

LCAG CONFERENCE

NEWSLETTER

WELCOME FROM THE LORD MAYOR

Following a welcome by Alison Gowman, the Lord Mayor, Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli, opened proceedings, keen to emphasise the progress made by the City Corporation through its Climate Action Strategy & proud to point out that London was the first city in the world to bring in a Clean Air Act. He closed with explanations of the role of the City in carbon pricing to encourage reduced emissions as well as innovating solutions such as photochromic paint on roofs to deflect heat absorption.

ALLAN BARTON SETS THE SCENE

Allan Barton threw down the gauntlet identifying the main challenges facing not only the City but also the world if we do not act to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

- Energy: is there a joined-up plan?
- Water: oceans will rise, are there enough reservoirs?
- Temperature: hotter summers lead to more forest fires, even in London.
- Skills: we don't have the engineers.

WALSALL ACADEMY

Walsall Academy, a member of the Mercers' Academy Trust, spoke about their response to the climate emergency. They both spoke & showed a BBC video about their school describing their Eco Club which highlighted their work. This included creating a new biodiversity garden which they maintained for wildlife & individual refreshment & urging the school authority to put solar panels on the roof. A wide range of small but meaningful community interventions were also described.



CONVENOR'S COLUMN

Alderman Alison Gowman

Thanks to so many of you who attended the 3rd Annual Conference in celebration of LCAG's third anniversary. This special Newsletter provides a report of the day with links to additional resources. I hope you enjoyed the Conference, found something to challenge you & found hope in solutions that might help.

My main takeaways were: the Livery is keen to keep being active; building on the excellent work with our affiliated schools seems popular & achievable; & there is a need to create climate action plans for every Livery so we all have a road map towards a sustainable net zero future. LCAG will be strategising at the end of November & will consider how we can respond.

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KEYNOTE: PROF. THOMAS WAITE

Professor Thomas Waite, the Deputy Chief Medical Officer for the UK drew the themes together with a warning of the health risks facing the UK as part of a warming world. Reports [UKHSA 2023](#) & [UKCCRA3 2021](#) outline many concerns but he concentrated on:

- 1 - Heat stroke occurs when core body temperature exceeds 40°C & leads ultimately to seizures. People over 70 are most prone & changes in building design & adaptation are required to mitigate this.
- 2 - Both drought & excess rainfall are problems that raise the risk of infections, eg Cholera, entering the body via the mouth (food or water). The global stock of vaccine against cholera had all been used earlier this year due to excessive demand. We need to prioritise animal husbandry, hygiene & sewage management.
- 3 - Vector-borne diseases eg via mosquitoes are also more worrying as temperatures rise. The Aedes mosquito (carries Zika, Dengue, Yellow fever) has now moved as far as the north coast of France. Tackling climate change is essential for health.

IN CONVERSATION WITH EMMA HOWARD-BOYD

Emma Howard-Boyd chaired the recent [London Climate Resilience Review](#). Adaptation and resilience of the urban environment are key and we need to learn from cities around the world.

The UK is not ready for the impact of extreme heat. London ran its first 'heat exercise' this year to plan for the risks. The City has been responding to the Review & looks to share its plans & solutions across London working with the Mayor of London & Government.

The UK also needs to get finance & insurance sectors involved with a notable role for private finance. The role of Liveries includes working with schools & caring for their property portfolios as well as reducing their own emissions.

We were fortunate to have support from many including: the Merchant Taylors who provided the Hall for free; the Mercers & Fuellers who supported some Arkwright Scholar students to attend; the Haberdashers who lent display boards; transport from GLH; & the City of London Corporation who paid for the AV.

Alongside great displays from the Institute of Physics, Institution of Environmental Sciences & Pollinating London Together, 5 schools presented displays which inspired us all: Walsall Academy, St Olave's & St Saviour's, Hugh Myddleton, Simon Langton & City of London School for Girls.

Finally, the Core Group who worked on this project for several months were exceptional with Dr Anne Punter & Stuart Mitchell being the key players as well as the chairs & facilitators of the panels. Many helped on the day to make sure everyone was in the right place.

Enjoy the Conference again in reading this newsletter.

NOTES FROM THE PANELS

Four themed panels discussed a wide range of issues facing the City & beyond that need to be addressed if we are to achieve a resilient future. Key takeaways are outlined here:



WATER

Prof Carolyn Roberts, Tim Munday & Dr David Lloyd Owen

- UK Water is aiming to be carbon neutral by 2030 requiring £105bn investment.
- Water poses a 'wicked problem' with no understanding of the solution.
- London currently has 100 'water stress' days pa. 360 days is the worst-case scenario.
- Better regulation could drive progress with the City having a big role to play.
- Practical opportunities include slowing water flow, urban drainage systems, blue roofs & the separation of foul & clean water systems.



ENERGY

Prof Averil Macdonald, Ashutosh Shastri & Jon Clark

- The London Clean Air Act sees smoke & sulphur displaced to Wales (the UK displaces to China).
- Challenge is in achieving net zero by electrification & the potential of hydrogen.
- Energy security has brought energy resilience into sharp focus. The UK's priority should be to scale-up low carbon tech & the City should focus on optimising the built environment & positioning London as the centre for energy tech.
- Transition will require significant capital – in excess of £100bn.



BIODIVERSITY

Dr Heather Barrett-Mold, Ben Bishop & Dr Cristina Banks-Leite

- Species extinction, climate change & biodiversity loss are linked via extreme weather events.
- City green spaces need protection. Urban temps are 7°C higher than countryside.
- 40% of London's canopy is Plane trees. Pests, pathogens & heat stress impact these. 2nd guessing what trees will survive/thrive in 20 years is key.
- Tech is increasingly important in monitoring change with processing now using AI.
- Mechanisms to increase biodiversity include 'Biodiversity Net Gain' & 'Nature Recovery' strategies.



SKILLS

Alex Hughes, Faiza Khan & Simon Sadinsky

- Skills pipeline issues affect all sectors especially where the nature of the skills requirements is still evolving: currently 90% don't require a degree.
- CoLC & Liveries can support via bursaries to overcome challenges & providing opportunities thus increasing confidence & social mobility.
- Need diversity within workforce to ensure diversity of approach to problem-solving.
- The King's Fdtn, Green Jobs Fdtn & City & Guilds are looking for meaningful links between industry & education & is seeking to tap into Livery knowledge & contacts. Reach out if you want to get involved.

