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CREW Letter: Welcome to our Summer Newsletter

Providing evidence on climate change adaptation has been a core CREW focus throughout this funding programme. Another dry summer and record-breaking heatwaves are yet again showing that understanding how to adapt to hydrological extremes is an urgent priority. Increasing frequency of extreme events, including drought, is no longer a distant projection but a lived reality for individuals and businesses.

Following the wide-scale drought impacts in summer 2025, several parts of Scotland have seen a recovery in water resources over the winter 2025-26. However, water scarcity in parts of Scotland is returning this summer, with several river basins in moderate scarcity or on alert at the time of writing. Yet, extreme high flows may well follow the dry period, particularly where localised intense rainfall falls on very dry ground.

Sectoral water users and householders are now used to seeing these impacts play out and are exploring options to adapt to the ongoing environmental change. Recent CREW projects on '*Planning for Water Scarcity: Practical guidance for Scottish farmers and growers*' and '*Household flood plans in Scotland – applying behavioural learnings to inform best practice and uptake*' have provided new tools to implement adaptation and increase resilience to both extremes in Scotland. A joint workshop between CREW and CXC, attended by 61 professionals from the health care, environment and policy sectors provided a unique opportunity to facilitate cross-sectoral interaction and discuss how to make the recommendations from the CREW household flood plans project a reality. CREW research has highlighted several no-regret adaptation options, the next challenge is for them to be translated into effective action.

Best wishes,

Miriam

Miriam Glendell, CREW Director

Event Spotlight

Climate Change, Flooding and Mental Health: Bringing Research and Practice Together

CREW, in partnership with CXC, hosted an event on the 2nd June, bringing together researchers, policymakers, practitioners and third sector organisations to explore the growing impacts of climate change, including flooding, on mental health and wellbeing.

The event showcased emerging evidence from four research projects, including two funded by CREW, highlighting who is most at risk, the pathways through which flooding can affect mental health and wellbeing, and opportunities for adaptation, prevention, preparedness, and recovery. Together, the projects demonstrated the importance of strengthening Scotland's evidence base to inform policy and support practical action.



Image: Members of the CREW research team. Fiona Henderson (left), Rhian Thomas (middle), Claire Niedzwiedz (right).

A key theme throughout the day was the value of collaboration. By bringing together expertise from across research, policy and practice, the event provided an opportunity to share learning, identify priorities, and explore how evidence can be translated into interventions that build resilience within communities.

The event also marked the launch of the [Scottish Household Flood Plan](#), a practical resource to help households prepare for flooding, reduce its impacts, and strengthen resilience before, during and after flood events.

In their closing reflections, Ian Freeman (Scottish Government) and Emma Kennedy (Public Health Scotland) encouraged participants to build on the momentum of the day by continuing to work across organisational boundaries. They highlighted the importance of using clear, shared language, communicating evidence effectively to support decision-making, and focusing on practical interventions that will help Scotland prepare for the increasing health impacts of climate change.

The event reinforced CREW's role in supporting research that informs resilience to flooding in Scotland and demonstrated how partnerships between researchers, policymakers and practitioners can help ensure evidence is translated into meaningful action for more resilient communities.

Access the outputs from the two CREW projects presented here:

- [Reducing the mental health and wellbeing impacts of flooding: Informing cross-policy action in Scotland](#)
- [Household flood plans in Scotland: Applying behavioural learnings to inform best practice and uptake](#)



CREW Updates

Rain Exhibition

A visual output from CREW's flooding work is being displayed in the National Library of Scotland's newly launched [Rain exhibition](#) in Edinburgh. Exploring Scotland's long-standing relationship with rain, the exhibition highlights the role that rainfall has played in shaping the country's landscapes, communities, and culture. The exhibition is free to attend and runs until April 2027.



Image: Illustrations by Jenny Capon produced for CREW (2024). The right-hand panel 'Building Public Health Resilience in Scotland' features in the National Library of Scotland's 'Rain' exhibition

New Call for Proposals

CRW2026_01 Valuing the Benefits of Protecting and Improving Scotland's Water Environment

Overview:

CREW invites proposals for a Science-Policy Fellowship project to develop a spreadsheet resource that collates the available evidence on the costs and benefits of protecting and improving Scotland's water environment.



Photo credit: Rebekah Burman

The fellowship will require expertise in environmental, ecological economics and/or natural capital to assess, interpret, and organise evidence to support national-scale policy and decision-making.

Budget: Funding available: **£77,500 exclusive of VAT** (where applicable).

Deadline: 24th August, 15:00

For more information and to read the full specification, please visit the [project page](#).

Upcoming Publication & Dissemination

Review of Existing Faecal Indicator Organism (FIO) Models and Future Integration Opportunities

[Publishing in August](#)



This project looked at how modelling can help better understand where E. coli and other faecal indicator organisms (FIOs) in rivers, coastal waters and shellfish areas in Scotland are coming from.



Photo credit: Anishka Cameron

These pollutants can originate from many places – livestock, wildlife, septic tanks, wastewater systems, and runoff during wet weather – and it is often difficult to tell which sources matter most. The aim of the work was to review the modelling tools that already exist, understand what they can and cannot do, and identify what type of approach would be most useful for Scotland.

A dissemination event will take place on 10 August 2026. See future [news updates](#).

Wider activities

It has been a busy summer, with wider engagement activities ranging from media coverage on our [water scarcity work](#) to discussing project outputs during a visit to Balruddery Farm with Scottish Government water and biodiversity policy colleagues. The CREW team have also participated in a range of workshops, community events, and training opportunities, two of which are highlighted below.

Inverbervie community event on biodiversity

CREW was invited to attend a community biodiversity event in Inverbervie on the 24th June, bringing together local residents, landowners, and public sector representatives to discuss opportunities to enhance biodiversity and support the local environment.

The event provided an opportunity to hear directly from the community about the issues that matter most to them and their enthusiasm for protecting and improving their local environment. It also highlighted the value of bringing together a range of perspectives to explore shared challenges and identify practical solutions.

During the evening, CREW shared its [Planning for Water Scarcity guidance](#), providing attendees with information and resources that can support future planning and resilience.

Engaging with communities is an important part of CREW's work, helping to ensure that research and evidence are accessible, relevant, and informed by local knowledge and experience. Read more about CREW's recent engagement activities [here](#).

Continuing the conversation around impact

CREW team members recently participated in Impact workshops hosted by [EPIC](#), supporting CREW's continued engagement with understanding and communicating the value and impact of science-policy research.

Bringing together participants from across the Centres of Expertise, universities, and research institutes, the workshop explored the broad range of pathways through which research can contribute to change, from informing policy and practice to supporting wider public and stakeholder discussions. A key theme was the importance of embedding impact considerations throughout the research process, including developing clear narratives around research contributions and recognising the value of stakeholder engagement and feedback in helping to inform and demonstrate impact.

Register of Expertise

Connecting opportunities and expertise in water science and policy, the Centre of Expertise for Waters (CREW) fosters collaboration between research and decision-making. Our Register of Expertise plays a key role in this effort. Please consider adding your skills and knowledge to the network.



Why should I register

- Connect to opportunities
- Reach out to colleagues and share your work
- Explore skills and find solutions
- Widen your network

Register



[CREW - Scotland's centre of expertise for waters: Overview | LinkedIn](#)



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