



PRESS RELEASE
EMBARGOED UNTIL 00:01 17th JUNE 2009

THE CASE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

The European **Green and Blue Space Adaptation for Urban Areas and Eco Towns (GRaBS)**^[1] project, led by the TCPA^[2], has launched its first Expert Paper today at GreenBuild Expo^[3] in Manchester.

Professor John Handley, Chair of the GRaBS Expert Panel and Professor at the Centre for Urban and Regional Ecology at the University of Manchester, said:

“Climate change is already with us and the urban environment amplifies the impacts. Green and blue infrastructure has a substantial role to play in adapting our towns and cities to climate change and, as this paper highlights, policy responses are needed from an international and European level through to the national and local level.”

Speaking at the Greenbuild Expo conference, TCPA Energy Policy Manager Kate Henderson, the author of the paper, said:

“This first GRaBS expert paper sets out the case for climate change adaptation and, in particular, argues that people or places facing poverty and disadvantage must not be disproportionately affected by climate change, or by policy or practice responses to it.”

“Adaptation means learning to live with more extreme weather events and changing weather patterns, and preparing for other changes that are unavoidable. To succeed under a changing climate individuals, organisations,

and governments will all have to do some things differently. Through policy at all levels – international to local - there must be a clear consensus on the need for adaptation and climate change adaptation strategies must ensure decisive action.”

From Greece to Manchester, Lithuania to Austria, Italy to Sweden and Slovakia to Southampton the 14 partners, drawn from eight member states, represent a broad spectrum of authorities, climate change challenges and varying degrees of strategic policy and experience.

As this paper highlights, the impacts of a changing climate in Europe could be severe. Through study visits, sharing best practice and advancing the knowledge and expertise of partner staff in the GRaBS project, decision makers, politicians and communities, and regional and local municipalities across Europe, will be able to make a more informed and strategic response to climate change adaptation. In the long term communities will reduce their vulnerability to the environmental, social and economic damage related to climate change impacts including extreme temperature increases and flooding incidents, helping protect vulnerable coastal communities and those at risk of drought.

For an embargoed copy of the first [GRaBS Expert Paper: The case for climate change adaptation](#) please contact Kate Henderson (details below).

See www.grabs-eu.org for further information about the GRaBS project. The project has been co-financed by the European Union European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and made possible by the INTERREG IVC Programme.

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Notes to Editors

1. **History of the GRaBS project proposal** - Working with the two initial partners in the early part of 2007, the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) developed an outline GRaBS project proposal, which was presented to UK local and regional government in order to gauge interest in and relevance of both the project idea and the proposed European wide exchange of experience and knowledge. The TCPA decided to offer to take on the Lead Partner role for the new project and together with the **University of Manchester**, the **City District Geuzenveld Sloterveer** (Amsterdam), the **London Borough of Sutton** and **Southampton City Council** began the process of extended European partner search. The aim was to find partners with a range of interests, cultures, experiences and needs, located in a range of climate zones. Towards the end of 2007 the **Province of Genova, Etnambiente**, the **University of Catania** (Italy), the **City of Malmo** (Sweden), the **Municipality of Kalamaria** (Greece), the **Regional Environment Centre for Eastern Europe** (Slovakia), the **Region of Styria** (Austria) and **CORPI** (Lithuania) joined the project as partners. The **Northwest Regional Development Agency** (NWRDA) has recently joined the project. www.grabs-eu.org
2. The Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) is an independent campaigning charity calling for more integrated planning based on the principles of accessibility, sustainability, diversity, and community cohesion. The TCPA puts social justice and the environment at the heart of the debate about planning policy, housing and energy supply. We inspire government, industry and campaigners to take a fresh perspective on major issues including climate change and regeneration. www.tcpa.org.uk
3. Greenbuild Expo - <http://www.greenbuildexpo.co.uk/>