



University of Brighton



**Environment
Agency**

Brighton & Hove Sustainability Conference 08
Brighton and Hove: the UK's first Urban Biosphere Reserve?

30th & 31st October 2008,
Brighton Study Centre (Bellerbys College), Brighton

Our global society crossed a watershed in 2007 when, for the first time, 50% of the world's population lived in cities. Today, to achieve truly sustainable societies, we must establish sustainable urban environments.

The Sustainable Community Strategy for Brighton and Hove includes a commitment to work towards designation of the city 'as the first UK Urban Biosphere Reserve'. Biosphere Reserves, designated by UNESCO, could be described as 'centres of excellence' where economic and social development is promoted in tandem with the optimal conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity.

But what will designation as a 'biosphere city' really mean for Brighton and Hove? Green space and biodiversity make a crucial contribution to urban living, for example by delivering essential ecological services, lessening the effects of climate change, providing a focus for communities to meet, exercise, grow food, or simply relax. But where competition for land and resources is acute, what priority should biodiversity be given in city planning and how can the benefits of biodiversity be delivered most effectively and efficiently?

How might a 'biosphere city' guide policy and shape new development, transport, education and housing? And how might designation as a biosphere city affect the day-to-day lives of people living in and visiting Brighton and Hove?

This conference will begin to address these questions and to map out a vision of what an 'urban biosphere city' might look like.

Programme

Day I: Strategic Issues

8.00 – 9.00	Setting up of stalls	
9.15 – 10.00	Registration / coffee / networking	
10.00 – 10.05	Conference open / Chairs welcome	Prof. Stuart Laing, Pro-Vice Chancellor, The University of Brighton
10.05 – 10.15	Opening speaker	Cllr Mary Mears, Leader, Brighton & Hove City Council
10.15 – 10.45	Keynote Speaker 1 <i>What are the potential roles and added values of an Urban Biosphere?</i>	Prof. Thomas Elmqvist, Stockholm University, Sweden
10.45 – 11.15	Keynote Speaker 2 <i>The city as a biosphere</i>	Prof Helga Fassbinder, Editor in chief of Biotope City Journal, Amsterdam & Paris
11.15 – 11.45	Refreshments / networking	
11.45 – 12.15	The benefits of urban biodiversity to people	Mathew Frith, Landscape Regeneration Manager Peabody Trust
12.15 – 12.45	Question & Answer session	Facilitated by Prof. Stuart Laing
12.45 – 14.00	Lunch / networking / Tour - One Brighton site by Pooran Desai	
14.00 – 14.10	Welcome and Scene-setting	Alan McCarthy, CEO Brighton & Hove City Council
14.10 – 14.30	Housing in the Biosphere City – ‘One Planet Living’	Pooran Desai, Sustainability Director Bioregional Quintain *
14.30 – 14.50	Health in the Biosphere City – how might healthy lifestyles be promoted?	Dr William Bird Strategic Health Advisor Natural England
14.50 – 15.25	Refreshments / networking / Tour – One Brighton site by Pooran Desai	
15.25 – 15.45	Growing food in the biosphere city – what is the potential?	Andre Viljoen, Senior Lecturer in the School of Architecture and Design The University of Brighton
15.45 – 16.05	Open space in the biosphere city - Green Networks - lessons learned from the Thames Gateway	Brian McDonald Senior Specialist, Thames Gateway, Natural England
16.05 – 16.25	The greening of Linz, Austria – a European City perspective	Edmund Maurer Municipality of Linz, Austria
16.25 – 16.45	The commercial drivers for urban greening	Duncan Young Head of Sustainability, Lend Lease Retail UK
16.45 – 17.25	Question & Answer session	Facilitated by Alan McCarthy
17.25	Conference day I end	
17.25 – 18.00	Stall holders / networking	
18.00	Conference day I close	

Day 2: Local Action

8.00 – 9.00	Setting up of stalls	
9.15 – 9.50	Registration / coffee / networking	
9.50 – 9.55	Conference open / Chairs introduction	Cllr Denise Cobb Deputy Leader, Brighton & Hove City Council
9.55 – 10.00	Chairs welcome	Dr Niall Burnside School of Environment and Technology, The University of Brighton
10.00 – 10.20	Architecture PBL (of Brighton Study Centre / Bellerbys College)	Rupert Cook Architecture PLB
10.20 – 10.40	Building Green – encouraging biodiversity on buildings	Dusty Gedge Urban Ecologist
10.40 – 11.00	School Grounds – benefits to biodiversity and education	Dr Dan Danahar Dorothy Stringer School
11.00 – 11.30	Refreshments / networking	
11.30 – 11.50	Breaking new ground: local food production on housing estates and public spaces	Clare Devereux Food Matters and The Brighton & Hove Food Partnership
11.50 – 12.10	The benefits of biodiversity on housing estates	John Little Environmental Consultant
12.10 – 12.30	Engaging people - community groups and biodiversity	Phil Belden Brighton Urban Wildlife Group
12.30 – 13.00	Question & Answer session	Facilitated by Dr Niall Burnside
13.00 – 14.15	Lunch / networking / Tour – One Brighton site by Daniel Viliesid	
14.15 – 15.15	Workshops session	Break into workshop groups (in separate workshop rooms)
	Tour - One Brighton site	Daniel Viliesid
15.15 – 16.00	Workshop presentations & discussions in plenary	
16.00 - 17.30	Stall holders / networking	
17.30	Conference close	

*** Tours of the One Brighton site will be led by Pooran Desai and Daniel Viliesid from Bioregional Quintain. Tours will be for a limited number but run twice each day.**

