

EIT Climate-KIC SATURN

Project newsletter

#1



In this Saturn Newsletter we have interviewed our Case Study leads to ask them how they are finding COVID-19 is affecting their projects. The global impact of COVID-19 has prompted comparisons with both the climate and ecological emergencies. In so far as the primary barrier cited to addressing these changes has been the assumption that the response has to be incremental as both politicians and publics are not ready for radical change. What COVID-19 has demonstrated for all to witness, radical change can be instituted and accepted- if thought necessary. Our Saturn project is looking at sustainable landscape solutions for places and communities that looks to address both the climate and ecological emergencies. What we are devising is a framework approach that can be replicated elsewhere once we have proved its effectiveness. The Saturn project has been affected by the lockdown caused by COVID-19; but more importantly as a cohort what we are realising is that the framework solution we have devised for the two emergencies could also be applied to the post COVID recovery plans. So we thought we would quiz our case study partners to see what their perspectives were on all these inter-related matters.

BIRMINGHAM

For more informations and to read the full interviews with SATURN stakeholders go to: <https://eventi.fmach.it/saturn/News-and-events/Newsletter>



Has the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic made your project users, customers or partners; more or less aware of the natural environment?



I would say definitely more aware. We've seen increase in parks usage in Birmingham through Covid19. I think staff in Birmingham City Council are more aware of the natural environment too.

Hamira Sultan
Consultant in Public Health and FPA Director - Birmingham Public Health



As a project leader do you see connections between the impact of COVID-19 and the global Climate and Ecological Emergencies?

I think the increased awareness in the environment can only be positive but it is leading to some negative behaviours nationally (<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/may/15/rspb-flooded-with-reports-of-birds-of-prey-being-killed>). I think there has been increase in fly tipping as municipal waste sites have been closed but have no specific details for the wetlands. I am sceptical what the legacy will be once people get back to normal. Obviously lack of travel / commuting will have a huge benefit to air quality and CO2 and this is clearly evident in the Tame Valley. In my opinion the most overwhelming impact will be the resultant massive economic down turn and recession we are now in and likely to be in for the foreseeable future. This will have far bigger impacts on climate change and environment than the virus itself. Anecdotaly we have some of the busiest parts of the UK road network and there has been a huge drop off on vehicle movements.



Ian Wykes
Development Manager
Tame Valley Wetlands NIA
Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

As a project leader do you see how your involvement in the Saturn project could help tie all 3 of these agendas together?

SATURN is very well placed to tie all these agendas together, given its operation across 3 very well established and linked themes and scales. By bringing together projects and ideas on a city and wider scale, SATURN enables us to share good practice, learn from others, and hopefully start to make some small changes to the systems that need to change.



Chris Blythe - Director Social Farms and Gardens

GOTHENBURG



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As a project leader do you see connections between the impact of COVID-19 and the global Climate and Ecological Emergencies?

COVID-19 has create a situation were we cannot travel to the same extent. At the same time we connect traveling and how we eat and live to our impact on climate. Customers are more concerned about the impact on imported food. And Climate are common reasons why customers choose to buy local food and why more and more farmers wants to start periurban food production.



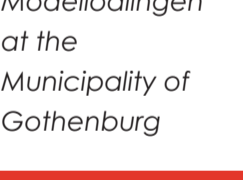
Ebba Wilhemsson:
Substitute Project Leader Modellodlingen at the Municipality of Gothenburg

As a project leader do you see how your involvement in the Saturn project could help tie all 3 of these agendas together?

The pandemic has brought with it an increased focus on local perspectives and with that comes focus on land use. The importance of sustainable land use is very evident. For some places that might mean small scale farming in semi-urban areas to provide food for the local network, in other places something different entirely. Another essential factor, that I think the Saturn project provides, is international cooperation. A decrease in international traveling and international trading, due to either the pandemic or climate change, could decrease the international cooperation. Therefore I think It's great how the Saturn projects provides a platform for international cooperation in these issues.



Planning Officer at the Municipality of Gothenburg



Paola Fontana - Head of office, Municipality of Trento

As a project leader do you see connections between the impact of COVID-19 and the global Climate and Ecological Emergencies?

The Covid Pandemic hit us suddenly with unexpected strength and intensity that nobody was and had to be prepared for. All of us have had to deal with our vulnerabilities and the system where we live. In the midst of the emergency it was surprising to see how quickly the nature around us recovered its spaces.

TRENTO

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Paola Fontana - Head of office, Municipality of Trento

As a project leader do you see how your involvement in the Saturn project could help tie all 3 of these agendas together?

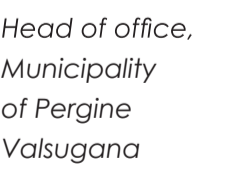
I have been dealing, either for choice and for profession, with environmental education for over 30 years and in these things I have always maintained a fairly high level of attention in trying to give substance to ideas. I don't know if in this case I will have more space to realize these ideas. Many things move in this direction, but the risk is that always the same actors are involved and the feeling is that everything will be share. However, when you move away from the group of those with whom you share certain things, you discover a completely different view and at this point there are two very strong and very opposite trends. I hope that the European Union will be able to do something. In Italy there are many contradictions that will sadly have repercussions on business world.



Silva Floriani - CON.solida association of cooperative businesses

As a project leader do you see connections between the impact of COVID-19 and the global Climate and Ecological Emergencies?

I think that people realized how much waste we produce: we have all learned that this pandemic has, on one hand, reduced the consumption of household waste, but unfortunately it has led to an increase in special waste (medical). I believe that in the project partners this sensitivity has been very present, as we have been trying to contain the use of those materials such as disposable gloves and masks in favor of the reusable ones and washing our hands instead of throwing away tremendous quantity of disposable gloves.



Cyrille Gaubert - CEO of Botildenberg project

As a project leader do you see how your involvement in the Saturn project could help tie all 3 of these agendas together?

Hard to measure if they have become more aware but they have taken more action and have shown bigger interest in contributing to our different activities (buying a vegetable bag, farm to table diners, planning conferences when possible again...)

MAIN EVENTS

<p>17 June 2020 SATURN webinar</p>		<p>22-24 September 2020 Göteborg Workshop</p>	
<p>22 June 2020 Warm Data Lab</p>		<p>October 2021 Final Conference in Trentino</p>	