MANAGING RAINWATER & MAXIMISING BENEFITS

The Greater London Authority has commissioned the Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA), Business in the Community (BITC) and Robert Bray Associates to develop concise and engaging guidance to support the better management of rainwater for buildings and surrounding estate for different sectors through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).

SuDS deliver a number of benefits, making our buildings and places more pleasant places to live, work and play. They can also help manage the risks of climate change, reduce our impact on the local environment and provide a number of additional benefits for everyone.

Sustainable drainage includes a wide range of components, from rain gardens, swales and wetlands to green/blue roofs and permeable pavements.

The sectors being considered include:

1. Education (schools and tertiary education)
2. Social housing
3. Health (mainly hospitals, care homes)
4. Open space/recreation
5. Retail
6. Offices
7. Industry (warehouses, factories, manufacturing, depots etc)

Desired outcomes

The guidance should inspire, inform and influence those that are responsible for managing buildings, estate and landscapes in the above sectors. It should encourage the delivery of SuDS by showcasing appropriate SuDS components, their benefits and provide some useful advice on how to effectively include them around buildings and estates relevant to the sectors.

In future weeks the Project Team will develop and share a survey to capture knowledge and experience. The GLA and project team would like to obtain input from those working in the sectors to obtain high quality images, case studies and information on delivery. They would particularly like information on key factors that support (or hinder) delivery, and details on the drivers/benefits of SuDS and whether there are specific funding opportunities for that sector. As well as supporting this exciting initiative this provides a fantastic opportunity to showcase any relevant good practice you may have been involved in or know of.

If you would like to know more about the project please contact Paul at CIRIA on 020 7549 3309 or paul.shaffer@ciria.org.