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A growing waste line

THAMES WATER is aiming to turn Slough's sewage into fertiliser, writes *Kasmira Jefford*.

London's monopoly water provider announced a tie-up last week with Ostara Nutrient Recovery Technologies, a Vancouver-based firm that has Robert F Kennedy Jr on its board.

Under the deal, Thames has agreed to the building of a £2m plant in the Berkshire town. It will be equipped with Ostara's technology that extracts from the sewage works' waste water stream a sludge-like substance called struvite. This is rich in phosphorus, a key ingredient in fertiliser.

Ostara's equipment produces a chemical reaction that recovers 90% of the phosphorus in the sludge as well as ammonia. This is then turned into fertiliser, called Crystal Green, for use on crops or gardens.

Kennedy, who visited Slough sewage works on Wednesday, said: "The world's phosphorous will be gone within 30 years and here is a way of creating it locally."

Ostara, backed by Frog Capital, the London-based investor, will fund the building project, which is due to begin early next year.