

# URBAN GROWTH 2018

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Call for Papers

## 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Urban Growth and the Circular Economy

**8 – 10 May 2018**  
**Alicante, Spain**

### **Organised by**

University of Alicante, Spain  
Wessex institute, UK

### **Sponsored by**

WIT Transactions on the Built Environment  
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**The continuing and rapid growth of the cities and their regions of influence has led to the need to find new solutions which allows for promoting their sustainable development.**

The quest for the Sustainable City has until recently focused on the efficient use of resources with the application of technical advances giving rise to the definition of SMART Cities. The economic model emphasised however is still “linear” in the sense that the design and consumption follows the pattern of extraction of natural resources, manufacturing, product usage and waste disposal.

The continuous growth of urban population has recently given rise to the emergence of a new model which responds better to the challenges of natural resource depletion as well as waste management. This model has been called the “circular economy”.

The circular economy is a recent concept based on the reuse of what up to now has been considered wastes, reintroducing them into the productive cycle. The objective of the circular economy is to reduce consumption and achieve savings in terms of raw materials, water and energy, thus contributing to the preservation of resources in order to reach sustainable development.

The circular economy has its roots in environmental economics. Its objective is minimising resources in the production of goods and services. The idea is to implement the life cycle of products, services, waste, materials and energy. The concept needs to be imbedded not only in the original design, but also in all process phases and during production, which ought to be as efficient as possible.

One of the most important of these resources is water which is becoming a scarce commodity in an ever expanding world whose population demands a better standard of living. Water is required for agricultural purposes as well as by industry, in addition to its use by the general population. The recycling of water is an essential component of the circular economy.

Closely associated to the concept of the sustainable city and the circular economy is the

need to develop networks, not only within the City itself but also across other city regions to ensure governance based on cooperation.

There is no possibility for the success of a long term economic policy without addressing the problems of natural resources and environmental pollution, which will affect the reuse of materials and products.

The current market economy based on a linear model from resource extraction, manufacturing, consumption and waste disposal, has not proved a long term suitable solution, in spite of the substantial efforts made in reducing its environmental impacts. This is largely due to the continuous population growth, in a society that demands high standards of living, thus requiring an ever increasing share of natural resources.

The basis of the circular economy can be summarised as follows:

**Eco-consumption:** It starts with the evaluation of the possible environmental impacts of the process.

**Industrial Ecology:** The industrial phase is based in the principle of optimisation of components, flow of materials, energy and services.

**Economic Functionality:** The process gives more importance to use than possession; ie to the sale of services rather than goods.

**Reuse:** Aim to use waste to create new products. This phase also involves the repairs, recycling and value added procedures to prolong the life of any given products or services.

The achievements of the goals proposed by the circular economy require the cooperation of the community, as well as technological changes and advances.

The need to base suitable development on the environmental, economic and social points of view, demands an integrated approach to solve the city problems including planning and development.

## Benefits of Attending

### Publication of Papers

Papers presented at Urban Growth 2018 will be published by WIT Press in a Volume of WIT Transactions. Selected papers will appear in an Issue of the International Journal of Sustainable Development and Planning instead.

### Reviews

Abstracts and papers are reviewed by members of the International Scientific Advisory Committee and other experts.

### Open Access

WIT Press is an advocate of Open Access which offers maximum dissemination of your work. All WIT Transactions and Journal papers can be downloaded free of charge from the WIT eLibrary ([www.witpress.com/elibrary](http://www.witpress.com/elibrary)).

### Indexing and Archiving

Papers presented at Wessex Institute conferences are referenced by CrossRef and have appeared in notable reviews and databases. Papers are submitted to various indexing services such as Web of Science, Google Scholar, Index Copernicus and Scopus. All conference books are listed in the British Library and American Library of Congress.

### Conference Proceedings

At registration delegates will be given copies of the papers presented at the Conference on a USB Flash drive. Following the Conference, delegates will receive an electronic copy of the final publication in which their paper has been published.

### Digital Archive

All conference papers are archived online in the WIT eLibrary ([www.witpress.com/elibrary](http://www.witpress.com/elibrary)) where they are permanently and freely available to the international scientific community.

### Networking

Participants can present their research and interact with experts from around the world, as part of a unique community.

### Reduced Fee for PhD Students

The Wessex Institute believes in the importance of encouraging PhD students to present and publish innovative research at its conferences. As a result, the Institute offers PhD students a much reduced conference fee.

## Conference Topics

The following list covers the topics to be presented at the meeting. Papers on other subjects related to the objectives of the conference are also welcome.

**Infrastructure and eco-architecture**

**Green urban areas**

**Landscape and planning**

**City heritage and its regeneration**

**Quality of life**

**Urban transport**

**Communications**

**Energy systems**

**Water reuse**

**Air contamination**

**Water pollution**

**Waste management**

**Noise pollution**

**Waste water systems**

**Risk analysis**

**Recreation in the city**

**Coastal cities**

**Socio-economic issues**

**Law and regulation**

**Production of goods and services**

**Consumption issues**

**Recycling**

**Urban agriculture**

**Urban mining**

**New design practices**

**Smart technologies**

**Mobility in the city**

**Safety aspects**

**Smart habitats**

**Systems resilience**

**Governance**

**Community participation**

## Conference Chairmen

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University of Alicante, Spain

**C A Brebbia**

Wessex Institute, UK

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## Location

Located on the east coast of Spain and a part of the Costa Blanca, Alicante is a city which combines history with a lively coastline and beaches. The popular Postiguet beach and excellent climate attract many tourists every year; however the city has much more to offer with an old centre containing historic churches, art and archaeological museums, and traditional narrow shopping streets with many bars, restaurants and cafes. Close to the old town, the dramatic Santa Barbara Castle offers excellent views of the city and coastline from its

elevated position, and is one of Spain's largest medieval fortresses. The city also plays host to many varied events and "fiestas" throughout the year.

## Venue

The meeting will take place at the University of Alicante conference facilities in the city centre. An historic building located in front of the marina it is an excellent example of traditional Spanish architecture. Fully restored in recent years, it is used by the university to host events and activities.

## Submission Information

**Abstracts of no more than 300 words should be submitted as soon as possible.**

Abstracts should clearly state the purpose, results and conclusions of the work to be described in the final paper. Final acceptance will be based on the full-length paper, which if accepted for publication must be presented at the conference.

The language of the conference will be English.

### Online submission:

[www.witconferences.com/urbangrowth2017](http://www.witconferences.com/urbangrowth2017)

### Conference Secretariat

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For more information visit: [www.witconferences.com/urbangrowth2018](http://www.witconferences.com/urbangrowth2018)