

Green Infrastructure Springboard

28th February 2017



With thanks to Team London Bridge for photographs.

Background

Aims of the event:

- Introduce participants to academics and professionals to help 'grow' their green infrastructure ideas
- Each group (formed of participants and collaborators) will create a theory of change logic model and generate next steps for their project.

The event was promoted via our website, social media, newsletter and targeted emails to London's volunteer centres, community gardening networks and other interest groups. Community groups' ideas or challenges were gathered via an online survey, allowing UCL to invite engineers and other researchers with expertise in the most relevant fields.

Sample Promotional Text:

The **London Sustainability Exchange** and the **UCL Engineering Exchange** are inviting community groups to explore natural solutions to urban challenges.

- **Is there a challenge or problem you want to solve in your local area?**
- **Are you worried about air pollution, flooding, anti-social behaviour, food poverty, or health and wellbeing?**
- **Perhaps you have an idea for greening your neighbourhood and need expert help to make it happen?**

At the event you will meet engineers with expertise in solving local issues using green infrastructure, and together you will develop your idea into a project plan to be pitched to a panel of experts – and possibly even receive ongoing support to turn it into reality.

Tell us your problem and we will team you up with researchers to come up with pioneering ideas to tackle urban challenges together.

Event Agenda

Registration

Welcome and Introduction by **Samantha Heath**

(CEO, London Sustainability Exchange)

An introduction to LSx, UCL Engineering Exchange, and an outline of the event structure and objectives.

Delegates fill in badges answering 'what drives me' and 'what I have to offer', as a tool to facilitate the speed networking.

Speed Networking

A chance to meet each other and see potential collaborations.

Time for everyone to meet 10 new people and begin to understand how they might be able to help each other or have overlapping interests.

Break

Collaborative groups form round project ideas.

Groups form round project ideas, seated at the themed table most relevant/ helpful.

Theory of Change

Groups break down their objectives, the activities needed to reach them, impacts and outputs, and how they might measure them. Potential blocks, a scratch budget/ resources list, and three next steps identified.

A long session enabling each project to fill out a project plan, scratch budget/ resources list and next steps – essential for the pitching session. EngEx specialists on each table aid and guide the groups seated there. Potential for participants to move between groups and contribute to several projects.

Pitching Session

Groups pitch ideas to each other and expert panel.

Feedback

Groups advise each other and receive constructive feedback.

Groups advise each other and receive constructive feedback while panel has chance to discuss thoughts.

Panel Decision and Close

1-to-1 feedback from panel to groups; final chance for networking and formation of collaborations.

Themes and Invited EngEx Specialists

Light pollution
Muki Haklay

Air pollution
Ben Croxford
Clive Shrubsole

**Greening the city/
general**
Sarah Bell
Charlotte Barrow

**Green
Infrastructure/
Urban Issues**

**Soil quality/
growing/ food**
Carla Washbourne

**Water harvesting
and flooding**
Luiza Campos

**Heat islands and
microclimates**
Julie Fletcher

Project Ideas

Light pollution

**Greening the city/
general**

**Water harvesting
and flooding**

Retro-ecofitting of houses & flats to include green roofs and green-nature friendly infrastructure

"The answer lies in the soil" Soil quality for food growing toolkit

Third Age Project

Sustainable Grounds Maintenance Contracts

Green Infrastructure and Neighbourhood Plans

Burgess Park Darkness Appreciation

Traffic Calming - Greening the city

Plastic to Oil machines run on solar power

Green Hedging for Schools - to improve air quality

Make people aware of how London can make its higher buildings publicly accessible and playful

Greening the Westway

Community Water Storage

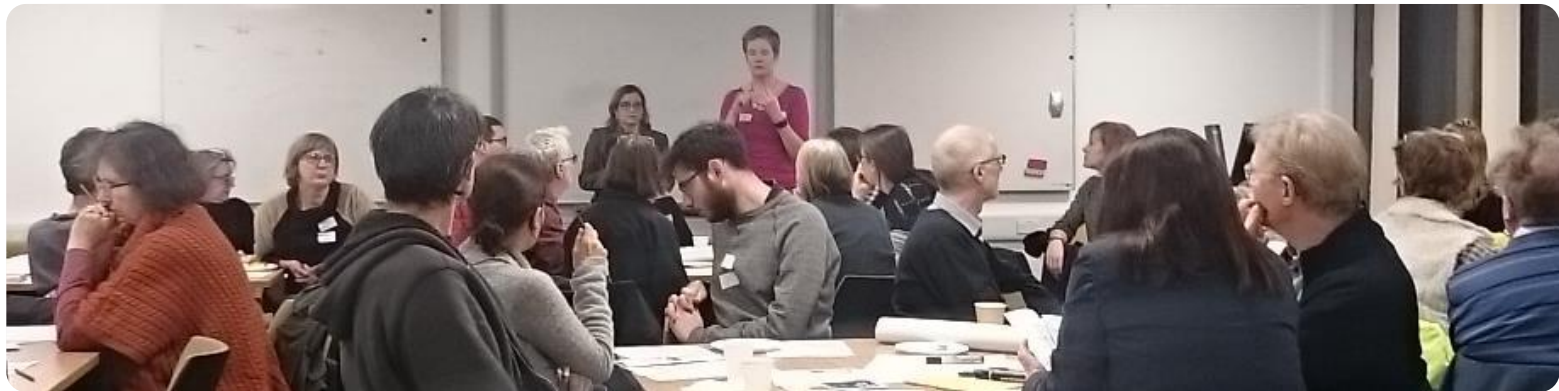
Front Garden Project

Air pollution

**Soil quality/
growing/ food**

**Heat islands and
microclimates**

Photos: Welcome and Networking



Photos: Group Project Planning



Photos: Pitching Session



Next Steps

Projects

Groups have been sent their project plans and will continue to develop them together.

UCL Engineering Exchange will be offering ongoing support (financial or in-kind) to all projects.

Networks

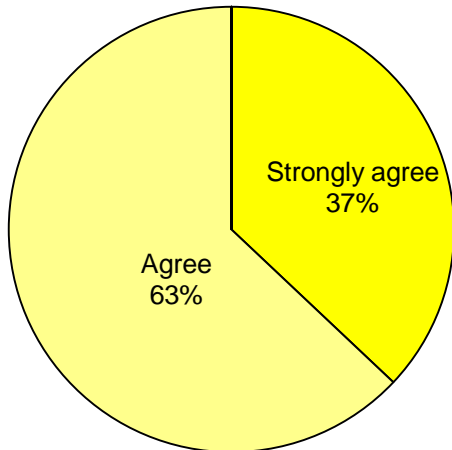
One of the most successful aspects of the forum was the creation of new collaborative groups and networks of interest. Participants have already planned a number of events to share knowledge and ideas as a result of the forum.

Events

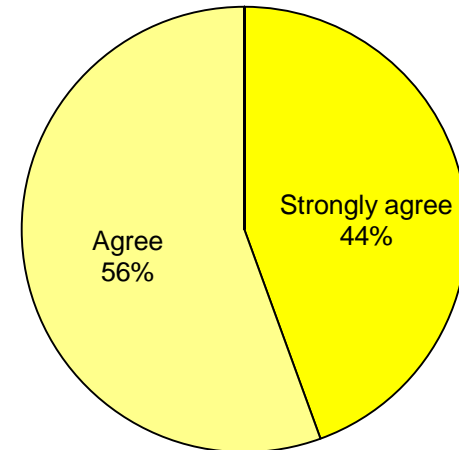
- **Guided walk along the East Walworth Green Link – Wednesday 15th March**
Find out how a safe, quiet, biodiverse walking/cycling route has been created between the Elephant and Castle and Burgess Park in Southwark.
- **Skyline opportunities in London – Tuesday 21st March**
Rooftop walkways? Zip Lines between skyscrapers? What opportunities could London's rapid growth bring? The event will be an opportunity to discuss impacts on the city, share ideas and think about how they might be realised.
- **Visit Transition Leytonstone's water storage system – Wednesday 29th March**
See what's growing, admire the locally built pizza oven, solar dryer, apple press and amazing water butts.

Event Feedback

100% of delegates found the event
informative



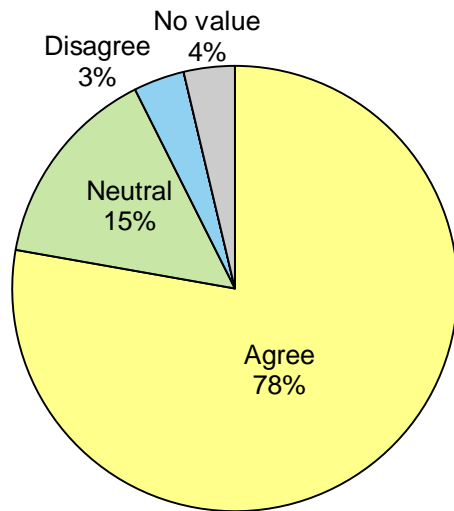
100% of delegates found the event
worthwhile



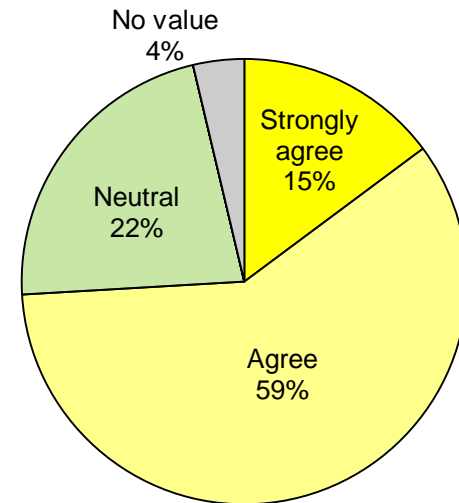
- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- No value

Event Feedback

78% of delegates agreed they had increased understanding of the nature of green infrastructure

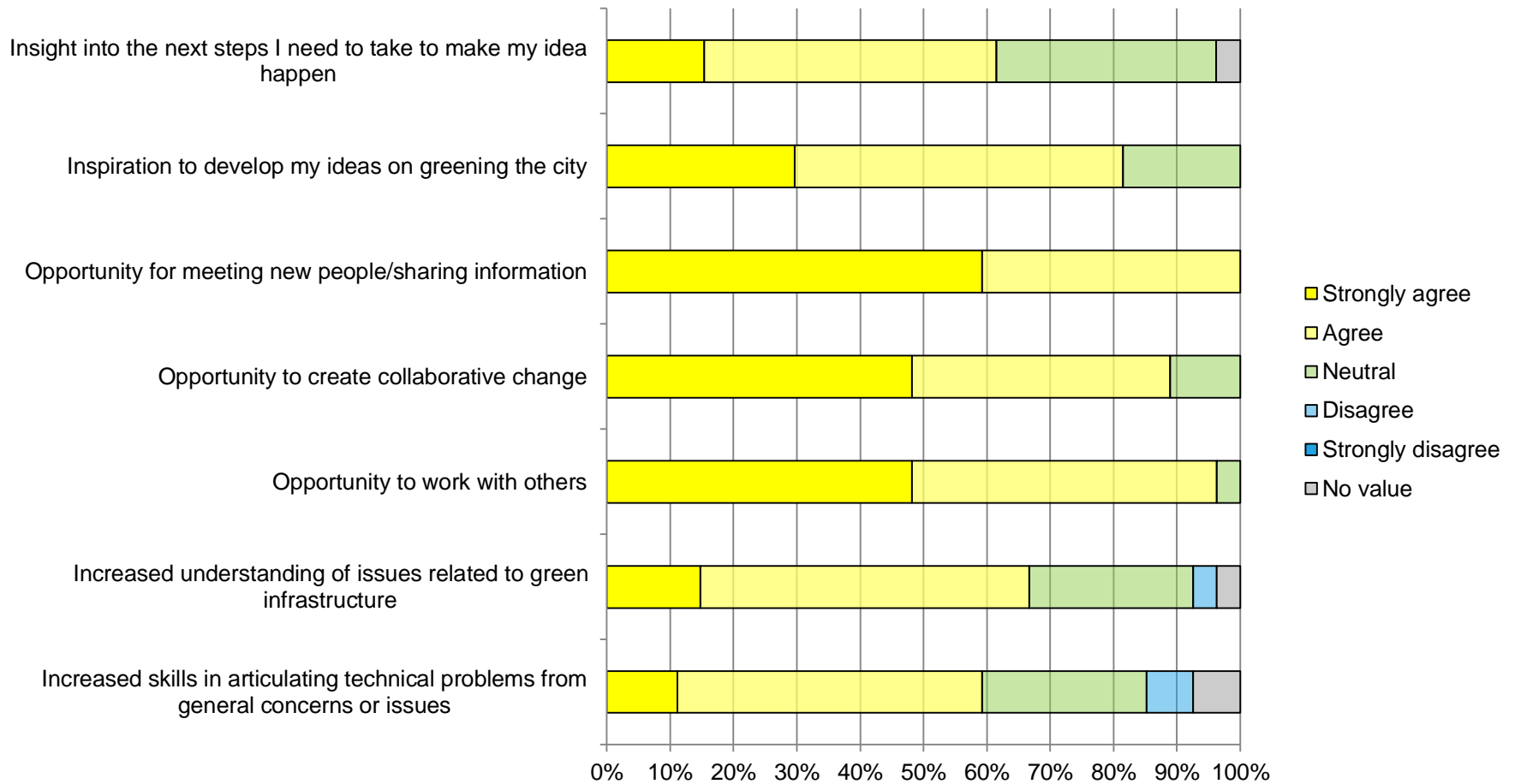


74% of delegates agreed they had increased confidence in engaging with green infrastructure practitioners



- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- No value

Event Feedback



Event Feedback

“What was most helpful about today’s event?”

“Meeting with such diverse projects’ people and energy.”

“Talking to other activists”

“The wide variety of challenges, issues and potential solutions. Having "experts" for immediate consultation on likely projects.”

“Hearing about the differences encountered by others in making their ideas happen in the real world. It's inspiring and an antidote to depression.”

“Hearing about new solutions to urban problems. Hearing about professional projects!”

“Meeting and sharing info and details/ideas with other like-minded people.”

“Seeing ideas become more crystalized and coherent.”

Event Feedback

“What actions have you been inspired to take as a result of today’s event?”

“To persevere with my green passions and collaborate with others.”

“To think about, understand and get involved with green infrastructure projects to improve my local area.”

“It's wonderfully refreshing to see community coming together.”

“Arranging to go and talk to other people’s meetings.”

“Future public engagement.”

“Go forward with a new project!”

Thank you to our attendees

Representatives from community groups and organisations including:

The Community Pool CIC, Hayes Community Forum/ Just Space, Westway Trust/ RAP 23, East Walworth Green Links, Thornton Heath Community Action Team, London Wildlife Trust, Energy Solutions (NWL), Wendelsworth Residents Association, LB Hackney, Walthamstow LSX, E2 Collective, Transition Wood Street, Common Resource Ltd, True Measure, Trinity College Dublin, Thames21 Love the Lea Project, Krug, Grass Roof Company, Sutton fmcppopinclub, Third Age Project, Alperton Riverside Forum, John Evelyn Community Garden, CAT, Culpeper Community Garden, Cordwainers Community Garden, St Luke's Community Centre, Blackstone Estate, Myatt Garden School, Costain, Haverstock School, Kneller Road, Love Luxmore Gardens, Transition Leytonstone, Sustainable Haringey, Urb Gen, Ilford Transition Town, Friends of Burgess Park, Local Water Conservation Group