



UK Water Partnership newsletter

Issue No 1: Autumn 2022

Contents:

Welcome from Sarah Hendry CBE

Circulation of the UKWP 2022/23 Business Plan

Select our next strategic initiative at our annual event on November 15, 2022

Progress reports on key workstreams:

- Circular Economy
- Digital Water
- Water Resilience
- Capabilities Directory
- Test Facilities Register

News

- New website functionality
- Future meeting dates
- Membership events

Share your case studies

Welcome from Sarah Hendry CBE

Welcome to the first edition of a new series of newsletters designed to keep our members up to date with the latest news, views and developments from the UK Water Partnership.

Since rejoining UKWP as its Chair in July 2021, I am more convinced than ever of the vital role that our organisation can play in helping to tackle the unprecedented combination of water-related challenges we now face, in particular the growing impacts of climate change, both here in the UK and around the world.

As an inclusive, public-private partnership working across the value chain, we are uniquely positioned to provide the collaborative environment in which our water experts, innovators and entrepreneurs can develop the world class, sustainable solutions that the UK is renowned for.

It is this approach that has produced strategic research and actionable thought leadership that is shaping national policy and informing decision makers, as well as promoting the market-leading capabilities within the UK sector and its supply chain.

Our purpose, dating back to our launch in 2015, is to provide a strategic vision for the development and growth of the UK water industry, bringing a diverse sector and related organisations together, connecting people in a single, coherent alliance, promoting mutual understanding, cooperation and coordination.

Collaborative innovation relies upon constant dialogue and information sharing, and with this in mind, this series of newsletters will provide another communication channel to brief our members on our activities and to promote participation, mutual understanding and teamworking.



This first edition includes new on our new Business Plan, entitled Water First, a preview of our annual autumn event in November at which we discuss and select our next strategic initiative, and updates on our other focus areas, in particular our Circular Economy workstream, selected by members at last year's event.

We hope that you find the content interesting and informative. If you have any questions or feedback about the contents, don't hesitate to contact info@theukwaterpartnership.org

Sarah Hendry CBE, Chair, UK Water Partnership

Seeking your views on our 2022/23 Business Plan

Our draft Business Plan for 2022/23 – Water First – is currently being reviewed by the UKWP Leadership Council and Delivery Groups. All feedback will be received and processed by the end of October, with the final version circulated to all members during November.

The Plan describes how we will deliver each of our strategic initiatives over the next 12 months, and the actions we will take to expand the depth, breadth and diversity of our membership, to ensure that we increase our influence and serve our members' interests most effectively. We also outline a range of additional services and offers to be introduced to ensure that we maximise the value of UKWP membership – and to measure your satisfaction with our performance.

Select our next strategic initiative at our annual autumn event

All members are invited to join our annual autumn event on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, and to participate in the selection of our next strategic initiative. Hosted by our friends from HR Wallingford at their Howbery Park offices in Oxfordshire, and co-promoted by UKWP, British Water and Spring, this is a hybrid event enabling members to attend in person or virtually.

Speakers include:

- Sarah Hendry, UKWP
- Bruce Tomlinson, HR Wallingford
- Sandra Norval, Southern Water
- Dan Osborn, UCL
- Prof Ashleigh Fletcher, University of Strathclyde
- Dr Amy Pickard, UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
- Prof Andrew Tyler, University of Stirling
- Adrian Rees, Adrian Rees Consulting
- Tom Godfrey, Earth Change
- Deryck Irving, Hydro Nation

Following discussions within the Leadership Council, a short list of topics for discussion has been developed. These are:

- Water and nutrient neutrality
- Greenhouse gases



- Water resilient places
- Multi-capitals

The merits of each will be presented and debated before the selection is made by a members' vote. Details of the event, how to register, the venue, the programme for the day and how you can attend remotely are attached appended to this letter. Please contact Sarah Moxon S.Moxon@hrwallingford.com of HR Wallingford, to indicate your intention to attend, in person or virtually, by Wednesday, 9 November, 2022.

Progress reports on key workstreams

- **Circular Economy**
After agreeing our new Circular Economy strategic initiative in November 2021 and making good progress throughout 2022, the focus is now on convening stakeholders through a series of workshops to:
 - a) finalise a segmentation of circular water economy challenges and opportunity areas
 - b) develop a portal, digital platform or similar means of socialising these challenges and opportunity areas with a wider community, and
 - c) review, update and finalise a taxonomy associated with current thinking of the wider opportunities for the circular economy within the water sector (inputs and outputs).

We will also articulate the contribution that the circular water economy has towards achieving Net Zero, building on the previous work of UKWP and partners in this space.

- **Digital Water**
Together with our partners, we are exploring how digital capability in the UK can play an important role in addressing global water challenges, whilst driving growth in the UK water economy. This year, building on our Digital Water White Paper which identified key areas of commercial opportunity for the UK, we are moving into a new phase "Connecting our Efforts" on existing and emerging digital water activities and initiatives.

Initial activity focuses on securing wider collaboration in creating an exemplar of digital application in the Forth Environmental Resilience Array (ERA) catchment in central Scotland. Initial collaborating partners include University of Stirling, Aiimi, BIM4Water, British Water, Spring Innovation and UKWIR.

- **Net Zero**
UKWP is committed to:
 - setting out a simple, compelling explanation of the importance for society of achieving Net Zero
 - showcasing examples not just from the water sector but from food and agriculture
 - linking with other organisations to create a route map.

We know that Net Zero will be a key driver of global economic development in the 21st century. Investors and insurers are already pulling out of projects which are not consistent with Net Zero ambitions.



In our discussions we have reviewed:

- The need for Net Zero infrastructure
- The components of Net Zero
- The operating environment
- The type of carbon emissions in both capital and operational emissions
- Demonstrations that reducing carbon reduces costs
- The paper by Jon Rathjen 'Making a commitment to go beyond net zero' which sets out in detail the journey that needs to be undertaken
- Definitions to ensure an agreed starting point
- A wide range of case studies in particular an example from Anglian which illustrates the importance of supporting the SME community.

Following these discussions, the UK Water Partnership have worked with Jon Rathjen, from Scottish Government, to produce [a note explaining the importance of Net Zero](#).

- Water Resilience

Following the publication of our Water Resilience Capability Capture, in the coming year we will focus our efforts on disseminating this work, promoting visibility of UK capability on the international stage, gaining a better understanding of water resilience challenges and strategic areas of opportunity in target overseas markets.

We will also build an international community of water resilience practitioners and professionals. To help achieve these aims we will host a workshop and/or series of drop-in sessions in partnership with the Department for International Trade, focused on knowledge sharing and identification of major overseas opportunities for the UK supply chain. Following this activity we will set out our next set of work packages and themes.

- Capabilities Directory

This year, we will focus on improving the functionality and coverage of our UK Water Capabilities Directory, in partnership with the Department for International Trade, to help UK-based organisations improve their access to UK and international markets.

Key activities will involve promoting the directory through targeted communications campaigns, social media activity, events and conferences, and the many networks of membership organisations.

- Test Facilities Register

UKWP's publicly available and searchable register of testing and demonstration facilities in the UK has been transferred to our colleagues at Spring to develop the next iteration.

The Tapping the Potential report identified a clear need for researchers and developers to test new water technologies and processes in facilities that represent realistic deployment situations. There is already a wealth of research and testing facilities across the UK, but it has been historically difficult to locate information about such facilities. This register now allows technology researchers and developers to easily search and identify facilities that best meet their needs and to contact the owners and operators for access.



Any database is only as good as its core data and only improves with use. To help improve it, either by finding or adding a facility, go to spring-innovation.co.uk

News

New website functionality

- In 2021 the UKWP partnered with DIT to develop a capabilities directory to help UK based organisations improve their access to UK and international markets. The capabilities directory was piloted to collect case studies for the water resilience capability capture document, published earlier this year. Since the last round of meetings, we have been working to develop additional functionality in the capabilities directory, which is now live. The new enhanced directory is available here: www.theukwaterpartnership.org/initiatives/capabilities-directory
- In addition, a news button has also been added to the website to allow members to post news stories: <https://www.theukwaterpartnership.org/submit-a-news-story>

Future meeting dates

Invitations have been circulated for the following UKWP meetings. Each will be hybrid in-person, at Arup's London office, and online via Teams.

- UKWP November Event - 15/11/2022
- UKWP Winter Delivery Group - 17/01/2023
- UKWP Spring Delivery Group - 09/05/2023
- UKWP Summer Delivery Group - 05/09/2023

Membership events

National Leakage Research and Test Centre Workshops

Northumbrian Water is leading a consortium, including HR Wallingford, to develop the National Leakage Research and Test Centre, to reduce leakage and enable innovation. Workshops to design the system are to be held in November, coordinated by HR Wallingford. Interested parties will include universities, consultants, manufacturers and water companies.

Contacts for more details:

- A.Ball@hrwallingford.com
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For more information about NLRTC, go to

<https://www.hrwallingford.com/news/national-leakage-centre-receives-funding>



British Water Data Conference 2022

Date: 3 November 2022

Time: 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Location: London

The conference will be hosted as a face-to-face event, to facilitate networking and reconnecting with industry peers. Register here: <https://bit.ly/3CaH6jm>

Share your case studies and opinions

As a collaborative, enabling organisation committed to sharing best practice, we're keen to feature exemplar case studies that support and illustrate our workstreams. If you or your organisation has a case study that you believe demonstrates innovative approaches or solutions to the challenges within our workstreams, we'd be pleased to feature them on our website.

We're also looking for thought leadership material from our members. For example, if you have published a blog or article recently that adds to the debate on the important issues we are all wrestling with, please share it with us for our consideration and potential inclusion in our communications channels.

If you have a case study or thought leadership piece please send it to us at:
info@theukwaterpartnership.org