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.

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

Plenary Session

10:50-11:20   **Leveraging Water Policy for a Sustainable Future: The Future of Scotland's Water Legislation**
Jon Rathjen, Deputy Director, Water Policy & Directorate of Energy and Climate Change Operations, Scottish Government

11:20-11:50   **Leveraging the Water-Energy Nexus: Water Requirements for Hydrogen Energy Production in Scotland**
Patrick Campbell, Director for Water US, Ramboll

11:50-12:20   **Leveraging Water Cooperation: Engaging with the UNESCO Water Family – International Opportunities for Scotland**
John Rowan, Director, UNESCO Centre of Water Law, Policy & Science

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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

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