



Josh Rutherford

Drainage Engineer

Atkins

Nominator: Sophie Tucker
Area Engineering Manager
United Utilities

I believe that Josh is the best choice for the SuDS Rising Star award for his effective, and distinctive design approach to integrating SuDS into the school environment.

Drawing inspiration from unusual sources including the 'Donkey Kong' game, Chinese hillside paddy fields, the RHS Gardens and even the Pride movement, Josh enthusiastically champions the use of shape and colour within his designs to create interest and engagement, taking the schemes beyond what one would expect a SuDS scheme to be. He brings real eye-catching value to schemes being delivered by United Utilities in schools across the north-west, maximising the educational engagement.

In his approach, Josh specifically focuses on making runoff the centrepiece of the design rather than hiding it within assets, or conveying it underground whilst considering the stakeholder's desires and the health and safety aspects.

Josh is an active promoter of SuDS and Blue-Green Infrastructure, and his enthusiasm is evident. Internally delivering presentations on the designs he has developed through updates with the UU and Atkins project team, and externally giving talks on his project work to his colleagues and peers across the UK and Europe within the Atkins business, Josh has shared and demonstrated his excitement in creating best practice design of fun, amenity improving educational SuDS.

In showcasing his work and conveying his passion Josh has reached out, influenced and inspired a number of other early career Engineers and Technicians who have become interested in the discipline, and have begun working on similar projects as a result.

Josh continues to showcase examples of his designs where possible to inspire others both outside and within the industry. He continues to focus on achieving multiple benefits through SuDS implementation, and provide tangible social value having a positive influence on school children - the next generation of consumers.