

Rising Star



Hiatt Jackson

Technology Research Manager

Flood Innovation Centre

Nominator: Giles Davidson

Head of Strategic Projects

Energy & Environment Institute

University of Hull

Since starting with the [Flood Innovation Centre](#) in 2019, Hiatt has been a passionate advocate of sustainable drainage, committing herself to communicating the benefits to stakeholders and the wider community.

Hiatt has organised and hosted workshops for small businesses to help them understand SuDS and the role they can play in developing and implementing effective SuDS. Hiatt has driven the development of the University of Hull's [SuDSlab UK project](#), an innovative SuDS infrastructure and monitoring initiative featuring a unique hydrological sensor array to evaluate performance. Hiatt's commitment, insight and enthusiasm has forged collaborations with global firms and small businesses to create unique opportunities around growing interest in SuDS and improved understanding of the benefits of blue-green infrastructure. A primary objective has been to involve construction companies in overseeing SuDS installation and maintenance to ensure they understand the function and purpose and can deliver effective SuDS throughout the asset lifetime.

Hiatt is also a champion for communication, engagement and education, having conceived, designed and built an interactive play-based learning tool, "SuDSi", for demonstrating how SuDS can help

achieve a flatter hydrograph curve in urban settings (<https://floodinnovation.co.uk/sudsi-hits-the-road/>). She has used SuDSi to communicate with partners and school children of all ages. A highlight was taking SuDSi to COP26 in Glasgow to share the benefits of SuDS with the wider international public and policymakers.

Hiatt has also presented the benefits of SuDS on several University education and training courses for professionals, businesses and postgraduate students, engaging with partners from regional water companies, local authorities and members of the community.

Working closely with community gardens organisations, Hiatt helps them understand how to use SuDS and rainwater harvesting to manage their surface water more effectively. She continues to work with these groups to help develop innovative, cost-effective ways to maximise the benefits of SuDS.