

# WaterfCon 2016

4th Annual Water Efficiency Conference

## Water Frontiers: Strategies for 2020 and beyond

7- 9 September 2016  
Coventry University, UK

**Music Festivals: How are people encouraged to be mindful in their uses of finite resources and not waste water?  
Where does water go after use?**

**People and Communities Technical Committee  
Dr. Kemi Adeyeye & Dr. Eleni Tracada, Co-Chairs**

## **Mindful uses of water by the public and the organisers of festivals**

- We have been inspired by Water Efficiency (WATEF) Network main aims; WATEF provides a forum to collaboratively explore the supply, treatment, distribution, risk monitoring, improved efficiency and conservation of water within the built environment. It also investigates the challenges to improving the adaptive capacity of building users, providers and professionals and consequently facilitates long-term, adaptable water efficiency through behaviour change and the use of technology.
- Our intention has been to create a short water usage video for the WATEF website, using Reading Festival as an example of a large and well attended event. Reading Festival is the UK's longest standing music festival, having originated in the 1960's. Organised by Festival Republic (FR), this annual event is held over the August Bank Holiday weekend. The Festival site provides a temporary home and entertainment for 90,000 people, with the build starting in July. No population can be housed and entertained without a suitable water supply; our intention is to show how FR achieves this.
- We are going to present you a short version of this video after this presentation.

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# Mindful uses of water by the public and the organisers of festivals

- The researchers and members of this technical group wish to understand how organisers can plan water uses, how they may be contributing to specific guidance of the public by introducing specific guides on water management at outdoor events and by also creating plans to overcome some unexpected outcomes of overflows or failure of provision at times.
- The team working on this project hopes to get some detailed overview on water and its use by people during these events; they hope to be able to do some recommendations and draw some important conclusions at the end.
- Amongst other relevant outcomes the research team is hoping to help organisers to develop useful guides for the public and enhance the people's awareness on the water uses and management.
- The organisers and the audience should be able to build confidence and joint support also in extreme cases when something could happen unexpectedly, such as failure to drainage or supply systems. They should be able to be putting on place a relevant plan of emergency and this could be feasible by contributing to important reports in progress, such as, for example, 'The show must go on' report.
- By documenting this Reading event via filming the team hopes to create a freely available resource that demonstrates globally how people interact with water, a precious and essential source. Whenever possible the team aims to show how water can be used carefully, mindfully and efficiently during large size events, such as music festivals through their chosen case study in the UK.

## **Mindful uses of water by the public and the organisers of festivals**

- How much water is required for the festival? LPD? Accounting for catering and stalls etc.?
- Water supply; sources of borehole, tanker and mains. Which is used for what and why?
- How much greywater/blackwater is produced?
- How is this handled/who handles it?
- Any onsite 'soakaways', water recycling, rainwater harvesting?
- How does the use per head compare with use at home/industry/other festivals?
- Anything that sets this apart as more sustainable? Percussion taps used to reduce wastage. Maintain supply pressure due to getting many hands washed etc.
- How are people/paying public encouraged or made to be mindful of finite resources and not waste water etc.?

## **Mindful uses of water by the public and the organisers of festivals- Main points to be shown and discussed**

- See what uses water; any showers on site? Catering must use a large volume.
- Challenge perception that water is cheap and infinite; cost involved in providing infrastructure, cost of treatment, cost/energy intensity of moving it around, consequences of supply failing or quality falling.
- Any comments for trades or public of water efficiency and/or sustainability?
- Reading Festival by numbers; the stats.

**(People and Communities Technical Committee in WATEF)**

**Thank you for your attention  
We shall appreciate your comments**

**People and Communities Technical  
Committee in WATEF**

# **Short film on Reading Festival and Discussion**