



Greening The Grey



What is Greening the Grey?

'Greening the grey' refers to greening up the hard engineered infrastructure that makes up our urban environment.

For travel, recreation and biodiversity it is critical that this green infrastructure is a functional network to provide recreational opportunities, improve accessibility within the urban area and to the surrounding countryside and with good design - enhances biodiversity.

At a European level, the concept of nature based solutions is often used as an umbrella term and covers use of green infrastructure elements that seek to achieve small scale local benefits up to tackling larger scale social issues of flooding, climate change and poverty.



A local example in local schools



Royal
Botanic Garden
Edinburgh



Scottish
Wildlife
Trust

Concrete in
the Classroom

ESALA

Edinburgh School of Architecture & Landscape Architecture



University
of Glasgow

An early joint public engagement project for the Edinburgh Shoreline involved a collaborative team focused on working with local schools, exploring coastal biodiversity by combining art, ecology, engineering and bio-geomorphology. Children designed and made tiles from concrete and strapped them to the coastal defences along the shoreline. The tiles which have been installed at Cramond are designed to encourage colonisation by marine seaweeds, barnacles, lichens and other species.



The Cramond Vertipools



Two *Vertipools* – bolt on rock pools - designed and constructed by Artecology were also installed on the sea defences at Cramond to demonstrate the principle of marine habitat creation in the intertidal zone.

In natural systems the intertidal can be extensive grading from sand dunes through strandline, saltmarsh and mudflats but this system is completely disrupted by vertical sea defences.

The artificial rock pools capture intertidal water to create habitat for marine organisms on a structure which would otherwise be very hostile to colonisation.



The tiles and rock pools are being monitored by the University of Glasgow and RBGE researchers.

London's Wild West End

In recent years common species have been in decline and it is recognised that more work is needed to protect and support London's wildlife.

This initiative is creating green stepping stones between the existing areas of surrounding parkland through a combination of green roofs, green walls, planters, street trees, flower boxes and pop-up spaces.

Priority species include the Black Redstart and the House Sparrow, once common in London.



Since 2013, the Crown Estate has created almost 3,000 square metres of green space across central London. This includes biodiverse green roofs, green walls, planters and pocket habitats on new developments and existing buildings. A secret allotment garden high above Regent Street was set up in 2016 where around 45 volunteer gardeners from Regent Street grow vegetables and flowers also supplying local restaurants with fresh ingredients.

From this ...

Temporary use of derelict vacant land (DVL) can improve the local amenity, create a social space, enhance biodiversity and offer space for people to grow their own veg.

One example of this is the

Granton Hub

where an office building now functions as a friendly arts and community hub in North Edinburgh where people can meet, participate, learn, create and enjoy a range of great activities.



To This ...



A fantastic shared green meeting place, with space to establish a wildflower nursery supplying plants to businesses, Councils, community groups and schools, currently growing a large number of coastal plants for projects along the Edinburgh Shoreline.





For more information on Greening the Grey please refer to:
<http://eprints.gla.ac.uk/150672/37/150672Full.pdf>

