

Green Recovery Dialogues

Greening the Gray, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh - Transcript

See the video at <https://youtu.be/ESYLVDMNgx4>

[Music]

SPEAKER: Dr Larissa Naylor, University of Glasgow

The premise behind this project was to look at how we could 'green' gray assets that has to remain gray for their primary function. This is called 'greening the gray' and it's an overlooked area in green infrastructure policy. We're looking at how can you 'green' things like sea walls to make them more multifunctional, to provide habitat for ecology, and improve the ecosystem services they provide for society.

[Music]

SPEAKER: Mairi MacArthur, PhD student, University of Glasgow

Being able to work with the Scottish Wildlife Trust has been such a new and exciting opportunity for me. Teaching primary age students and second age students about the shoreline in Edinburgh and about climate change sea level rise and habitat loss and how we're trying to combat that by building and enhancing new habitats for these animals with sea walls and on the shoreline has been exciting and the kids really seem to be engaged with it as well

TITLE: Craigmoynton pupils at the ESALA workshop creating coastal tiles

[Music]

SPEAKER: Craigmoynton student in ESALA workshop

I'm Ellie from Craigmoynton. It was quite interesting how you get sand, cement, water and stone and mix them all together and you make concrete with that.

[Music]

SPEAKER: Hedda Bjordal, University of Edinburgh

So I got involved in this project because of my experience with concrete casting so my responsibility has been to create the formwork as well as cast all the concrete tiles. And as part of this I had to develop a new design where we use fabric formwork and this is for lichen to grow on and also develop some previous designs and all together we made four different concrete tiles.

[Music]

SPEAKER: Christine Rolin, PhD student, University of Glasgow

Working on the living landscape projects has been a really exciting experience for me. I've been able to work with the Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Royal Botanic Gardens of Edinburgh. So that means working with a team of people and across a partnership on a real world issue so as a PhD student I don't normally get to work with such a wide team and I've also been able to take kids out and look at the nature that on their doorstep in Edinburgh.

[Music]

SPEAKER: Ian Boyd, Arc Consulting

Arc Ecology's involvement in the NERC project working with the Wildlife Trust, The Botanic Gardens and Glasgow University is to design and deploy artificial structures in the intertidal for the colonisation by marine organisms. These are called verticals, they have a hollow in the top which will collect tidal water between the tides and a textured surface designed to be colonised. And we will see how they perform here just as with being how they perform in the Isle of Wight and in The Solent.

[Music]

SPEAKER: Leonie Alexander, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

This has been a great example of an Edinburgh living landscape project and it's contributed to our wider Edinburgh shoreline project and so through this we've engaged with primary and secondary schools and with a whole range of volunteers who've helped with installation and we've engaged with the public demonstrating the potential to make the shoreline biodiverse and to think of the shoreline as part of the green infrastructure of the city. So, not only that but we've also left a legacy which will be subject to research by Glasgow University and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

[Music]

SPEAKER: Dr Larissa Naylor, University of Glasgow

Another important reason to green the gray is due to increasing urbanization at the coast coupled with rising sea levels. This means that important coastal habitats are getting squeezed. So where we build hard structures, if we optimize them to improve the multi functionality through adding habitat for species we can hopefully help maintain some of the essential ecosystem services as we live with an increasingly stormy coast.

Title: Concrete tiles designed, fabricated, and installed on sea defences on the Edinburgh shoreline to be colonised by lichens, barnacles and marine invertebrates.

[Music]