Moving from Net-Zero to Wet-Positive:
A Biocentric approach to sustainable water management

Session Number: SAT-B04
Date: Saturday, November 07, 2015
Time: 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM
Room: E350, Level 3
Presentation: Moving from Net-Zero to Wet-Positive: A Biocentric Approach to Sustainable Water Management
Speaker(s):
Keith Bowers, FASLA, Biohabitats, Inc.
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Green building practitioners advocate for integrated systems by adopting net-zero water goals, but how does this closed-loop approach impact the larger context? This session will inspire practitioners to think beyond anthropocentric views of water to a biocentric approach, where site integrated systems can be regenerative within a more ecological context.

Learning Objectives:

• Examine the limitations of a net-zero/building-centric approach towards achieving wet-positive outcomes.
• Review regional considerations towards achieving a biocentric approach, from east to west coast.
• Explore the design strategies and implications of sustaining living systems by balancing biological demands.
• Review the tools and processes for meeting biocentric goals for water management at all scales, including planning approaches, design strategies, management procedures, and post-occupancy evaluations.
Presentation Outline

I. Introduction

II. Topic Background
   o Review water from a global and regional context. What are the issues? Where are the gaps in knowledge? What is needed for a healthy future?
   o Review ecohydrology concepts of “green” and “blue” water flow.
   o Review the paradigm shift in the design professions of how we approach sustainable water management through design and planning- Performance, Sustainability, Ecosystem Services, Biodiversity.
   o Discuss urbanization and water management. Conflicts between human consumption of water and ecosystem processes/species survival.
   o Discuss compartmentalization of water management- understanding water from biocentric and regenerative approach.
   o Explore different ways that species interact with water and how the loss of keystone species is reshaping the way water interacts with the landscape.

III. Marco Scale: Thinking like a Watershed
   o Pouter River Restoration, Fort Collins, CO
   o Jamaica Bay Restoration, NY, NY.

IV. Meso Scale: Whole systems water management on a regional scale
   o Constitution Gardens Competition, Washington, DC
   o Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA

V. Meso to Site Scale: Managing water for humans, places and wildlife
   o Chatham University, Pittsburgh, PA
   o Stroud Water Research Center, Avondale, PA
   o Phipps Conservatory, Center for Sustainable Landscapes, Pittsburgh, PA

VI. Adaptive Feedback, Monitoring and Evidence-based Design: When “Big Tools” and “Small Tools” Inform One Another
   o City of Chattanooga, TN
   o St. Elizabeths West Campus, Washington, DC
   o Shoemaker Green, Philadelphia, PA

VII. Questions and Discussion
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Additional Information Sources


