



Water Resilience Summit

Totnes, September 2019

Mission Statement

The aim of the Water Resilience Summit is to initiate an **open, honest** and **inclusive** conversation about water resilience now and in the future.

We have assembled contributors ('resilience champions') from across the South West (and further afield) and from a wide array of backgrounds.

The challenge for them is to give a short 'keynote'-style talk/speech about one aspect of this conversation – we are going for what some (rather pretentiously) call 'thought-leadership'...

The audience will be mainly comprised of concerned citizens, local businesses and community representatives who all have worries, concerns or questions about the issue of water resilience (and resilience in general)...the event aims to provide a forum for the **exchange of information** and for the provision of emotional and practical inspiration/guidance/support...

The aim is for the speakers to give an honest appraisal of the situation as they understand it (including being prepared to openly admit that they 'don't know' in some cases).

We are seeking to reassure people, but not placate them or fob them off with platitudes – this has been identified as an emergency situation, but we neither want to scare people or perpetuate their perception that nothing is being done.

We are looking to speakers to give people hope and to empower them by answering their questions and offering pragmatic, practical advice on what can be done and, perhaps most importantly, what they can do to help – the event is intended to be a rallying-cry, a 'call to arms' ...the start of a new collaborative approach...

The opening session will be a series of 'provocations' to set the scene and lay down the challenge for the event and the coming months/years...

In each subsequent section of the programme, speakers have been 'curated' and sequenced to develop a clear narrative about each broad landscape type.

Each speaker is asked to focus on one element/aspect of the issue and is asked to speak in general terms about why that 'thing' is important, whether they consider it be resilient now, what the consequences of it not being resilient might be, and to set out a vision for what it will need to be like in the future if it is to withstand the challenges that lie ahead....

While the impacts of climate change mitigation and water resilience are of huge importance at a global, continental and national scale, this event is intended to be specifically about the people of the SW of England and the challenges we are facing now and in the next 10-20 years – it's about **us, in this place, now...**

Most importantly, speakers will highlight what steps they and others are taking/will need to take if this resilient future vision/scenario for this issue/'thing' is to become a reality (this may be research, practical action, behaviour change, economic transformation, policy change, etc, etc...) – it is an opportunity to showcase all the great work that is being done....and work out what proactive actions need to be implemented over the coming months and years...

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Registration & familiarisation –
Initial questionnaire

ARRIVAL & WARM-UP

OPENING STATEMENTS 10:00-11:00

Initiating an open and honest public conversation about water resilience and the need for a collaborative adaptive response...
Us, together, in this place, now...

- What does water resilient mean & how do we know if we are...?
- Waking up to the reality of a non-resilient future
- Responding to the declaration of a 'climate emergency'?
- Low resilience fear & anxiety – a therapist's view

Q&A 1: SELF-REFLECTION – HOW DO YOU FEEL?

- Soil health & management for ecosystem resilience
- Working 'upstream' to secure a resilient water supply-chain
- Regenerative farming in estate management
- Water resilient horticulture and gardening
- Research into drought risk & resilience

11:00-12:00

FARMLAND, SOIL & RIVERS

Our rural landscapes play a key role in protecting us and providing us with vital and life-supporting benefits ...
But are they resilient... what could/should they be like...?

Q&A 2: PAIRS & PLENARY

LUNCH & EXCHANGE 12:00-13:00

Continue the exchange of knowledge and enjoy some well-earned food and refreshments

- Visit the Community Resilience Hub – have your voice heard
- Sign-up to one (or more) of the 5x Water Resilience Challenges
- Become a citizen scientist or learn about water resilience

Q&A 3: THE SEARCH FOR ANSWERS

- Research to resilience: urban water management
- Working to create water resilient towns & cities
- The work of Community Resilience Forums
- Building community resilience with social capital
- Reconnecting with nature – creating 'river keepers'

13:00-13:50

URBAN LANDSCAPES

Our urban landscapes play a key role in protecting us and providing us with vital and life-supporting benefits ...
But are they resilient... what could/should they be like...?

Q&A 4: YOUR RESPONSE

UPLANDS & MOORS 14:00-14:50

There are many demands placed on our uplands and this pressure can reduce their ability to perform their vital functions – esp. regulating water as a resource

- Setting out a vision for resilient uplands & moors
- Restoring peatlands as a vital store of water
- Working with natural processes to reduce flood risk
- *Sustainable farming in the uplands ?*
- *Peat soil, carbon sequestration & biodiversity ?*

Q&A 5: YOUR RESPONSE

- Reducing flood risk in small coastal communities
- Research into coastal resilience to flooding
- Investing in resilience to protect coastal infrastructure
- Ocean City Pledge & City Marine Parks
- Creating a vision for resilient estuaries

15:00-15:50

ESTUARIES & COAST

These vital resources support the health, wellbeing and economies of many communities, large and small...
But can they cope with the pressures we place on them...?

Q&A 6: KEY QUESTIONS WORKSHOP

SUMMARY & NEXT STEPS 15:50-16:00

- Launching the Water Resilience Hub & a call to action...
- Final questionnaire



Water Resilience Hub
Community Resilience Challenge