

Kent Water Summit 2012

Summary and key points

The Kent Water Summit was held on 26th June 2012 and involved over 90 representatives from a wide range of organisations including:

- Public sector organisations including KCC, district councils, parish councils, EA and Natural England;
- Three local water companies – Southern Water, South East Water and Veolia Water SE;
- Major business water users including horticulturalists and breweries;
- Environmental groups such as the Wildlife Trust and RSPB;
- Countryside management groups and partnerships;
- Interest groups and campaign organisations including CPRE;
- Universities and the East Malling Research Centre;
- Community groups;
- Consultants; and
- Kent companies specialising in water technology solutions.

The event began with key note speeches from Bryan Sweetland (KCC Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste) and Andrew Wickham (Deputy Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Development), followed by presentations from EA on local water resources, KCC on the Kent Water Resilience Framework and HR Wallingford on water for agriculture. These speakers then took part in a panel questions and answers session. The second half of the morning involved break-out discussion groups on 'Farming and Environment', 'Business and Community' and 'Planning and Infrastructure' and the event concluded with lively discussion in a plenary session.

The summit called for:

- 1. More rapid introduction of domestic water metering to conserve water.**
- 2. Greater understanding of the true value of water through a public awareness campaign.**
- 3. Further expansion of facilities for on-farm water storage.**
- 4. Increased efficiency in both domestic and agricultural water use.**
- 5. Effluent reuse to be considered more seriously as a potential solution to improving water supplies.**
- 6. Greater leadership in and enhanced co-operation to deliver technological innovation in water conservation.**
- 7. A drive to cut out all forms of water wastage.**