

Interreg



EUROPEAN UNION

2 Seas Mers Zeeën

SARCC

European Regional Development Fund



Adaptation
to climate
change



SARCC

NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2021

5





September 2021 Newsletter

THE SARCC PARTNERSHIP

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Interreg  **2 Seas Mers Zeeën SARCC**
European Regional Development Fund

 Adaptation to climate change

Binnen het project "Sustainable And Resilient Coastal Cities" (SARCC) of Guurzame en veerkrachtige kuststeden staan natuurgerichte oplossingen (Nature Based Solutions - NBS) centraal om schade veroorzaakt door overstromingen aan de kust te voorkomen. Deze oplossingen kunnen binnen de bestaande grijze infrastructuur worden geïntegreerd of als afzonderend project geïmplementeerd. Het project heeft verder aandacht voor de capaciteitsopbouw van beleidsmakers en medewerkers betrokken bij kustbescherming om maximaal in te zetten op NBS en de voordelen die deze aanpak met zich meebrengt.

Project partners:



www.sarcc.eu

Het Interreg 2 Zeeën programma cofinanciert de Visie Spuikom, Boulevardvisie en herinrichting van de Coosje Buskenstraat.

WWW.SARCC.EU

Sarcc Billboards Are Going Up Around Europe As The NBS Pilots Are Underway.



© National Trust 2015
Shifting Shores

Interviews With Industry Representatives

In order to determine the opinion and perception of Nature Based Solutions (NBS) across different stakeholders, the SARCC communications team organised a series of three interviews with industry representatives from the National Trust (NT), Environment Agency (EA), and British Ports Association (BPA). Organisations that have key roles along the British coast.

In these in depth interviews each organisation's view on NBS uptake, success, and challenges it faces are heard.

The aim is to track the progress of these 3 organisations throughout the remainder of the SARCC project to determine how their perception to NBS changes over time. With the aim of using their experiences and opinions to better shape how SARCC operates, particularly in communicating and disseminating information about NBS studies, pilots and working towards mainstreaming NBS in coastal flood management.

NBS studies, pilots and working towards mainstreaming NBS in coastal flood management. NBS studies, pilots and working towards mainstreaming NBS in coastal flood management.

Phil Lakin National Trust



National Trust

The National Trust was founded in 1895 as a conservation charity, caring for over 870 miles of British coastline and more than 250,000 hectares of land. The NT is encouraging where appropriate and possible the inclusion of NBS and working with nature ideas into our flood mitigation policies.

This is encapsulated in our shifting shores publication. This sets out our overarching aim of working with nature and allowing nature to take its course. This can be seen in our project on Northey Island in the River Blackwater in Essex. Here we are focussing on dismantling poor condition hard engineering to facilitate seawater inundation and subsequent creation of saltmarsh, to provide a long term sustainable defence to flood risk.

"Increasing the awareness and communication of NBS and its suitability is the key to increasing implementation."

We see the evidence for the effectiveness of NBS increasing as well as awareness although we still perceive there to be an imbalance in national policy weighted towards hard engineering. Hard engineering

is still pursued where it is needed e.g., protection of heritage assets such as listed buildings.

However, we will not pursue a policy of replacement and repair of all hard engineering structures. In the long term NBS can play a significant role and can provide a number of additional benefits such as habitat creation and recreation. Increasing the awareness and communication of NBS and its suitability is the key to increasing implementation. This communication and messages with local residents and councillors are very important and we have to get local communities on board. An example of where communication has worked is in Calderdale, in West Yorkshire. The West Yorkshire combined authority contacted the NT to seek our help in developing a natural flood management project. It's an example that awareness of natural flood management is out there, and effective and active communication has helped this.



Environment
Agency

Mark Johnson Environment Agency

Established in 1996, The Environment Agency works to create better places for people and wildlife and support sustainable development. Within England they have key responsibilities for managing the risk of coastal flooding.

EA policy is that you can't protect everything and, in some cases, NBS are the most sensible and effective solution. We recognise however that the NBS solution has to be bespoke and specific to that particular location. In some respects, resilience and management are more suitable than protection and this lends itself to NBS.

The EA has worked in the past with local communities and universities to develop coastal management strategies that work with natural processes such as at Bacton and Salthouse, Norfolk, UK. The EA understand the challenges of convincing the local population and communities of the benefits to soft engineering and NBS, we need to win hearts and minds and convincing local people of the benefits is vital.

“ Convincing local people of the benefits is vital.”



BRITISH PORTS
ASSOCIATION

Mark Simmonds

British Ports Association

The British Ports Association is a national membership body for ports, established in 1992. We represent the interests of operators that handle 86% of all UK port traffic, to Westminster and devolved Governments, and other national and international bodies.

The principal of NBS policy within British ports is not universal, for some it is high on the agenda and for others it is not, and these ports tend to view business and trade as the first priority. However, I have noticed a gradual positive shift in attitude and uptake of NBS into engineering projects in port areas over the past few years. With NBS being integrated into the design stage from the beginning of engineering projects and is not just an afterthought. It is becoming an industry standard and not just good practice.

However natural capital is not fully integrated into port operational legislation yet. Ports have historically just focused on operations and there has never been a desire or expectation from government, before now, to strive beyond that. The issue is that a significant proportion of British ports are small-medium sized organisations without communications and environmental departments, so distributing the NBS message and absorbing these ideas is difficult and ports are not used to broadcasting their activities. So there is also a cultural change that has to be made as well.

A further challenge I have seen in integrating nature inclusive design and NBS solutions is the difficulty in quantifying the economic benefit of eco system services to service based industry such as ports. Communicating these challenges and doubts is important to impact legal policy. I'm optimistic and think that might change in the next 10 years or so.

“Distributing the NBS message and absorbing these ideas is difficult”



Conclusion

These three interviews highlight one important factor; our work at SARCC is crucial. The dissemination, communication and information sharing on NBS practices, data and pilot surveys is vital to integrate working with nature philosophy into stakeholder policies across all sectors. From these interviews we can see NBS uptake, awareness, and site specific suitability is improving, thanks to an ever increasing evidence base. However, legislative and communication hurdles and barriers remain, particularly in privately owned enterprises and within organisations who have limited communications and have traditionally focussed operations away from nature.

SARCC Seminar April 2021

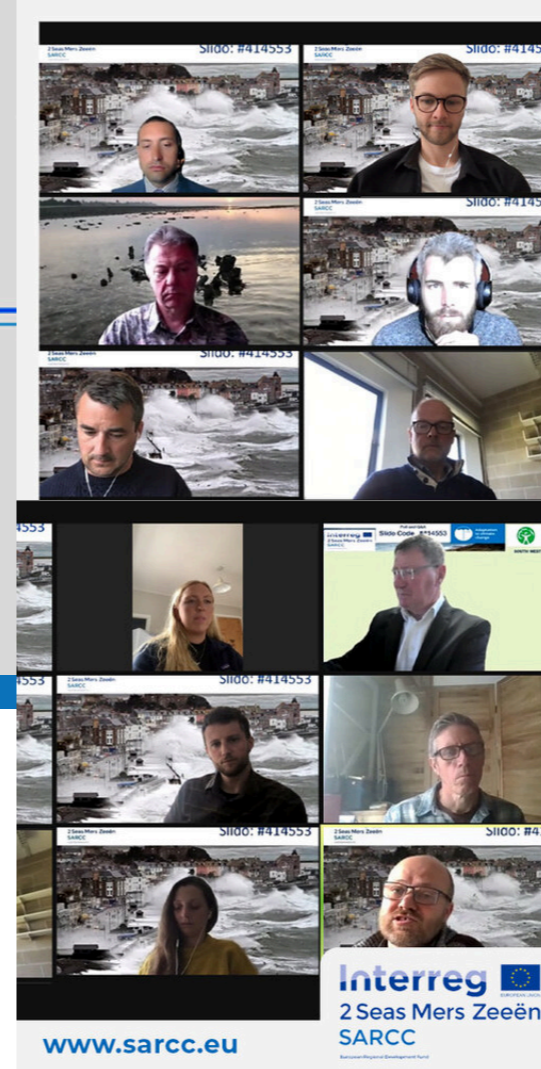
The benefits of using Nature-Based Solutions in coastal defence

The second SARCC webinar, held in April 2021, was organised by the Environment Agency (Devon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly area), Exo Environmental and Flemish Department for Environment, Spatial Planning. With all that we're learning about Nature-based Solutions (NBS) through the work of the SARCC project, we were excited to share this with our fellow coastal practitioners, with the aim of hopefully sparking ideas, sharing good practise and generally making the world of NBS that bit more accessible, to encourage the use of NBS schemes over traditional 'grey' infrastructure in the future.

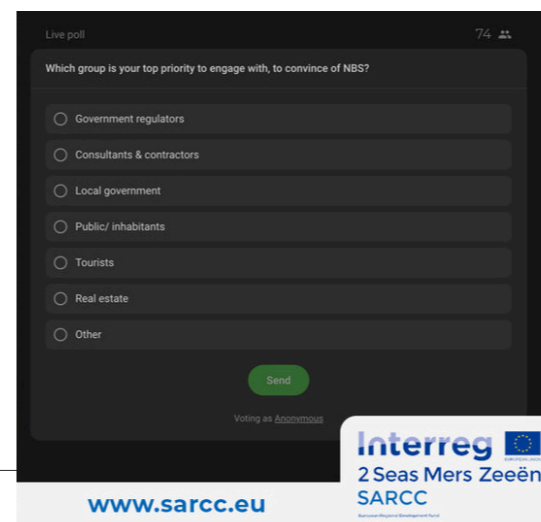
With the ongoing global pandemic, the SARCC team took up the challenge of delivering a workshop over virtual means and embraced the opportunity of reaching a wider audience, including having everything translated into Dutch. The webinar consisted of eleven pre-recorded presentations from subject-matter experts, which were made available to signed-up attendees two weeks prior to the live session to watch at their own convenience, which are now available on the SARCC website. These presentations focussed on building upon topics first introduced at the November 2020 webinar, as well as sharing some UK case studies of NBS work and strategic thinking.

The presentations fit into the following themes:

- *Climate and coastal change, and communicating this data*
- *Nature-based Solutions as dynamic environments*
- *Assessing the added value of Nature-based Solutions*
- *Overcoming the challenges of Nature-based solutions*
- *Identifying and sharing Nature-based Solution opportunities*
- *Financing and insurances*



All presentations and session recordings can be found on the SARCC website here: www.sarcc.eu/2021-seminar



The live session consisted of several of the subject-matter experts making up a panel for discussion and Q&A. This provided a space for the over 100 delegates who attended the session to ask questions specific to their interest and work priorities and highlight to the SARCC team where we can provide the most relevant and valuable information for our audience, both for the session itself and for future events.

In situations where technical information needs to be communicated to an audience of varying technical knowledge, Professor Kenny Coventry introduced the idea of screening the audience through the use of polls or similar, to help gauge their knowledge and understanding on a topic, prior to the presentation. This will help to dictate at what level to pitch your presentation, and therefore improve the chances of the information landing well with the audience.

The panel explored and discussed ideas on implementing NBS into long term thinking. Martin Davies talked about the UK's recent FCERM (Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management) Strategy and the steps we need to take locally to deliver these ambitions, including innovation and risk. In the delivery of this strategy, Justin Ridgewell detailed about building the long term narrative of coastal change and working with natural processes with both local decision makers and communities, and how this contributes to 'building a nation of climate champions'.

Through discussion regarding coastal adaption and the rollback of communities from erosion risk areas, Kellie Fisher highlighted the Defra-supported research and development project 'CLIFF' (Coastal Loss Innovative Funding and Finance), which is a project looking at potential financial facilitation mechanisms to help people relocate away from risk of erosion or permanent inundation situation as a result of sea level rise. George Arnison added that not having a funding model for adaption in the UK isn't necessarily a hindrance to delivery, as these situations are all different and therefore require a bespoke approach. It was agreed that we need to improve how we share the justifications used in adaption and NBS schemes, so others can learn from them. This is something we're excited to help deliver as a SARCC project.

Polls were used during the live Q&A session to help gauge attendees' understanding of and interest in NBS. Responses indicated that funding is considered a key challenge in

NEW SARCC VIDEOS

Multiple SARCC videos will be released across the three years of the project. These will include introduction videos to each partner, pilot updates, factual information videos and project overview videos. We've recently released two new partner introduction videos on the SARCC website and YouTube channel. One introducing Southend-on-Sea and one introducing Middelkerke. Oostende and Blankenberge to follow.

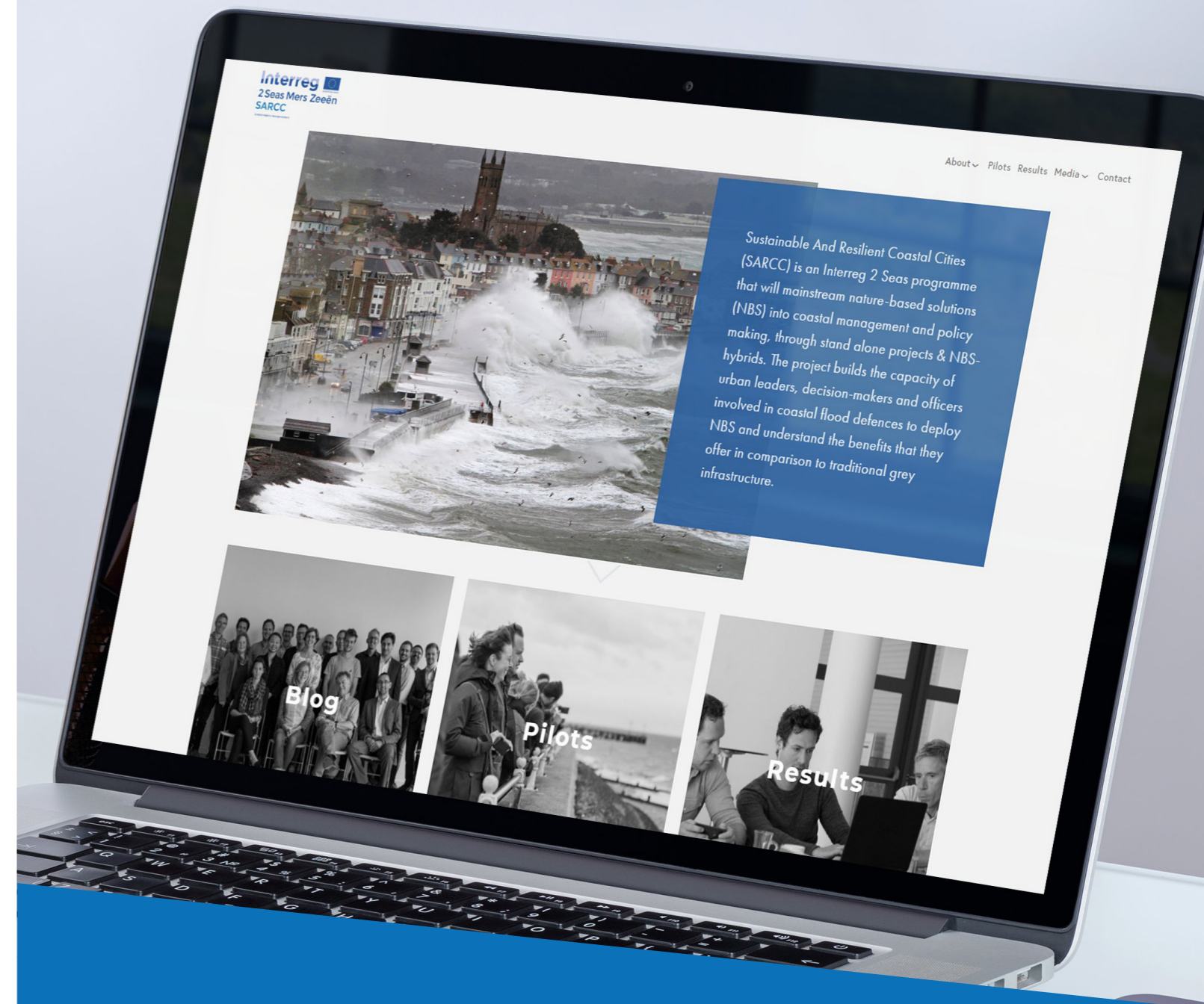


Southend Borough Council (lead partner). Head to: www.sarcc.eu/videos



Introducing Middelkerke Head to: www.sarcc.eu/videos

KEEP
UPDATED
<https://www.sarcc.eu/videos>



UPDATED WEBSITE

The SARCC website has gone through another big update! The site now features more information on the pilots and the results of the project! Using your computer, tablet or phone, head to www.sarcc.eu to take a look.

Get each newsletter emailed to you:
<https://www.sarcc.eu/newsletters>

Website: <https://www.sarcc.eu>

Twitter: @SARCCeu

General E-mail: hello@sarcc.eu

Communications E-mail: comms@sarcc.eu

UPCOMING EVENTS

Changing Weather Phenomena At The Belgian Coast: What Does It Mean For Us?

Climate change affects all different types of environments. Sea-level rise and increasing flood risk pose difficult challenges.

The Flemish Government wants to explore all the consequences it'll have on various fields. They are organising a series of public lectures as part of the activities in work package 2 of SARCC in the autumn and winter of 2021 & 2022.

The SARCC-project is planning four different in-depth lectures for a larger audience, spread over 11 locations on the Belgian coast. The lectures will happen through four different thematic lectures about the impact of climate change on nature, agriculture, the water system and the coastline itself.

We invited several renowned experts for each lecture to explain their vision on the challenges ahead of us, suggesting some possible solutions for the big challenges of this century.

Via these lectures, we want to brighten up the knowledge of a complex theme, for a wider audience. In this way, more people have access to reliable and objective information on many different aspects of climate change.

THE CHANGING WATER SYSTEM

Patrick Meire of the University of Antwerpen and Patrick Willems of the KU Leuven introduce the general challenges of climate change and the impact it will have on the water system.

COASTAL MORPHOLOGY, THEN AND NOW

Dries Tys of the Free University of Brussels (VUB) and Pieter Rauwoens of the KU Leuven. Focus on the coastline and coastal defences from a historic and present perspective. They explore how sea-level rise opens up opportunities on how we can make the current coastal defences more natural and sustainable.

Follow @SARCC on Twitter for updates on how you can get involved.

BIODIVERSITY IN THE DUNES

Dries Bonte of Ghent University and Sam Provoost of the INBO (Institute for Nature and Forest research) explain the impact climate change will have on biodiversity, with a special focus on the dunes.

THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE POLDERS

Climate change brings complex challenges for the entire agricultural sector. The impact is complex and challenging. The speaker from the ILVO (Institute for Agricultural, Fishery and Food research) will first bring together all the separate puzzle pieces, before looking at different pathways toward a climate-resilient form of agriculture in coastal zones. With attention to both the challenges and the opportunities, the future will hold. For eleven different locations.



**A well informed coastal
citizen is worth at least two.**

FIND OUT MORE

<https://www.sarcc.eu/blog-posts/sarcc-public-lectures>

SARCC WORKSHOP

'QUANTIFYING STANDARD OF PROTECTION AND BENEFITS OF NATURE-BASED SOLUTION PROJECTS

From our webinar earlier this year*, you told us funding is your top challenge in delivering NBS, habitat creation & flood alleviation are your key interests in NBS, and you'd like to hear more about NBS case studies. We're therefore hosting a workshop to help address these.

Welcome and Introduction

An Overview of NBS & climate change

Case study presentations, including: NBS projects, innovative tools for quantifying benefits & funding

Workshop discussion sessions: Funding & insurance, NBS & habitat creation business cases, Modelling & measuring benefits, Residual risk & incident management and Flood defence databases

Summary and close

A full agenda & dial in details will be added to this appointment nearer the time

Please note this will be an interactive session so please come prepared with questions and key aims of what you want to get from the discussions

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

<https://www.sarcc.eu/register>



FEATURED TWEETS

A few tweets from the past few months. Make sure to follow us @SARCCeu and tweet with #SARCC to be featured next time!



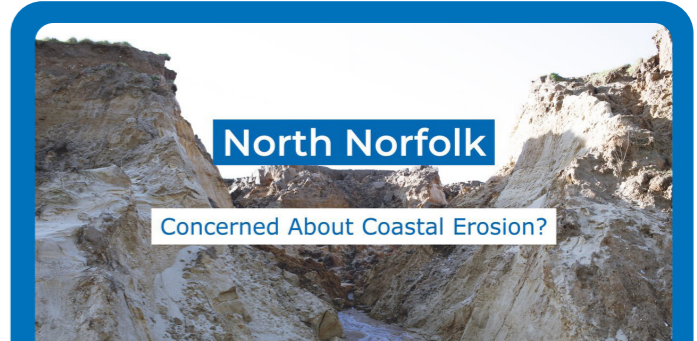
@NautArchSoc

Upcoming events Waving hand We will be hosting a series of lectures. The four lecture themes will be about the impact of climate change on nature, agriculture, the water system and the coastline itself. Visit our website to find out more



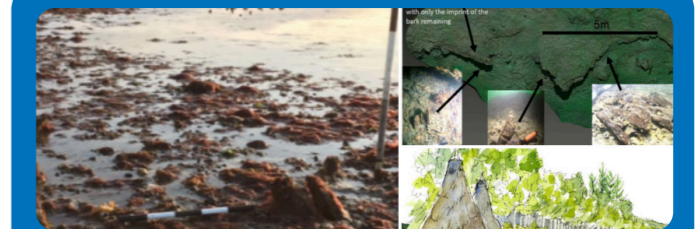
@SARCCeu

The SARCC nature-based solutions pilot sites are starting to appear across Europe Flag of European Union Read more about them here: <http://sarcc.eu/pilots> Building construction



@SARCCeu

Concerned about coastal erosion? Have your say on our new questionnaire and possibly win a £50 amazon voucher or a SARCC goodie bag! #NBS #Ecosystem #Coastal



@SARCCeu

#EarthDay #EarthDay2021 #RestoreOurEarth Our work with @SARCCeu is helping to protect the environment with #greentechnologies:



Southend-on-Sea Borough

@SARCCeu | 962 Impressions

Southend-On-Sea Borough

Introducing SARCC partner! Waving hand @SouthendBC Watch our latest introduction video to see what Southend on Sea are working on within the SARCC project.

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