

## **Independent research performed by Aquateam COWI AS as a research institute**

Aquateam COWI AS is an independent research institute and a fully owned subsidiary of COWI AS. Aquateam COWI conducts applied research within the water and environmental sectors, focussing on the development of new and improved sustainable solutions. The company's scientists aim to identify environmental challenges at an early stage and use their extensive experience and skill to fill the knowledge gaps and deliver essential research-based knowledge.

The external funding from COWIfonden is crucial for Aquateam COWI to maintain its status as a research institute recognised by the Norwegian Research Council. The funds from COWIfonden are used for preparing research proposals for national and international projects, increasingly also EU projects, and for dissemination of research results. Aquateam COWI has a strong focus on value creation, not only for their partners, but also for society, and continues to disseminate new knowledge and research results through e.g., journal articles, courses, and presentations on international conferences, as an integral part of its R&D activities. The funds are also used for independent, internal research projects, aiming to develop novel methods and gain new knowledge and expertise which cannot be covered by customers or public funds, but that are necessary to remain in front of the development. Thus, the support from COWIfonden gives Aquateam COWI a unique opportunity to perform cutting edge applied research, allowing the development of new methods and advancement of scientific understanding of subjects of particular importance within the water and environmental sectors.

Important areas of research for Aquateam COWI include

- resource recovery, including upcycling, and evaluation of possibilities for enhancement and end-use of food waste and sewage sludge;
- water, including water treatment, stormwater treatment, and water recovery from wastewater,
- bioenergy, including biochar and biogas production, and
- environmental issues, with research areas including e.g., micropollutants (microplastics, CECs, heavy metals), and ecotoxicological analysis.

Continuing to advance the research within the water and environmental fields, tackling climate change and moving towards environmental sustainability, is crucial in order to secure a sustainable future.