



The
ISSUES
Project



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



Engineering and Physical Sciences
Research Council

“Everyone can think of a building they hate, a street that really depresses them, or a place where they'd call in the bulldozers. People don't need to be told when the built environment around them isn't working - they already know.”

THE ISSUES PROJECT

About 90% of the UK population live in urban areas, and urban sustainability is a prime issue. Everyone wants such communities to become more sustainable but how do policy makers and professionals know what really works? What knowledge, technologies and processes are needed? What is available and where is it? And where are the gaps?

In short, what are the implementation strategies for sustainable urban environment systems?

EPSRC's Sustainable Urban Environment (SUE) Programme is a major initiative to help answer these questions. It is providing £22 million for research consortia at over 30 UK universities and involves more than 120 project partners. The SUE consortia undertake strategic research that provides knowledge, tools and evidence to support the UK's sustainability policy and practice.

The principal Knowledge Transfer component of EPSRC's Sustainable Urban Environments Programme is the **ISSUES Project: "Implementation Strategies for Sustainable Urban Environment Systems"**.

URBAN SUSTAINABILITY EXCHANGE

The ISSUES Project has four main activities:

- Showcasing SUE Research findings for policy makers and practitioners
- Identifying and communicating the research needs of policy makers and practitioners to researchers and funders
- Enhancing knowledge transfer and knowledge exchange activities
- Establishing an ongoing knowledge exchange between end-users, researchers and research funders

The outputs from the ISSUES Project will be brought together through the establishment of the **Urban Sustainability Exchange** to provide an effective communication and knowledge exchange between those responsible for the delivery of a sustainable urban environment and those undertaking research to find innovative ways of achieving it. The Urban Sustainability Exchange will also help policy makers and practitioners to develop a better understanding of what really works, and to voice their requests for any further research needs.

"We all want to live and work in a more sustainable environment, but how do policy makers and practitioners know what works in practice?"



THE PROJECT TEAM

The ISSUES Project is a collaboration between Heriot-Watt and Cambridge Universities, and is led by Professor Paul Jowitt. It is funded by EPSRC and will run for four years up until 2010. The ISSUES Team includes:

Paul Jowitt: Professor of Civil Engineering Systems at Heriot-Watt University and Director of the Scottish Institute of Sustainable Technology. Paul has 30 years experience of bringing systems level solutions to the fields of civil engineering and sustainable development. Non-executive Director of Scottish Water and Vice-President of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) and author of the 6th Brunel International Lecture – “Engineering Civilisation from the Shadows”.

Peter Guthrie: Professor in Engineering for Sustainable Development and head of the Centre for Sustainable Development at the University of Cambridge in the areas of the built environment, energy, transport, water and waste management. Peter brings 30 years’ experience of the private sector in civil and environmental engineering to the university research agenda. He is a member of Defra’s Scientific Advisory Committee.

Kate Beckmann: Project Manager of the ISSUES Team and based at Heriot-Watt University. Kate has extensive experience in working with business on sustainable development issues and in managing project partnerships and stakeholder relationships. She is a member of the UK’s Sustainable Development e-advisory panel.

Heather Cruickshank: Senior Research Associate at the Centre for Sustainable Development at the University of Cambridge. Research interests include implementation of sustainable development concepts into large-scale community developments. Heather has 10 years industrial experience. She is a chartered civil engineer and Member of ICE and CIWEM. Other team members currently include **Gareth Oakley**, **Sam Hawkins** and **Keith Robertson** who between them bring additional knowledge of urban sustainability to the team.



THE SUE RESEARCH CLUSTERS

Four research clusters are presently supported within the SUE Programme.

URBAN AND BUILT
ENVIRONMENT

WASTE, WATER AND
LAND MANAGEMENT

METRICS,
KNOWLEDGE
MANAGEMENT AND
DECISION-MAKING

TRANSPORT

To find out more about the work of these clusters, please visit our website where you will find web links to all of the SUE research consortia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

PRACTITIONERS AND POLICY MAKERS

If you are a policy maker or practitioner working to deliver a sustainable urban environment, and have particular knowledge needs to help deliver this more effectively, please let us know.

RESEARCHERS

If you are a part of a SUE Consortium or are working in the area of sustainable urban development, and want some help in transferring your ideas and knowledge on sustainable urban environments to practitioners, please get in touch.

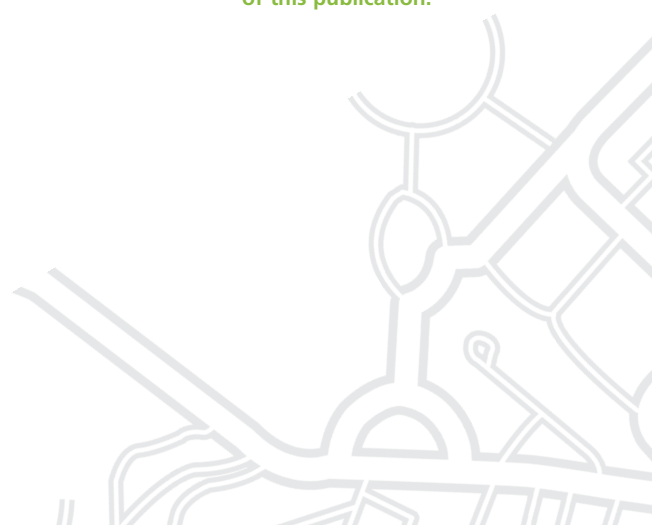
ALL STAKEHOLDERS

To see how the Urban Sustainability Exchange can help you in your work, please visit our website.

For any further information about the ISSUES Project, or to talk to a member of the ISSUES Team, please see contact details on the back of this publication.

“Our ignorance is not so vast as our failure to use what we know. ”

Dr M. King Hubbert, Geophysicist





Photograph by Angel Janer

The ISSUES* Project is the principal knowledge transfer component of EPSRC's Sustainable Urban Environments Programme. The overall objective of the ISSUES Project is to facilitate and strengthen knowledge transfer between researchers, practitioners and policy makers in the field of Sustainable Urban Environments.

The ISSUES Team are based at Heriot-Watt and Cambridge Universities.

The key outputs of the ISSUES Project will be brought together over the period 2007-2010 through the establishment of the "Urban Sustainability Exchange."

***ISSUES - Implementation Strategies for Sustainable Urban Environments Systems**

Kate Beckmann

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