

# THE SUSTAINABLE URBAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

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Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

## EPSRC & the Sustainable Urban Environment

**EPSRC Key Aim:** To support a portfolio of international quality research and a vibrant and sustainable research environment able to respond to future socio-economic challenges in the urban environment

**Key strategies include:**

- Encouraging & supporting risk taking and transformative research - building new research capability and backing world leading researchers
- Stimulating collaboration across discipline boundaries, within EPSRC and with other Research Councils
- Working in partnership with universities, business and other organizations and maximising knowledge exchange

**And from an Engineering Perspective:**

- Raising the impact of engineering in an increasingly competitive environment and maximizing the contribution of engineering to improving quality of life for all

The SUE Programme contributes to all of the above ....



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## EPSRC Interests & Role

- What are the key research challenges?
- What do stakeholders need?
- What evidence is needed to support future decision-making?



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## A SHORT HISTORY OF SUE



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## Aims of SUE

**Key drivers:**

- To improve the quality of life of UK citizens
- To support the sustainable development of the UK economy and society
- To meet the needs of users of EPSRC-funded research

**Specific objectives:**

- To develop and promote a strategic research agenda to address sustainability in the urban environment for the 21st century
- To strengthen the capability of the UK research base in sustainability issues related to the urban environment
- To engage with end users in industry, commerce, and the public sector



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## Some statistics

Programme was initiated in 2001

To date 20 multidisciplinary research consortia have been established

Over £38M research funded

Over 160 different principal and co-investigators

Over 400 research and technical staff posts

Over 400 project partners

Collaborations with 25 different local authorities

Collaborations with industry, charities, professional organisations, public organisations



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## SUE activities so far

**SUE1** – developed through consortium building workshops. Awards were made in 4 clusters:

- Built Environment
- Water and Waste
- Transport
- Metrics, Knowledge Management and Decision Tools

**SUE2** – took an holistic and integrated view of sustainability

**KT-SUE (ISSUES)** – knowledge transfer

£38M supporting 16 consortia; Phase 3 in progress



## Programmes related to SUE



## Successes of the SUE programme to date

- Internationally leading research
- Inter-disciplinary working
- Capacity building
- Breadth of the programme
- Wide range of partners
- Wide variety of outputs
- Raised levels of interest & awareness



## Longer Term Successes

- Enthusing researchers to pursue longer-term agendas, challenging today's thinking
- More effective design of future research programmes that meet the needs of their communities
- A broader view of engineering and its impacts on society and the environment
- Rapid and effective dissemination and take up of research findings
- A new perspective on the future Urban Environment

