

Nominee: United Utilities SuDS Adoption Project Team



Category	3. Outstanding Team
Nominators	Laura Bigley co-chair of the Association of SuDS Authorities

The SuDS adoption project team within United Utilities have driven the delivery of adoptable SuDS solutions within new development in the North West of England. Over the past three years they have helped facilitate and adopt three surface level infiltration solutions as well as assessing and agreeing to the future adoption of over thirty developments incorporating green SuDS.

They have changed the company adoption policy to only adopt surface water drainage systems as part of a holistic system when they incorporate green SuDS, which will also realise benefits of the 2007 review by Sir Michael Pitt, bringing clear ownership of drainage networks, despite the potential customer service risks within their regulatory responsibilities of sewerage undertaker.

In collaboration with the developer community, they have produced extensive supplementary guidance documents relating to their company approach for adoptable SuDS solutions and made them all readily available on web platforms, which has also helped planning authorities and has been signposted in a twice-yearly brief to all planning authorities.

United Utilities have embraced working with Lead Local Flood Authorities across the North West, including Lancashire, enabling excellence to be established in delivering advice to developers and consultants to maximise the potential of adoptable SuDS. An example of this is collaboration at their annual 'Developers Day'. They contributed to the development of the North West SuDS Pro-forma through the RFCC. The team has an 'open ears' approach to troubleshooting and working collaboratively with Local Authorities.

I am also aware the team has arranged an extensive business wide upskilling programme delivering over 2,500 hrs of SuDS training within the organisation which shows the commitment that United Utilities have in supporting nature based drainage solutions not just in the short term, despite the longer term uncertainty regarding their role as adopting authority for surface water drainage.