

Response to Mayor's draft SPG on Sustainable Design and Construction

London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies welcomes this draft SPG and looks forward to its early publication as an approved document. Boroughs must be helped to understand its importance and to use conditions that relate to it in their granting of planning approval for developments.

The guidance in paragraph 3.4.12 is very important – “Where there are no opportunities to collect and reuse rainwater, the site, where practical should drain to the ground to recharge groundwater resources.” This needs more emphasis to explain that it applies to roads and car parks also, which should be resurfaced with permeable asphalt. Hard standing should be made permeable.

Urban greening should include diverting street drains into soakaways whenever work is done in roads, such as when the mains renewal or sewer works are carried out. Boroughs should be encouraged to fit soakaways for street drains whenever they can afford to do so.

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