

SAVE THE DATE: 23 – 24 – 25 SEPTEMBER 2026
The Green Village, Delft University of Technology NL

INTERDISCIPLINARY SYMPOSIUM ON DROUGHT

in cooperation with the

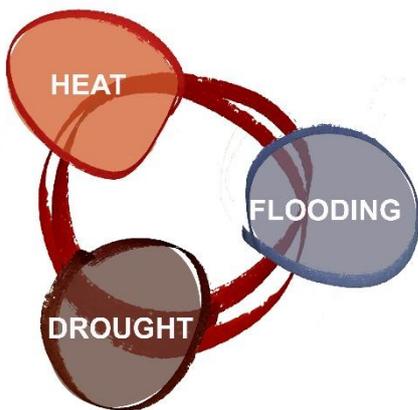
NWA-THIRSTY CITIES PROJECT TU DELFT CITG



CONTEXT:

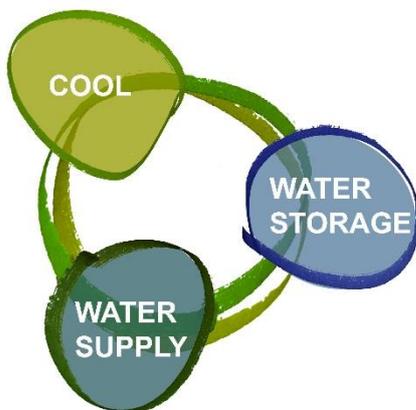
The effects of climate change are increasingly visible in our daily lives. Major storms on the oceans with dramatic coastal effects, dangerous flooding due to heavy downpours alternate with prolonged droughts and extreme heat. In cities, these effects are further exacerbated by the predominantly stone-built structures and the lack of natural areas. It's no longer only the future, but our daily lives and health are burdened by these effects, resulting in a disrupted social structure, growing poverty, economic malaise, diseases, and preventable deaths.

It's not tomorrow, but today, that solutions must be found for the most pressing urban environmental problems: heat, intensive rain-events (short-term flooding), and drought. These three extreme weather conditions are interconnected and must be addressed in this context.



Heat dehydrates the environment. Without water, vegetation dies, and the heat becomes even more intense. During intensive rain events, water is still quickly withdrawn, resulting in a critical lack of water during hot weather.

Of the three climate problems, drought has been addressed the least. Heat and flooding are often acute problems, and they are solved with short-term measures. Drought requires long-term measures, which entails a much more complex process. Nevertheless, drought also needs to receive more attention, as part of the heat, intensive rain-events, and drought triad.



PARTICIPATION:

To encourage broader participation in finding solutions, this interdisciplinary project invites architects, urban designers, artists, and scientists to submit projects or papers for the first symposium on drought at [The Green Village](#) on the campus of Delft University of Technology. The Green Village is an open air laboratory in Delft where entrepreneurs and scientists validate new innovative technologies to make cities more resilient to climate change.

Climate problems impact society as a whole. The consequences are manifold: societal, physical, environmental or financial. The diverse viewpoints allow the problem of drought to be viewed in a more dynamic, multidimensional and interdisciplinary light. Aspects such as experience, impressions, and the impact on daily life can then be examined alongside design issues or topics related to urban physics. This can generate greater understanding for all parties and contribute to creating stronger support for necessary but potentially unpleasant

solutions. Understanding each other's perspectives also helps foster solidarity, a key bridge for overcoming the challenges of climate change.

Within the [Delft University of Technology](#), many scientists from different fields work together within the [Climate Action Program](#) to research climate change. Their four overarching themes are Climate Science, Mitigating Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation and Climate Change Governance. By joining this symposium, you will meet researchers from TU Delft and get the opportunity to strengthen your collaboration.

AIM OF THE PROJECT:

The project aims to:

- Draw attention to and raise awareness of this often-ignored, but equally dangerous, aspect of the current urban climate crisis - **drought**;
- Share knowledge about the causes, societal and physical consequences, and mitigation methods of **drought** in urban environments;
- Contribute to a better mutual understanding and increasing solidarity nationally and internationally and facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration to address **drought**, this silent urban killer;

SUBMISSIONS:

Because various disciplines are represented in this project, there are also more possible submissions. Submissions may include scientific research, architectural projects, or art projects.

All submissions are expected in maximal two (2) A1 portrait-sized poster format.

PARTICIPATION FEE:

The fee for each submitted project including online or life participation is €70,- which will cover the printing costs for the submitted posters.

The fee for participation in the Rotterdam excursion is €40,-

Participants must arrange their accommodation in the Netherlands at their own expense.

THE PROGRAM IN CONCEPT:

23 september 2026: Projects related to drought visit in Rotterdam, guided by Germain Sanders

24 september 2026: Symposium day

25 september 2026: Symposium day

The final programme will be announced later

APPLICATION:

A submission intent deadline 31th of July 2026. The intent form to be sent to:

info@ecosystem-services.eu

Submission deadline 31th of August 2026. Submission intents and submissions to be sent by mail to:

info@ecosystem-services.eu

Fee payment after receiving the invoice, based on the submission intent. Fees will not be returned in case of postponed participation.

WELCOME:

We look forward to welcoming you to the symposium and brainstorming together to share knowledge, better understand the urban drought problem and its solutions, and generate collaborations.

Best regards

Eva Stache

architect - researcher at the Delft University of Technology, Faculty of Civil Engineering – expert ecological engineering at Stedenbouw & Architectuur.

Thijs de Bruijn

Projectmanager Climate Adaptation at The Green Village, part of Delft University of Technology.