

Annual Report 2014-15

Summary



CREW delivers accessible research and expert opinion to support Scottish Government and its delivery partners in the development and implementation of water policy. Key policy areas include the Water Framework Directive, Floods Directive, Drinking Water Directive, Habitats Directive and Scotland's Hydro Nation Strategy.

In 2014/15 twenty projects were completed and a further 27 are on-going into next year. Through these, and hosting a wide range of workshops, meetings and events, we continue to support policy through;

- the development of a state of the art surface water flood forecasting tool for urban communities, which was successfully implemented at the Commonwealth Games
- 'Learning from community led flood risk management' and 'Practical measures for reducing pollutant load from septic tanks'. The latter will allow SEPA to consider strategies for mitigation
- a national assessment of Scotland's coastline, as a result of Ministerial interest in coastal erosion risk
- a study on the benefits of private water supply grants which will inform any update to the grant scheme
- the development of guidance on water options for the new Scotland Rural Development Programme
- CREW also supports the Hydro Nation Scholars Programme

To further develop the science: policy interface, policy user groups have been established and identified more than ninety potential projects. Concurrently, a network of HEI 'champions' from each of the Universities within Scotland was established to expand the knowledge base to inform water policy.

As a Centre of Expertise, CREW has an important role in wider policy engagement and networking both within the UK and beyond, to keep abreast of the key water management challenges and research needs arising from them. These networking activities, at home and abroad, are important to CREW's growing reputation as an exemplar of science: policy working.

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