

# The Future of Rainwater Harvesting Systems in Buildings

## Go with the flow: making rainwater harvesting mainstream

Free half-day workshop for building and water professionals, local authorities, policymakers, businesses and investors, highlighting new research on the use of RWH systems in buildings – the challenges and opportunities

January 21st 2010, Innovation Centre, University of Exeter

- Over the last five years, Rainwater Harvesting has advanced from novelty status to a progressively viable, technological solution to rising water demand, increasing flood risks and the need to upgrade water infrastructure in the face of climate change and population growth.
- Its inclusion in the Code for Sustainable Homes and the Building Regulations points to its growing importance to the building sector. The Environment Agency recognises RWH as a way to reduce water demand by providing water for domestic uses that do not require quality drinking water.
- However, a range of technical and social barriers - including the upfront cost of implementation, environmental concerns over energy used to pump rainwater and health and safety worries, has hindered its widespread adoption.
- This workshop will present practical solutions to overcoming the obstacles to RWH as identified by the latest research findings from the University of Exeter's Centre for Water Systems, and outline recommendations for increasing RWH capacity through innovation, policy changes and research.
- The free event is also of interest to the not-for-profit sector, ground works contractors, infrastructure installation companies, pension and investment fund managers, and investment bankers.



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## Workshop programme:

13.00 Welcome and lunch

14.00 Presentations

**Speaker I:** Professor David Butler, Centre for Water Systems, University of Exeter  
Perspectives on RWH: past, present and future

**Speaker II:** Dr Sarah Ward, Centre for Water Systems, University of Exeter  
RWH for the 21st century: identifying deficits, overcoming obstacles

**Speaker III:** John Griggs, Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering  
A question of skill: increasing capacity for RWH

**Speaker IV:** Bruce Hayball, Hasker Architects Ltd  
A question of scale: assessing communal RWH

**Speaker V:** TBC - member of the Home Builders Federation/National  
Federation of Builders  
RWH: the developer's perspective

Panel and audience discussion on challenges and opportunities  
Chaired by Chris Shirley-Smith, University of Exeter

16.30 Finish

Join us to discuss the role of rainwater harvesting systems in sustainable development.  
**Please note there is no charge for attendance but you must register in advance via the following link.**

<http://cwsexeter.eventwax.com/the-future-of-rainwater-harvesting-systems-in-buildings>

For all event enquiries please contact: Chris Shirley-Smith [c.j.shirley-smith@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:c.j.shirley-smith@exeter.ac.uk)

For directions to the Innovation Centre on University of Exeter's Streatham Campus visit:

[http://www.spaceforsuccess.co.uk/university\\_of\\_Exeter.html](http://www.spaceforsuccess.co.uk/university_of_Exeter.html)

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