

SPONGE2020 CONFERENCE

ABSORBING INSIGHTS FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION

09.30 - 15.30 Thursday 20th September 2018

This key international event on climate adaptation will focus on effective stakeholder engagement and our experience with community participation and co-designing of climate adaptation solutions.

The conference will bring together experts from local authorities, academics, property and water management professionals from across Europe, to share best practice in mobilising communities to support the implementation of urban and rural water management.



SPONGE2020 CONFERENCE - PROGRAMME

Time	Topic	Description	Speaker
09.30 - 10.00	Arrival and registration	Welcome to the Wat Tyler Green Centre in Basildon, which underwent a low carbon refurbishment in 2009. It is set within the Wat Tyler Country Park, one of the most important wildlife sites in Essex.	Georgina Wilson, founder of the BUD social enterprise will facilitate the day. Georgine is a social entrepreneur who supports leaders for positive change in business and community.
10.00 - 10.20	Welcome and introduction to SPONGE2020	SPONGE2020 is an EU funded project that brings together organisations from across Europe to tackle the water-related effects of climate change. Climate change is likely to bring increased risk of surface water flooding, which will need to be managed on a local and community level. Essex County Council and Southend-On-Sea Borough Council are organising this conference as delivery partners for SPONGE2020, an ERDF Interreg 2 Seas Programme running from 2016 to 2020.	Southend-On-Sea Borough Council
10.20 - 10.40	Case study - Stakeholder and community engagement in climate proofing social housing estates - lessons learned and what comes next?	Delivered as part of LIFE+ Climate Proofing Social Housing Landscapes and Thames Water Twenty4twenty programme, this project by Groundwork LDM aimed to deliver packages of low-cost retrofitted climate change adaptation measures across three housing estates in the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham in order to reduce these communities' vulnerability to climate change.	Groundwork LDN is a charity working locally and nationally to transform lives in the UK's most disadvantaged communities. They provide training and create jobs, reduce energy use and waste, re-connect people with nature and transform whole neighbourhoods.
10.40 - 11.00	Case study - the European perspective	As part of the SPONGE2020 project, the entire Agniesebuurt area of Rotterdam, including Zomerhofkwartier (ZoHo), will be made climate-proof. The ambition is to absorb or store all rainwater falling on the neighborhood, by replacing the sewer system and connecting rainwater drainage to infiltration facilities under the streets and squares. With the help of Interreg2seas, work is being done to work with tenants, owners, corporations, architects, interest groups to transform the district into a climate adaptive area.	Marc den Ouden, Water board of Schieland en de Krimpenerwaard, SPONGE2020 Partner.
11.00 - 11.10	Refreshment break		
11.10 - 12.25	SPONGE2020 Toolbox launch	The SPONGE2020 Toolbox pulls together insights from behavioural science and public sector marketing with proven practices in stakeholder engagement work. It provides local (water) authorities (partners and other actors) with tools to effectively mobilise local stakeholders in climate adaptation. In this presentation, the Toolbox will be presented, together with insights from pilot projects and participation meetings. This session will be followed by an interactive workshop with delegates, to demonstrate how the toolbox can enhance existing community projects. Delegates should bring details of the projects being worked on and challenges faced. The SPONGE2020 Partners will show how the Toolbox can help resolve these issues to drive successful projects.	Led by Wessel Tiessens, a Project Manager for the SPONGE2020 project, based in Leiden in the Netherlands.
12.25 - 12.45	Case study - effective communication for community engagement	This case study will showcase best practice in communicating the benefits of SuDs to local stakeholders.	Tom Warren and Annabel John from Copper Consultancy. Copper Consultancy advises clients on providing proactive communications and risk mitigation strategies, that create opportunities, add social value and build advocacy for projects.

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12.45 - 13.30	Networking buffet lunch		
13.30 - 14.30	Interactive Workshops. Delegates will have the choice of attending one of two workshops.	<p>Workshop 1 Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs) not only meet drainage needs, they can also deliver benefits for amenity, biodiversity, air and water quality, and many more. This workshop will focus on those added benefits and how they can be realised through integrated design. Chryse Tinsley will focus on multidisciplinary approaches to delivering SuDs across Leicester in the UK. Charlotte Markey will then present an introduction to Arborflow SUDs tree pit system and a brief overview of the Water Resilient Cities Interreg project. Their presentations will be followed by an interactive session, where groups will consider the SuDs components they would utilise to maximise the co-benefits of retrofitting SuDs.</p> <p>Workshop 2 Visualisation of sustainable water use for stakeholder engagement. Visibility plays a key role in trying to gain an understanding of the need to live sustainably and dramatically reduce climate change. In this interactive and dynamic workshop, Alice Dust will set out how to encourage awareness of, and meaningful responses to, climate change and environmental issues, through working alongside visual artists, creative technologists and scientists.</p>	<p>Charlotte Markey, from GreenBlue Urban, is a Project Coordinator for the Water Resilient Cities and Cool Towns 2Seas Interreg projects. Day to day, she liaises with local authorities across the UK providing design and policy consultancy and technical CPD training.</p> <p>Chryse is a SuDS enthusiast. She trained in architecture, landscape architecture and eventually environmental management. She is currently the SuDS champion for 2018. She works for Leicester City Council in the planning department. This provides lots of opportunities to work with developers on achieving better SuDs schemes; but she also works alongside the LLFA (lead local flood authority) on a range of wetland schemes.</p> <p>Alice Dust is the Director and Curator of Invisible Dust, an award winning charity that works with leading artists and scientists to produce unique and exciting works of contemporary art and new scientific ideas exploring our environment and climate change.</p>
14.30 - 15.00	Keynote talk.	Incorporating sustainable water management into our towns and cities.	<p>Dusty Gedge, President of the European Federation of Green Roofs.</p> <p>Dusty is a wildlife consultant, specialising in green roofs, urban ecology and green infrastructure and founder of the livingroofs.org website. He is a working group member of the EU Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services Working Group and he has worked on Green Infrastructure projects in the UK for the last 15 years.</p> <p>Biodiversity and birds on green roofs drew him into this work 20 years ago. Nature is at the heart of his work although he naturally deals with all the issues that cities face and how vegetation can help cities adapt to climate change.</p>
15.00 - 15.30	Wrap up and close	Thanks and closing remarks	Cllr Simon Walsh, Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste, Essex County Council.
15.30 - 16.00	Travel by free shuttle bus to Basildon Hospital		
16.00 - 17.00	Site visit to Basildon Hospital.	Site visit to Basildon Hospital to view the rain garden installed as part of the SPONGE2020 project. The visit will include time for networking over afternoon tea.	Hosted by Cllr Simon Walsh, Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste, Essex County Council.