



The ISSUES Project

Implementation Strategies for Sustainable Urban Environment Systems

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The Role of ISSUES



Within SUE

Work with the SUE consortia to share good practice
Develop a critical appraisal of knowledge exchange methods

Within industry

Through interviews and surveys, develop an understanding of how industry could better access and use research findings to inform working practices

Policy and Government

Investigate the ‘funding – research – policy – application’ cycle to identify how to make more effective links between each group
Advocacy and broad dissemination of completed outputs from SUE research

Knowledge Applications



Useful? -

Is the knowledge and outputs generated by academics addressing a problem that is useful to end users?

Useable? -

Is the work in a format that is accessible to end users and is the dissemination timely?

Used? -

Have the results been used by end users and have these results contributed to changes in practice or policy?

Outline



The ISSUES project aims to improve dissemination and knowledge exchange between SUE researchers, policy makers and practitioners

- What have we done?
- What have we found?
- How can ISSUES support SUE groups to share good practice and work together?



Sharing Exemplars Across SUE



- The SUE1 programme has produced excellent research, and SUE2 will build on this research base
- There has been comprehensive engagement with Project Partners within the SUE programme, with genuine knowledge exchange
- There are also very good examples of successful dissemination strategies within the SUE programme
- Such examples should be recognised and publicised so that others can learn from them
- **This event and our proposal for a cross-SUE KE group will enable such cross-SUE sharing and benefit**

How did we start?



Research to inform project strategy

- Interviews with SUE PIs and Researchers
 - Interviews with a wide range of stakeholders
 - Knowledge matrices to show perceptions of KT/KE
 - Events to bring researchers and end-users together
 - Review of experience and good practice used by others working in field of KT/KE



SUE Interviews



- Structured Interviews held with SUE1 Principal Investigators
- Interviews (still ongoing) with SUE2 PI's
 - Interviews with some project partners
 - Requests for lists of all outputs from SUE1 projects
 - Request for summary of key outputs from SUE1 projects



SUE Interviews



What has the data been used for?

Interviews with PI's:

identified key barriers and issues surrounding KT / KE for SUE consortia, and compared these issues with the barriers / issues raised by end-users

SUE Key Output summaries:

these are being used in meetings to showcase to policy maker and practitioner audiences, e.g. Government Chief Scientific Advisors, DfT, SDRN, LGA, professional bodies and so on.

SUE Output Categorisation:

identified main groupings of output types and compared these with outputs types cited by end-users as sources of new knowledge for their professions



Initial Findings



- Good KT practice is better described as 'Knowledge Exchange' and should be two-way.
- KE is more effective if engagement starts early in the research cycle.
- It may be hard to involve end-users in research. However, 'co-creation' of knowledge can improve the relevance of the research and increase likelihood of uptake.
- KE is often very effective through people exchange.
- Some funding, institutional and evaluation structures make it harder for researchers to spend time on KE.



Knowledge Supply: Practitioner vs SUE perception



Knowledge SUPPLY assessment

Aims	Not clearly defined	Adequately defined	Clearly defined
Targets	End users not identified	End users identified	End users fully engaged
Context	Not explained/implicit	Understood and explained	Well understood, explicit, and explained
Interaction with peers	Limited interaction	Regular interaction	Regular two way interaction
Interaction with potential users	Occasional lectures/ad hoc meetings	Provides/reviews research content	Full engagement commu
Dissemination	Specialist journals	Not limited to journals	Wide range of me
Networks and Capacity Building	Informal support	Coordinated approach	Fully integ

Practitioner/ end user perception

SUE consortia perception

Knowledge Demand: Practitioner vs SUE perception



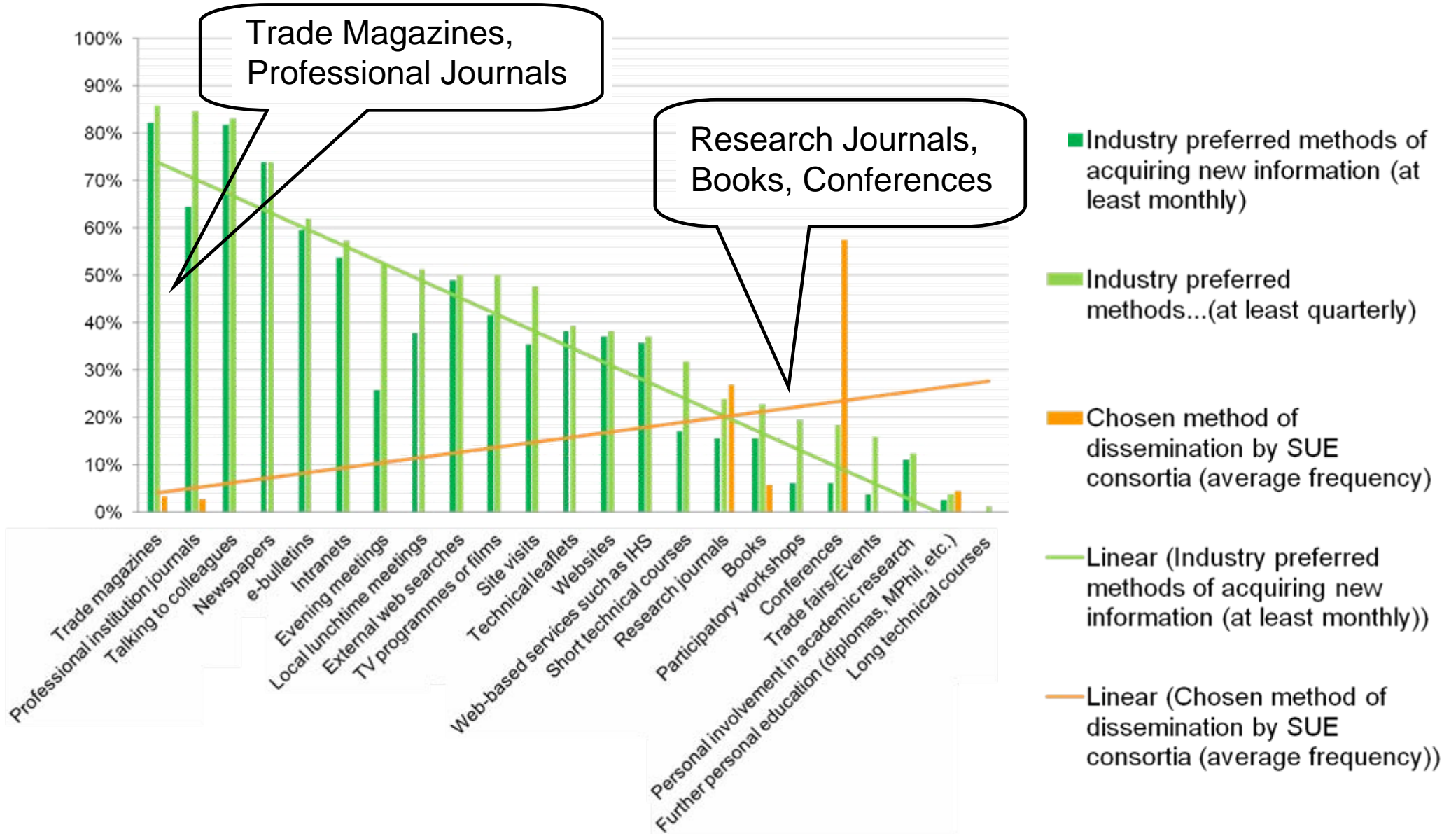
Knowledge DEMAND assessment

Needs	No clear idea	Some idea	Clear and expressed idea
Plans	No knowledge development plan	Some separate plans in place	Well integrated plans in place
Working Practice	Not coordinated/seldom reviewed	Coordinated and reviewed	Well coordinated and regularly reviewed.
Interaction with research	Limited interaction	Passive interaction	Active involvement
Knowledge drivers	Developing new knowledge is not important	Developing new knowledge is important	Developing new knowledge is fundamental
Knowledge acquisition	Limited number of inaccessible channels	Range of channels	Broad range of channels

Practitioner/ end user perception

SUE consortia perception

Industry preferred methods compared to SUE dissemination methods



Dissemination messages from practitioners



Personal interest is a key driver; however, this is limited both by lack of accessible research outputs and by lack of time and funding provided by employer

Publish articles in trade magazines and national press, and advertise links to coherent web pages

Aim technical journal papers at Professional Institution publications rather than pure research journals

Involve established networks of practitioner and training bodies, such as CIRIA, to provide tailored workshops

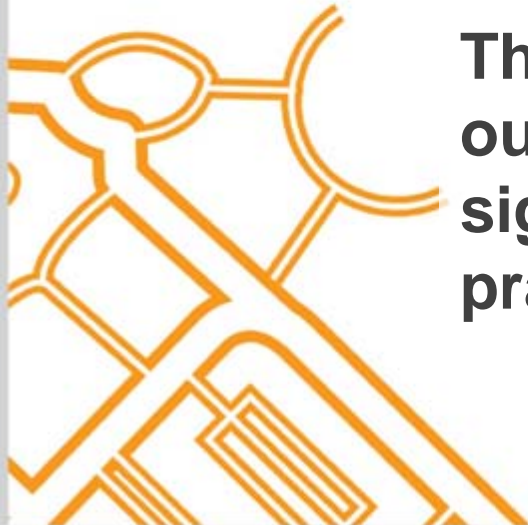
Summary of key messages – so far



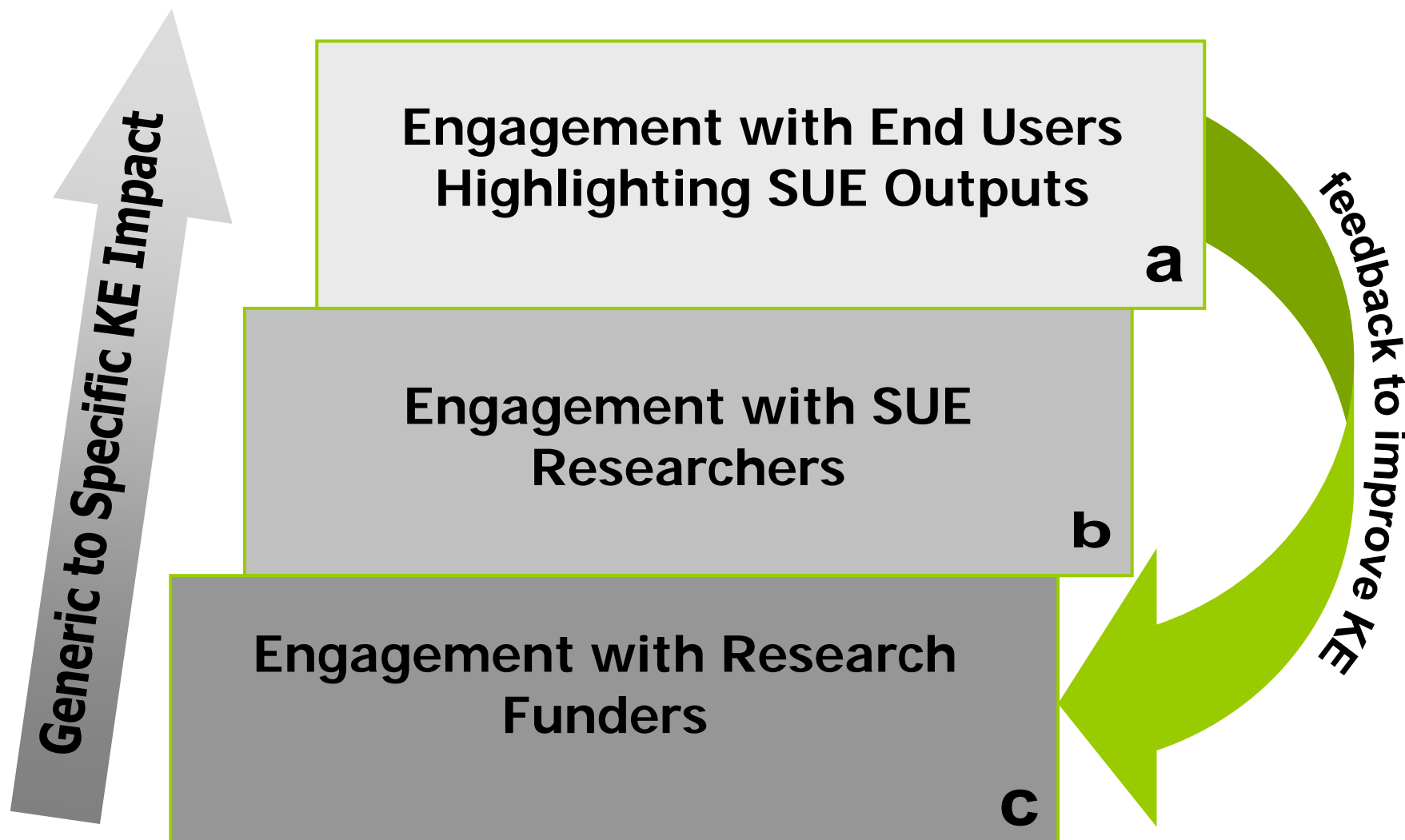
The design of the SUE programme was novel, forcing partnerships between academia and industry

The research arising from SUE, where Industry was actively involved, is important, high quality and exemplary.

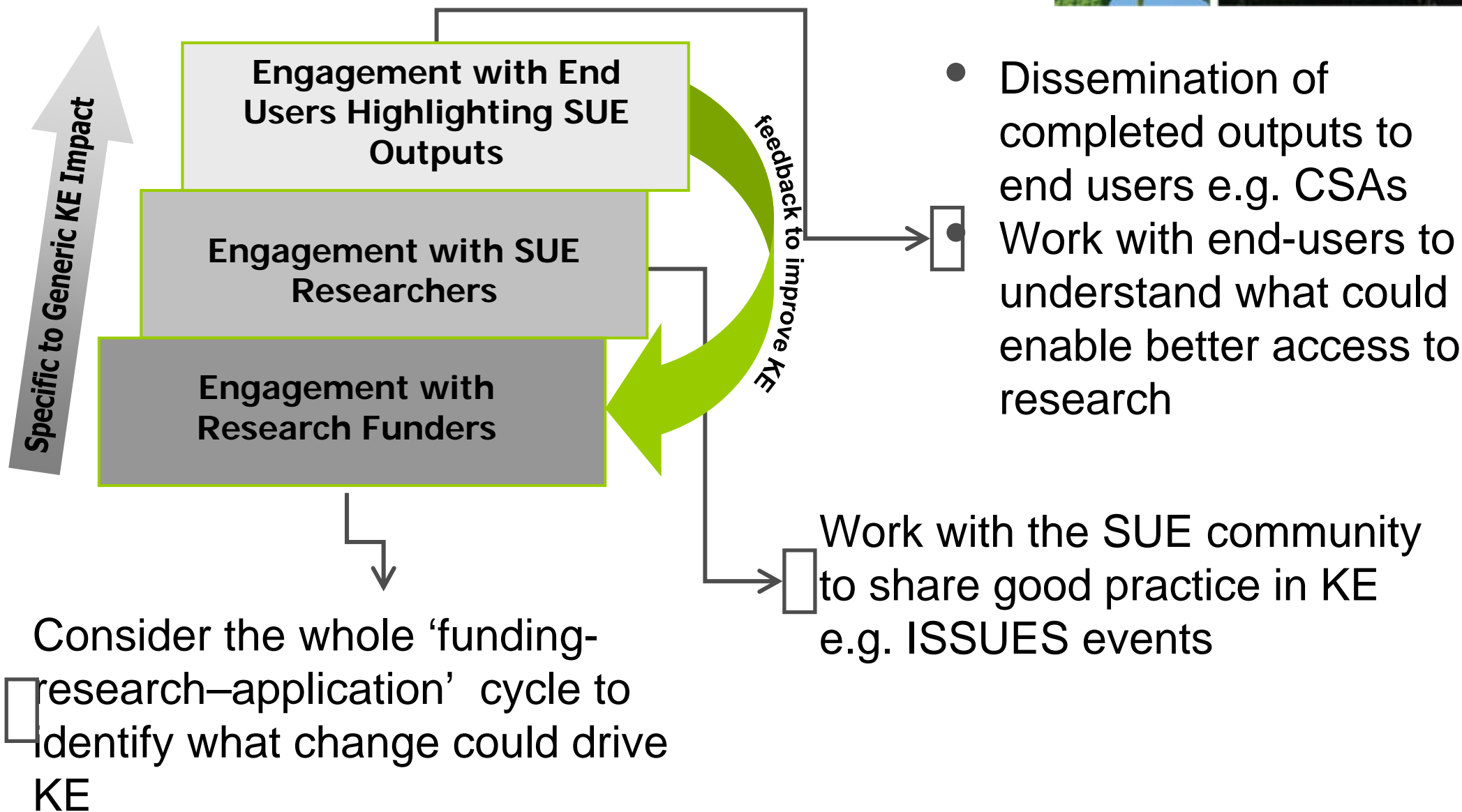
There remains a concern as to whether the outputs from the research will have a significant impact on widespread policy and practice, at least in a reasonable time frame



Project Strategy: Improving KE at 3 levels



Project Strategy: Improving KE at 3 levels



a

Highlighting SUE Outputs to End-Users



- **Distilled key findings** from all 12 SUE1 projects
- ISSUES team, steering group & advisors have **listed key audiences to approach** with these
 - Ask practitioners/policy makers **what needs to happen** to make research more useful and more accessible to them
 - Set up face to face meetings to highlight SUE research and **signpost policy makers, practitioners** and other end-users to relevant outputs



a

Encouraging links between SUE researchers & end-users



Invitation to present SUE findings through LARCI and the LGA

We have been offered the opportunity to trial subject-specific seminars through LGA at which SUE researchers will have the opportunity to meet their relevant practitioner audiences.

Let us know if you would be interested in such a seminar that included your research area.

b

Support KE across SUE Groups



ISSUES proposes to set up a cross-SUE KE Group

- Proposal supported by EPSRC and ISSUES Steering Group
- ISSUES will consult on how to ensure the cross-SUE KE group can add value to each SUE2 group
- The group will have access to expert speakers and those working in the field of knowledge brokerage
- Some funding may be available to enable attendees to act on KE good practice for the benefit of their SUE group

b

Support KE across SUE Groups



ISSUES events to facilitate information sharing

- **EPSRC-ISSUES SUE Workshop**,
September 21st 2007, ICE, London
- **Ebbsfleet Valley Challenge**
April 15th 2008, Ebbsfleet Valley
 - **ISSUES 2 ISSUES: "Transferring knowledge into practice"**
May 15th 2008, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh
 - **SUE Community: Good practice in Dissemination**
November 10th 2008, ICE, London



C

Support KE through Funding structures



ISSUES will contribute to the SUE3 call

- Drawing on project findings to date and on the experience and good practice from other sectors
- Dialogue with EPSRC about drivers for KE and how these might be promoted at the grant-making stage for SUE3 and for other relevant programmes



What next?



- Talk to us about the Cross-SUE KT Group
- Let us know if you would like to be part of an SUE / LGA / LARCI seminar relevant to your research area
- Tell us what else would help your consortium
 - Contact us to give your views on how to improve KT / KE at the research / policy interface:

kt-sue@hw.ac.uk or
www.urbansustainabilityexchange.org.uk

Thank you

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Thank you