

Become an effective innovator in water

Ofwat has put innovation fairly and squarely at the heart of AMP7 and expects suppliers and water companies alike to be creative and ambitious in their future plans to meet the challenges that the water sector faces.

Embedding innovation across the UK Water Industry requires a good understanding of market needs, the ability to explore new thinking, and sound business skills to implement new solutions. Future Water Association has created a four-day immersive course in conjunction with Sheffield University, supported by Anglian Water, Severn Trent Water and Southern Water. The sessions will enable delegates to understand the role of innovation, sharpen their creative and commercial skills in the development and implementation of their innovative ideas, products and services as well as understand how to 'talk to the market'.

The programme will also offer an opportunity for networking across the industry, in both formal and informal settings, with supply chain companies, water companies, and academics to share challenges and collaborate.

The next dates for the immersive sessions are:

11th and 12th June 2019 and 17th and 18th July 2019

If you are looking to bring innovations to the water sector, this course will give you the skills and tools that you need to be creative and business-ready and enable you to approach the market with confidence and a greater chance of success. For water utilities these sessions will help you understand how to bring innovation into your operations to meet your business challenges.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Supply chain companies, water company employees, researchers in the water sector, investors and entrepreneurs.

The training programme is delivered at Sheffield University. The two, two-day modules allow participants to put the training into practice in between sessions, plus network effectively with course delegates.



The first module will provide an overview of the water industry business activity in the UK, giving delegates advanced tools to analyse problems, generate creative solutions and create an innovation culture. The second module will cover how to successfully market and implement the ideas developed in the first module, using the right language along with developing a winning business case.

ACCOMMODATION: Accommodation is not included in the registration fee. There are a variety of hotels in Sheffield City Centre within walking distance of the venue.

ENQUIRIES: For further information, contact Lindsey Farnsworth, l.j.farnsworth@sheffield.ac.uk

Developed with:

Dates:

11th and 12th
June 2019

17th and 18th
July 2019

Location:

University of Sheffield,
Sheffield S1 3JD

LEARNING OUTCOMES: as a participant in the sessions you will:

- Understand the challenges in the sector and how innovation can help
- Understand how water companies and suppliers can collaborate around innovation
- Understand the innovation cycle for utilities and suppliers
- Understand the variety of creative thinking techniques the help to generate new ideas
- Understand how to prioritise innovation in your work
- Understand how to develop the innovation business case
- Understand how to create a project plan for implementing an innovative solution within your organisation
- Understand funding options for developing innovation

MODULE LEADERS



Dr Kamal Birdi (Institute of Work Psychology in the Management School, University of Sheffield, K.Birdi@Sheffield.ac.uk) has been engaging in research and practice in the areas of organisational innovation, learning and performance for over twenty years at the Institute of Work Psychology. He is a Senior Lecturer at The University of Sheffield and a Chartered Occupational Psychologist. He has worked and advised extensively on issues of evaluating and improving the impact of employee training and development interventions. In the domain of creativity, he has

investigated methods of developing employee innovation and assessing the facilitators, inhibitors and consequences of organisational innovation. His practical creativity training system (CLEAR IDEAS) has been run with hundreds of participants from organisations in the UK and overseas. In 2010, he was given the prestigious British Psychological Society DOP Academic Contribution to Practice Award for his efforts to improve organisational processes.



Dr Vanessa Speight (Department of Civil and Structural Engineering, University of Sheffield, v.speight@sheffield.ac.uk) is a Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Civil and Structural Engineering at the University of Sheffield, working on drinking water distribution systems with a focus on applications of models for water quality and public health risk. She is Managing Director of TWENTY65, an EPSRC-funded consortium with 6 universities and 70 industrial collaborative partners working across the water cycle to develop innovative solutions tailored to meeting changing water needs. She has an extensive consulting background working with more than 60 water utilities across the USA, Canada, and UK and supporting regulatory development and stakeholder engagement for the US Environmental Protection Agency.



Professor Tony Conway (Visiting Professor, University of Sheffield, t.conway@sheffield.ac.uk) was Executive Director of United Utilities where he focused on identifying world-leading water utility innovation, engaging with innovation hubs around the globe and introducing these new approaches into the organisation. He has served as a member of the Water UK Environmental Policy Advisory Group, a Director of UK Water Industry Research Ltd and a

Director of the Water Industry Forum.