



A conference which will explore how buildings and spaces are designed to reduce negative impacts on the environment is to be held at Leeds Beckett University.

The international conference, Sustainable Ecological Engineering Design for Society (SEEDS) will take place on 17-18 September and is hosted by the Leeds Sustainability Institute at Leeds Beckett, with keynote speakers, workshops and presentations focusing on how to address the balance between the built and the natural environment.

Director of the Leeds Sustainability Institute, Professor Chris Gorse explained: "While the issues surrounding sustainability are challenging and diverse, this conference will focus our attention on key topics, exposing applied research, technology and innovation that are having a positive impact. Having such a high profile event in Leeds is excellent and the knowledge gained and shared will help to take the whole sustainability agenda forward. It's encouraging that many industrial partners are interested in the conference and examples of research being led by industry are being put forward. The engagement between academics, industry and the community is essential if we are to embrace the level of change needed."

The built environment has a greater impact on natural resources and produces more waste than any other industry. However, beyond the green rhetoric, research at Leeds Beckett and other institutions internationally, is being applied on the ground to address the balance between the built and natural environment. The SEEDS Conference will bring together experts from around the world to focus on the impact of the built environment, the changes that are taking place in the industry, and the benefits and consequences of change that are being predicted and measured. The focus of discussion and debate will be on understanding how buildings and spaces are designed and nurtured to obtain the optimal outcome. As well as addressing technical issues, measuring energy efficiency and modelling energy performance, emphasis will be placed on the health and wellbeing of the users of spaces occupied. This approach will draw together the research themes of energy, building performance and physics while placing health, wellbeing and ecology at the heart of the Conference.

The conference organisers are currently inviting interested attendees to submit abstracts for the conference up to 28 February (maximum 300 words) under a variety of themes. For more information visit

www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/events/faculty-events/international-seeds-conference-2015-sustainable-ecological-engineering-design-for-society