

Information about the lecture

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City of the Future

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Content

We now have an array of policies, protocols and projects that our sector has helped to develop and deliver including work by the EU on nature-based solutions. But most would admit we haven't been as successful as we would have liked in terms of enacting them and we need to do more to bring green infrastructure into the mainstream – as a critical infrastructure that is planned and designed as other city infrastructure systems including energy, transport, water and waste. Most indicators show habitats and species continuing to decline at alarming rates, health problems continuing to get worse, especially in our cities and urban areas, and the impact of climate change on the increase and creating unacceptable and intolerable conditions for many in our cities and urban environments with the economic costs of this on the increase.

Global research has informed us that the natural world, its biodiversity and its constituent ecosystems are critically important to our well-being and economic prosperity. We know too that it is consistently undervalued in conventional economic analyses and decision making and in the planning and design of many urban strategies and projects. Powerful and growing global research in this area is delivering an understanding of the significant social, economic and environmental benefits of green infrastructure in terms of its multi-functional qualities to:

a) engender health and well-being for people and biodiversity and:

b) tackle the effects of climate change.

A critical challenge therefore, is how we can more successfully deliver greener infrastructure. Delivering more will provide more exemplars, examples and case studies where benefits can be measured to persuade a greater move towards nature-based solutions as the mainstream way of carrying out projects. Using examples from around the world this presentation examines how we can better deliver and implement green infrastructure projects. This includes the critical role that that all components of our cities can play to a healthier and resilient future with an emphasis on the role that buildings can play in this process