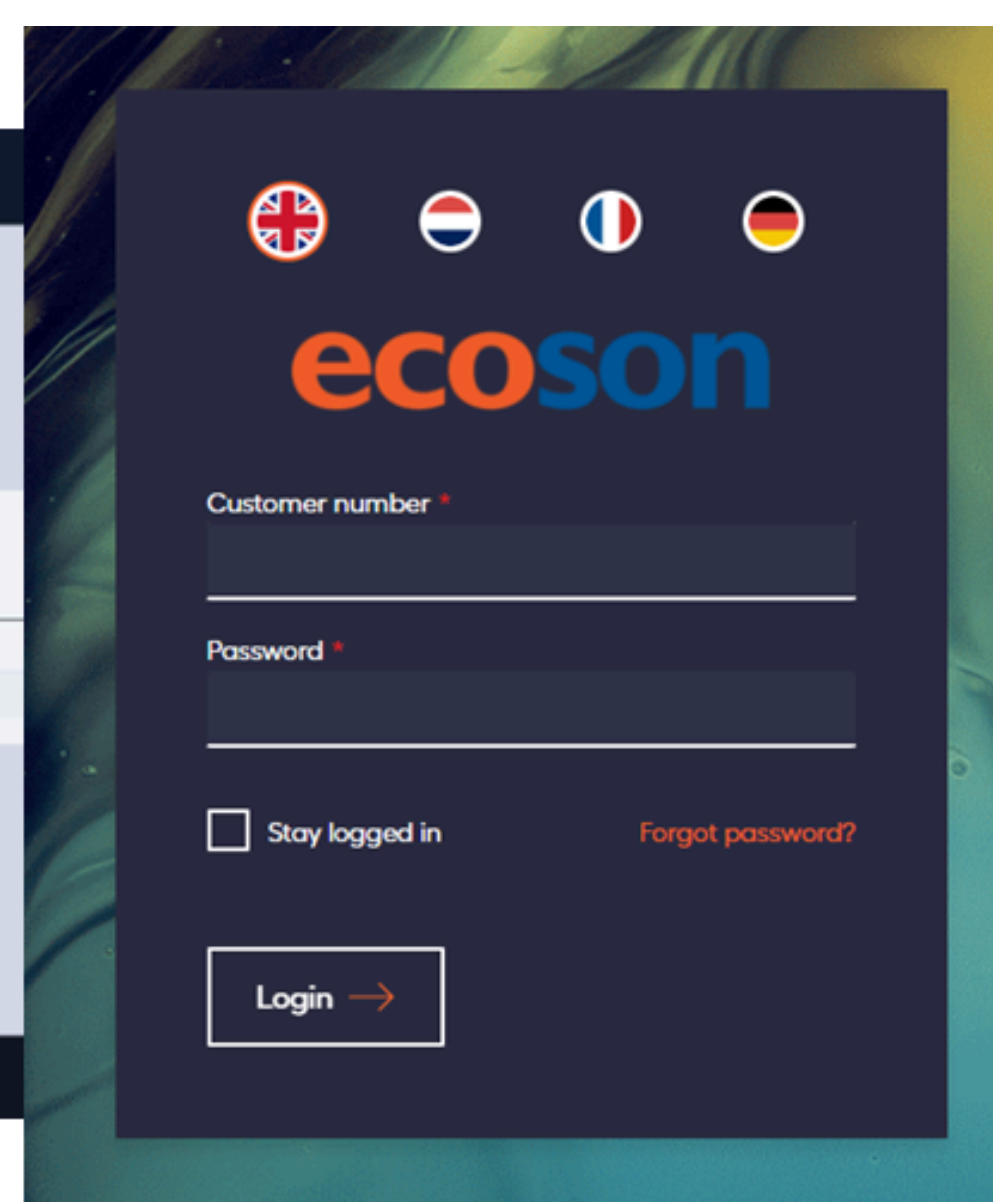
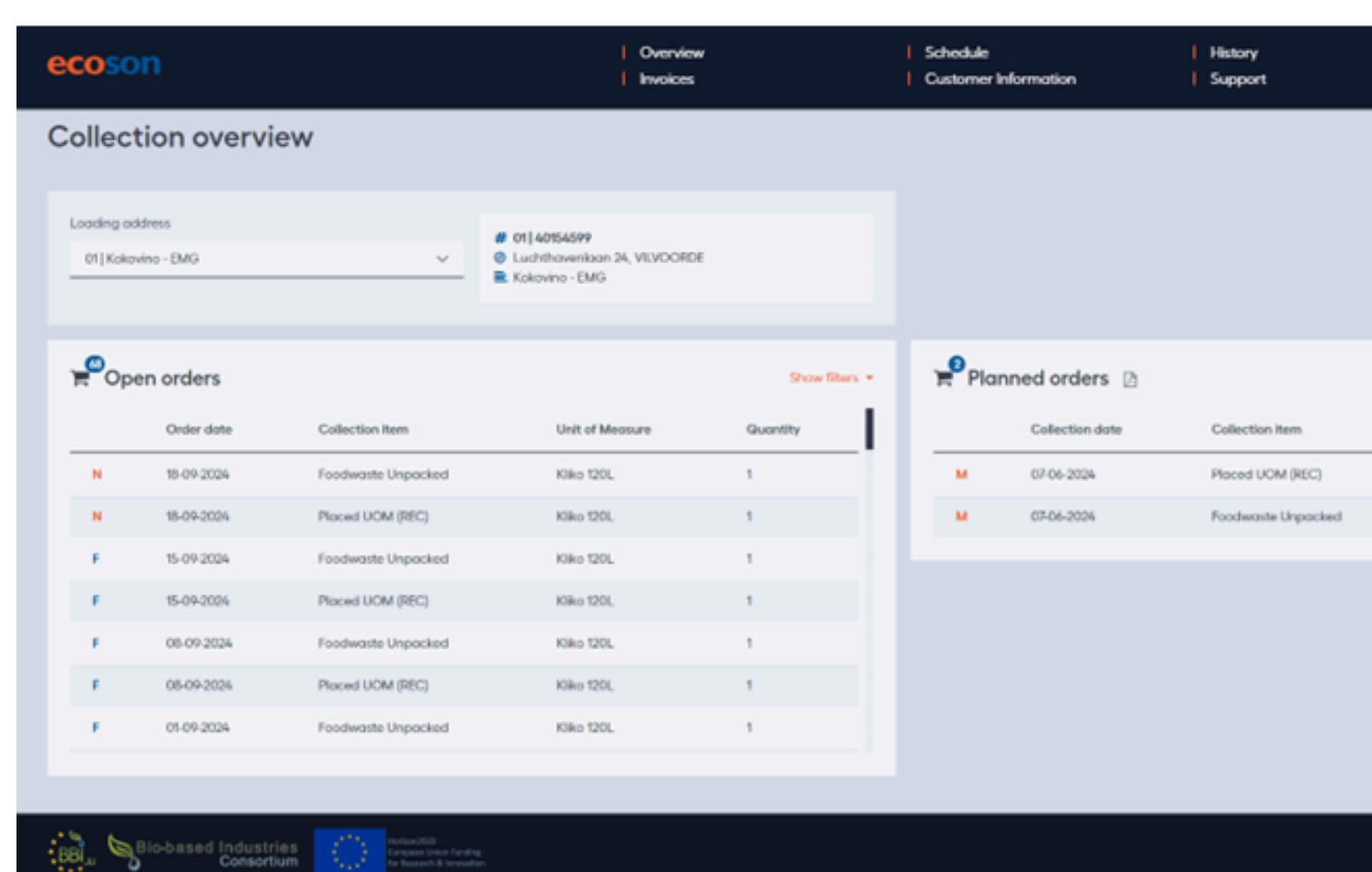
Organiser: The Waste2Func consortium is funded by BBI JU under the EC programme Horizon 2020 to demonstrate the production of biosurfactants and lactic acid from food waste from agriculture, the food industry, supermarkets and restaurants.

Context: The Waste2Func project is getting to its conclusion after three and a half years of optimising and demonstrating its technology in the home -and personal care and bioplastics sector.

The project implemented a holistic approach to demonstrate the project objectives. Several key actors were involved in this process; farmers, waste collectors, technology owners, a pilot facility, end users and finally also sustainability, regulatory and market insight experts. The full event recording can be consulted via: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vU-5whTYi1Q>.

Below is a snapshot of the WASTE2FUNC results presented in the final event :

- Fostered collaboration between farmers, waste collectors, and industry partners (video recording timing **14:33**)
- Establishment of a registration website/app to register food waste flows from the agriculture and food industry for collection by a waste collector (video recording timing **24:15**)



- Establishment of 2 demo installations for processing waste into valuable product ingredients lactic acid and biosurfactants (video recording timing **34:28** and **51:27**)



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- Optimisation and demonstration of the technology to produce biosurfactants and lactic acid from food processing industry, from supermarket food waste and restaurant food waste (video recording timing [41:44](#) and [51:27](#))



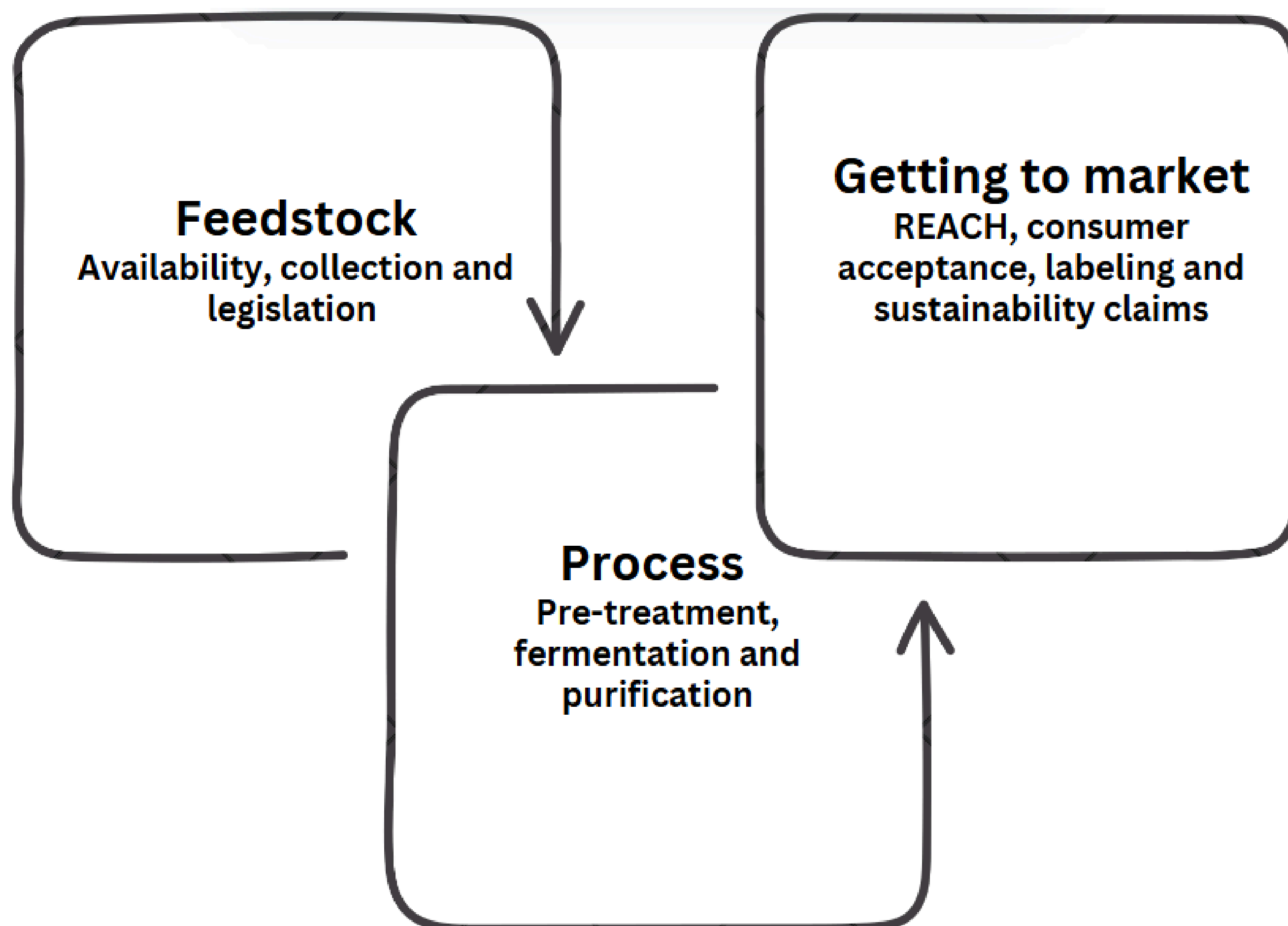
- Formulation testing of Waste2Func ingredients with both technical and consumer validation (video recording timing [41:44](#) - [51:27](#) - [01:01:46](#) - [01:11:22](#))
- Launched a prototype in home- and personal care containing Waste2Func ingredients (video recording timing [01:11:22](#))



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Turning Waste into Value - Lessons learned from the project with highlighted barriers and opportunities



The positive outcomes of the Waste2Func project have lifted most of TripleW and Amphistar's process barriers.

Nonetheless, to reach the next stage of getting to market, the project partners and representatives of CEFIC and EuropaBio highlighted clear **priorities for the EU deployment of turning Waste into Value** during the panel discussion (video recording timing 01:24:00):

1. Technology owners in need of a **clearer LCA framework** to compare apples to apples (petrochemical vs biobased vs complex mixture waste)
2. An **alignment on the regulatory and legal framework** surrounding **waste valorisation** to bring consumers relevant messaging and claims.
3. An update of the **REACH legislation to be aligned with the cosmetic directive** and the animal testing requirements.