
Final Conference of the GRaBS Project
Green and Blue Space Adaptation for Urban
Areas and Eco Towns

Are you up for GRaBS?

Wednesday 8 June 2011

Regent's College Conference Centre ● London



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The climate is changing, but are Europe's towns and cities ready to adapt to the impacts?

From UN-HABITAT's new *Cities and Climate Change: Global Report on Human Settlements 2011*:

'In the decades to come, climate change may make hundreds of millions of urban residents – and in particular the poorest and most marginalized – increasingly vulnerable to floods, landslides, extreme weather events and other natural disasters. City dwellers may also face reduced access to fresh water as a result of drought or the encroachment of saltwater on drinking water supplies. These are the forecasts, based on the best available science. Yet none of these scenarios needs to occur, provided we act now with determination and solidarity.'

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General, United Nations

'Understanding the contribution of cities to climate change will help us intervene at the local level. With better urban planning and greater citizen participation we can make our hot cities cool again.'

Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT

Climate change adaptation is too often focused on biodiversity and the survival of ecosystems, and too little attention has been paid to the impact of extreme weather on our towns and cities and the social and economic devastation that this can cause. But there is good news! The GRaBS project partners have spent the last three years developing policies on the role of green and blue infrastructure in climate change adaptation in urban areas – not primarily for the biodiversity and ecosystem benefits, but for the benefit of the human population.

The 'multiple' benefits of green space and water management in towns and cities will be increasingly important; and this conference is your opportunity to learn first-hand from the latest thinking in Europe and our experience of what can be achieved. It provides an opportunity for local, regional, national and European policy decision-makers and practitioners in fields relating to planning for climate change to discover and discuss the outcomes of the GRaBS project, which include:

- raised awareness and increased expertise of key bodies responsible for spatial planning and development on how green and blue infrastructure can help urban areas adapt to projected climate change scenarios;
- the integration of climate change adaptation into local and regional planning and development, and increased co-operation among key players, via the development of Adaptation Action Plans;
- an innovative, cost-effective and user-friendly Risk and Vulnerabilities Assessment Tool, to aid strategic planning of climate change adaptation responses;
- improved stakeholder and community involvement in planning, delivering and managing green and blue infrastructure in new and existing urban development; and
- Expert Papers, an international good practice Case Study Database, and Policy and Briefing Papers.

At this conference GRaBS partners will share their experience in developing climate change adaptation strategies, Adaptation Action Plans and High-Level Policy Statements with decision-makers, politicians, practitioners, community groups and individuals with a responsibility for, or interest in, climate change adaptation in our towns and cities.

All delegates are invited to attend the GRaBS Evening Reception, which will take place on the Pavilion Terrace of the House of Commons from 19.00 to 21.00.

For more information, visit the GRaBS website at www.grabs-eu.org, or contact Henry Smith (Project Assistant) at Henry.Smith@tcpa.org.uk or on +44(0)20 7930 8903.

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programme

Jointly Chaired by **Professor John Handley OBE** and **Diane Smith**

- 9.15** **Registration and Coffee**
- 9.45** **Welcome and Introduction from the Chair**
Introduction and Outline of the Day's Proceedings
- 9.50** **Keynote Address**
Lord Henley, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Government Spokesperson, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- 10.15** **The Challenge!**
- 10.20** **The Context for GRaBS – Climate Change Impact on Urban Areas**
Professor John Handley OBE, Emeritus Professor and Member of the Centre for Urban and Regional Ecology, University of Manchester
- 10.40** **The GRaBS Project – An Overview**
Diane Smith, GRaBS Project Manager, TCPA
- 11.00** **Discussion**
- 11.10** **Coffee**
- 11.30** **Adaptation Action Plans – What Are They and Why Are They Important?**
Dr Jeremy Carter, Research Fellow, Centre for Urban and Regional Ecology, University of Manchester
- 11.45** **Presentation by Province of Styria**
- 12.00** **Presentation by Province of Genoa**
- 12.15** **Discussion**
- 12.30** **Community Involvement – Why Is It Important for Adaptation?**
Age Niels Holstein, Programme Manager, Amsterdam City District of Nieuw-West
- 12.45** **Presentation by Southampton City Council**
- 13.00** **Presentation by REC Slovakia**
- 13.15** **Discussion**
- 13.30** **Lunch in Regent's Park (*weather permitting*)**

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- 14.30** **Key Outcomes of GRaBS – I: The Risk and Vulnerabilities Assessment Tool**
Demonstration: **Richard Kingston**, Director of Undergraduate Studies and Lecturer in Spatial Planning & GIS, University of Manchester
- 14.45** **Key Outcomes of GRaBS – II: High-Level Policy Statements and Collaborative Working**
Dr Hugh Ellis, Chief Planner, TCPA
- 15.00** **Workshops (*delegates should express a preference on the booking form*)**
Workshop A Adaptation Action Plans
Led by **Jeremy Carter**, Research Fellow, Centre for Urban and Regional Ecology, University of Manchester
Workshop B Community and Stakeholder Involvement
Led by **Age Niels Holstein**, Programme Manager, Amsterdam City District of Nieuw-West
Workshop C The Risk and Vulnerabilities Assessment Tool
Led by **Bill Clark**, Sustainability Manager, Southampton City Council
- 16.00** **Coffee**
- 16.30** **Workshop Feedback**
- 16.45** **Expert Papers**
The Green Space Factor
Dr Annika Kruuse, Project Leader, Institute of Sustainable Urban Development, City of Malmö
Transport and Climate Change
Professor Giuseppe Inturri, University of Catania
- 17.00** **The GRaBS Project and its Achievements**
Elena Ferrario, Joint Technical Secretariat, INTERREG IVC
- 17.15** **Closing Remarks**
- 17.20** **Finish**

CPD

Attending this conference counts for 5 hours towards your Continuing Professional Development

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booking form

Please return this form to: Michael McLean, TCPA,
17 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AS
Email: Michael.McLean@tcpa.org.uk
Fax: +44 (0)20 7930 3280

Confirmation of your booking, a map and directions will be provided on receipt of the booking form. Please complete a **separate form** for each delegate.

All delegates are invited to join the Evening Reception on the Pavilion Terrace of the House of Commons. **For security reasons you must indicate on this form if you will be attending.**

Delegate details:

Name: _____

Job title: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Dietary/access requirements: _____

Event attendance (please tick appropriate box):

I will attend the Conference **and** the Evening Reception

I will attend the Conference **only**

I will attend the Evening Reception **only**

Workshop choice (please tick appropriate box):

A: Adaptation Actions Plans

B: Community and Stakeholder Involvement

C: The Risk and Vulnerabilities Assessment Tool

CPD:

Please tick if you require a CPD certificate

Attendance fees (please tick appropriate box):

GRaBS Project Members and Invitees **Free**

TCPA members £50 plus VAT = £60

TCPA membership number: _____

Non-members £100 plus VAT = £120

Payment details:

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ payable to Town & Country Planning Association, **or**

Please debit my credit card:

Mastercard Visa

Card no.: _____

Expiry date: _____

Security no. (last 3 digits on back of card): _____

Cardholder's name and address if different from delegate details: _____

Postcode: _____

Invoice details:

Accounts contact name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Please tick if you require a VAT invoice

Payment in advance would be appreciated

Terms and conditions:

Please note that **bookings are subject to cancellation charges** at the following rates: cancellation 5 working days or fewer before the event – 100%; 6-15 working days – 50%; 16-20 working days – 25%; 21 working days or more – 10%. Working days are Mondays to Fridays, excluding bank holidays. **Please confirm cancellations in writing.** Substitutions can be made at any time.

I have read and understood the terms and conditions.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Data protection: The details you provide will be held on the TCPA database. Occasionally they may be made available to third parties for marketing purposes. If you do not want your details to be passed on to third parties, please tick the box to the right

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GRaBS

The GRaBS (Green and Blue Space Adaptation for Urban Areas and Eco Towns) project is a network of leading pan-European organisations involved in integrating climate change adaptation into regional planning and development. The 14 project partners, drawn from eight EU Member States, represent a broad spectrum of authorities and climate change challenges, all with varying degrees of strategic policy and experience. The GRaBS project partners are:

Austria:

- Provincial Government of Styria

Greece:

- Municipality of Kalamaria

Italy:

- Etnambiente SRL
- Province of Genoa
- University of Catania

Lithuania:

- Klaipeda University Coastal Research and Planning Institute

Netherlands:

- Nieuw-West City District of Amsterdam

Slovakia:

- Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe, Country Office Slovakia

Sweden:

- City of Malmö

UK:

- London Borough of Sutton
- Northwest Regional Development Agency
- Southampton City Council
- Town and Country Planning Association
- University of Manchester



The GRaBS project has been co-financed by the European Union's Regional Development Fund and made possible by the Interregional Cooperation Programme INTERREG IVC, which helps Regions of Europe work together to share experience and good practice in the areas of innovation, the knowledge economy, the environment and risk prevention.

For further information about the GRaBS project, visit <http://www.grabs-eu.org>



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