

### **On-site wastewater treatment: an option for Switzerland?**

The Eco-Naturkongress held in Basel on the topic of “Switzerland, the Water Tower in danger” included contributions from a number of Eawag scientists. In her presentation, Director Janet Hering emphasised the importance of knowledge and science in attaining the UN sustainable development goals. Eawag social scientists led a workshop on the potential of water sector forums for policy coordination in Switzerland. In another workshop, Eawag researchers addressed the question to what extent on-site wastewater treatment is a realistic option for Switzerland.

### **International dialogue at World Water Week in Stockholm**

Eawag scientists gave presentations and led workshops on water and sanitation at World Water Week in Stockholm. This event brings together international experts from academia, practice, industry and government. The Eawag delegates presented, for example, open-access e-learning formats which enable people around the world to participate in education programmes. Another session was concerned with improving emergency wastewater management.



Eawag delegates attending World Water Week in Stockholm.

## **Environment**

### **Cost and energy savings with mid-temperature network**

Eawag and Empa are further increasing the sustainability of their site's energy supplies. Heating supply flow temperatures are being reduced, better use is being made of on-site waste heat, and internal power generation is being maximised. To optimise waste-heat use, the two research institutes are constructing an underground thermal energy store. Work on the mid-temperature network was carried out in 2017. Energy efficiency refurbishment should allow lower temperatures to be used for heating. The new on-site district heating network operates with supply and return flow temperatures of 38 °C and 28 °C respectively. Buildings which have already been refurbished can be connected to the network without delay, and others can be connected when refurbishment is completed. The phase out of the existing high-temperature network (65 °C/40 °C) will reduce emissions and costs.



On the Eawag/Empa site, construction workers laid new pipes for the mid-temperature network.

### **Eco Team**

Eawag attaches great importance to environmental management. The Eco Team, whose members represent various departments, functions and sites, seeks to ensure that energy, consumables and other resources are used sustainably. It provides leadership and motivation at all levels, so that environmentally sound behaviour remains a way of life at Eawag.