Leveraging Water for a Just Transition

Water is at the centre of some of our greatest global challenges and can serve as a strategic asset or resource to maximise co-benefits of water-related strategies and activities, and help advance a just transition for climate resilience, incorporating principles of justice, inclusivity, cooperation, and sustainability, participatory and representative decision-making, and stronger institutions.

Some of the main questions we will seek to address at WWD are: How can water act as a strategic asset to transition to a more sustainable economy in a way that is fair and inclusive to everyone? How can we maximise the co-benefits from water-related activities? How can water contribute to climate resilience? How can we leverage partnerships and cooperation (theme of Scotland’s WWD2023) drawing on local, regional, and transboundary examples.

This free hybrid event is hosted by the Hydro Nation International Centre and supported by the Scottish Government.

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**Event Programme**

09:30-10:30  Registration (refreshments provided)

10:30-10:35  Welcome
Rachel Helliwell, Director of Scotland’s Centre of Expertise for Waters & the Hydro Nation International Centre, James Hutton Institute

10:35-10:50  Opening address
Mairi McAllan MSP, Minister for Net Zero and Just Transition

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**Plenary Session**

Jon Rathjen, Deputy Director, Water Policy & Directorate of Energy and Climate Change Operations, Scottish Government

Patrick Campbell, Director for Water US, Ramboll
Leveraging Water Cooperation: Engaging with the UNESCO Water Family – International Opportunities for Scotland

John Rowan, Director, UNESCO Centre of Water Law, Policy & Science

12:20-13:30 Lunch Break (with Networking & Exhibitions)

On display: Hydro Nation Scholars Programme (Virtual Pavilion online)

Annual CREW Lecture

13:30-14:00 Leveraging Water for Climate Resilience: Adaptive Responses to Climate-Driven Water Quality Issues

Linda May, Freshwater Ecologist, UKCEH

Breakout Session

14:00-15:30 Attendees will select preferred session at registration. First ~15 min will be to provide instructions and time to disperse to breakout rooms. In each session, an expert speaker will provide ~10-15 min introduction, followed by ~60 min discussion. HN Scholars to scribe and report back.

Breakout session 1: What does a Just Transition to Climate Resilience and Net Zero Need to look Like?

Speaker/facilitator: TBC
Scribes/rapporteurs: Luisa Orci Fernandez, Julze Alejandre

Breakout session 2: Water Resources Management and Nature-based Solutions in Rural and Urban Settings

Speaker/facilitator: Christopher White, Head of the Centre for Water, Environment, Sustainability and Public Health, University of Strathclyde
Scribes/rapporteurs: Andrew Tabas, Laura Young

Breakout session 3: Blue-green Skills for the Water Sector

Speaker/facilitator: Doug Bertram, Principal Knowledge Exchange Fellow, University of Strathclyde
Scribes/rapporteurs: David Bryan, Oludare Durodola

15:30-16:00 Afternoon coffee
16:00-16:30  Summary of Breakout Sessions
   Hydro Nation Scholars

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**Plenary Session**

16:30-16:40  Updates on the Hydro Nation Chair Research & Innovation Programme
   *Andrew Tyler, Scotland Hydro Nation Chair, University of Stirling*

16:40-16:45  Spotlight: Blue Green Prescribing Blueprint
   *Julius Caesar Alejandre, Hydro Nation Scholar, Glasgow Caledonian University*

16:45-17:00  Summary & Close of the Main World Water Day 2024 Event
   *Alex Plant, CEO, Scottish Water*

17:00-18:00  Post-event Reception & Networking

Event close