

Sustainable Urban Drainage Workshop

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The following organisations were represented either directly or by consultants at the workshop:

Environmental Regulators, Sewerage Undertakers, Landscape Architects, Lawyers, Government Departments, Contractors, Software Developers, Local Authorities (as Highway, Building Control, Planning, Land Drainage Authorities or as Sewerage Agents).

What does sustainable mean?

- Low environmental impact
- Affordable
- Acceptable
- Maintainable
- Buildable
- Safe
- Predictable
- Adaptable

Some perceived positive points:

- Low cost – in construction and full life
- Should encourage rapid planning agreement
- Positive impact on water resources
- Reduced uncontrolled urban flooding
- Less stream erosion and water quality improvements
- Green credentials of developer and development are enhanced

Some perceived negatives (barriers to uptake)

- Doubts over whether SUDS will be adopted (e.g. by Highway Authority)
- Revenue negative for water companies – complex cost benefits
- No design guidelines along the lines of Sewers for Adoption
- Planning process does not encourage SUDS
- EA has no clear policy (unlike SEPA)
- Old and poorly designed systems have not worked well
- There is inertia to be the first to try something new
- There can be construction difficulties – low skill base with consulting engineers and contractors

Actions to increase uptake

1. WaPUG user note on how to model/design SUDS
2. Local Authority staff present must raise awareness in planning departments
3. Consider including more SUDS in revision of Sewers for Adoption
4. Consider including more SUDS in revision of Building Regulations
5. Investigate status of British/European Standards
6. Consider new 'SUDS for Adoption' document – involve CSS, IBC, LGA, CIWEM, EA.

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