



BLUE PLANET Berlin Water Dialogues | November 28, 2024 | 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM CET | Online | in English

## Reshaping Our Cities: BLUE PLANET Berlin Water Dialogues 2024 on "Urban Water Resilience"

### Keynote Speakers Confirmed | Program Released

**Berlin, October 31, 2024** – The BLUE PLANET Berlin Water Dialogues are set to return on November 28, 2024, with a focus on "Urban Water Resilience". International experts and key decision-makers from research, industry, and policy will converge online to explore pioneering approaches for resilient urban water systems as climate change demands a comprehensive rethinking of grey, blue, and green infrastructure. The event will kick off with an introduction from State Secretary Severin Fischer (Senate Department for Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises). Attendees will benefit from keynote presentations by thought leaders such as Will Sarni (Earth Finance, Water Foundry), Aklilu Fikresilassie, PhD (World Resources Institute Africa), Dr. Darla Nickel (Berlin Rainwater Agency), and Dr. Carlo W. Becker (bgmr Landschaftsarchitekten), sharing groundbreaking strategies and practical solutions. The conference is supported by the Berlin Senate Department for Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises.

This year, the BLUE PLANET Berlin Water Dialogues will highlight innovative water management and urban planning approaches that strengthen city resilience. Participants will gain insight into forward-thinking solutions with proven implementation strategies. The event centers on two main themes: "Urban Planning" and "Infrastructure and Digitalization."

**Dr. Carlo W. Becker** and **Dr. Darla Nickel** will open the event with insights on the "Sponge City" concept. Dr. Becker, a landscape architect and managing partner of bgmr Landschaftsarchitekten GmbH, specializes in sustainable urban development and climate adaptation. Dr. Nickel, director of the Berlin Rainwater Agency, will present the Sponge City concept as a tested model for decentralized rainwater management in Berlin, emphasizing local rainwater storage, utilization, and infiltration to ease the burden on urban systems.

Following this, project pitches will provide an in-depth look at climate-friendly urban development projects and pilot initiatives from across Europe. The first panel discussion, moderated by **Prof. Günter Müller-Czygan**, Professor of Water Infrastructure and Director of the Institute for Sustainable Water Systems (inwa) at Hof University of Applied Sciences, will center on urban water resilience in the face of extreme rainfall events, highlighting the urgent need for urban transformation.

The second thematic block, "Infrastructure and Digitalization", will be introduced by **Will Sarni**, the Practice Lead, Water and Nature at Earth Finance. He is also the Founder and General Partner of Water Foundry Ventures, a water technology venture fund focused on addressing water scarcity, quality and equitable access to water. He has been a sustainability and water strategy advisor to multinationals, water technology companies, investors, and non-governmental organizations for his entire career. The subsequent pitch segment will feature visionary models for resilient urban infrastructure, followed by a panel discussion led by **Dr. Nicolas Caradot**, Group Leader 'Smart City & Infrastructure' at the Berlin Centre of Competence for Water (KWB).

In the concluding keynote, **Aklilu Fikresilassie (PhD)**, Director of the "Thriving Resilient Cities" program at the World Resources Institute (WRI) Africa, will explore the potential of strategic, data-driven actions for building resilient cities. With over 20 years of experience in urban development, environmental policy, and program management, Fikresilassie will share insights into the unique challenges and opportunities of urban water management on the African continent.

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Organizers



German Water Partnership





Moderating this year's BLUE PLANET Berlin Water Dialogues will be **Dr. Pascale Rouault**, Managing Director of KWB, and **Boris Greifeneder**, Managing Director of the German Water Partnership.

## BLUE PLANET Berlin Water Dialogues 2024

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View the **program** [here](#).

**Register now** and free of charge [here](#).

The event will be held in English. For more information, please visit our website [www.blueplanetberlin.de](http://www.blueplanetberlin.de) and follow us on [LinkedIn](#).

### About BLUE PLANET Berlin Water Dialogues

The BLUE PLANET Berlin Water Dialogues serve as an international forum for stakeholders from the water industry, politics, science, and NGOs to exchange knowledge, ideas, concepts and experiences. The goal is to address global challenges, propose solutions and promote synergies in research and development between companies and scientific institutions in order to advance sustainable solutions. The event aims to inspire practical innovations in water management, including resource-efficient technologies, sustainable development and applications of artificial intelligence. The BLUE PLANET Berlin Water Dialogues 2024 are organized by the KWB Kompetenzzentrum Wasser Berlin gGmbH and German Water Partnership e.V., in cooperation with the Berlin consulting companies T-Base Consulting GmbH and eclareon GmbH, and are supported by the Berlin Senate Department for Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises.

### Press Invitation

Members of the press are warmly invited to attend the online conference. Please register using the [press registration](#).

We kindly ask you to send us two copies or the internet link after publication.

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