

Glasgow i-Tree Eco project (2013)



Background

The project was funded by Glasgow City Council and Forestry Commission Scotland. The project was one of many initiated in Glasgow as part of the EU's Strategies Towards Energy Performance and Urban Planning (STEP UP) Programme. This programme focused on the carbon sequestration role of trees in urban areas. National policy at the time was driven by the Woods In and Around Town (WIAT) programme. At the local level, the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Forestry and Woodland Strategy was published in the same year the i-Tree Eco survey work took place (Land Use Consultants, 2013). This included aims for tree cover expansion around the urban fringe and planting to increase urban forest resilience and use of the ecosystem service approach.

Outputs

A full report was produced by Forest Research and Treeconomics (Rumble et al., 2015) along with a two page summary report. Results were presented at Arboricultural Association conference by Glasgow City Council[†].

Impacts

Provided key new valuations of Glasgow's trees:

- Information on the monetary value of the benefits Glasgow's trees provide and their replacement cost helped raise awareness and recognition of the asset value of these trees[†].

Identified risks to urban forest sustainability:

- Identified ash as the most common species which raised concern for the potential impact of chalara on Glasgow's tree cover[†].

Improved connectivity:

- Improved working relationships between national policy-makers and researchers[†].

Supported wider research:

- Used in report assessing impact of Chalara ash die-back in non-woodland trees (The Tree Council, 2015).
- Used as case study in conference presentation reviewing tree population in different towns and cities (Rumble et al., 2014).

Feeding into local strategies:

- Glasgow's i-Tree Eco project was used to define the council's approach to urban tree management, which was described as including a strategic tree planting programme to prevent a net loss of tree stock (Glasgow City Council, 2014).
- Glasgow's Energy and Carbon masterplan cites discusses the role of urban trees in mitigating climate change, citing the i-Tree Eco project (Glasgow City Council, 2016).
- Glasgow's Climate Change report states that the 2015 i-Tree Eco report will be used to inform strategies for woodland creation and management (Glasgow City Council, 2014).

References

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- Rumble, H., Rogers, K., Doick, K., Albertini, A., Hutchings, T. (2015). Assessing the Ecosystem Services of Glasgow's Urban Forest: A Technical Report. Forest Research, Farnham.
- Rumble, H., Rogers, K., Doick, K., Hutchings, T. (2014). A comparison of Urban Tree Populations within Four UK Towns and Cities. Presented at Trees, People and the Built Environment, April 2014.