



Life Sciences and
Facility Management

on-site
German
translation

19. & 20. March 2026

International Sponge City Days

The International Sponge City Days 2026 will bring together leading experts from around the world on March 19 and 20 at the ZHAW Grüental campus in Wädenswil. The aim of the two-day event is to exchange ideas on sustainable, climate-adapted urban development - with a focus on sponge city principles. Global best-practice examples from Australia, Asia and Europe will meet local implementation experiences in Switzerland. The conference program is aimed at experts from planning, science, politics and administration as well as anyone interested in resilient cities and innovative water strategies.

Thursday 19 March 2026

On the first day, leading experts from Australia, Asia, and Europe will showcase how the sponge city concept is being implemented in diverse urban contexts around the world. Complemented by Swiss perspectives, the sessions will provide inspiring insights into climate-resilient urban development, blue-green infrastructure, and innovative rainwater management design.

Switzerland CET	China CST	Australia AEDT			
07:00	-	-	Shuttle bus service from 7:15 until 7:45		
08:05	14:05	17:05	Welcome & Opening	Dr. Peter Bach Stefan Stevanovic	on-site
08:20	14:20	17:20	Keynote 1: Australia	TBA	online
09:00	15:00	18:00	Break		
09:40	15:40	18:40	Keynote 1: School of Water Resources and Hydropower Engineering	Prof. Xiang Zhang Wuhan University	online
10:20	16:20	19:20	Best Practice Switzerland	Silvia Oppliger VSA Project Manager Sponge City	on-site
11:00	17:00	20:00	Poster Pitch Session		
11:30	17:30	20:30	Lunch break (End of conference for China & Australia)		
12:30	recorded		Garden tours	IUNR	on-site
13:30	recorded		Best Practice Portugal	Maria Matos Silva University of Lisbon	TBA
14:00	recorded		EU research project „SpongeScapes“	Dr. Ellis Penning Deltares	online
14:30			Break		
15:00	recorded		A Framework for Extreme Weather Adaptation	Prof. Chris Zevenbergen IHE Delft	TBA
15:30	recorded		Best Practice Denmark	TBA	TBA
16:30			End of the conference, shuttle bus service until 17:20		

Friday 20 March 2026

The second day focuses on scientific foundations and digital tools that support integrated planning and decision-making for resilient urban environments. Presentations by experts from academia and practice highlight methods for risk management, multicoded city design, and nature-based decision-support systems. The day concludes with a synthesis of experiences linking research insights to practical applications.

Switzerland CET	China CST	Australia AEDT			
07:00	-	-	Shuttle bus service from 7:15 until 7:45		
08:05	14:05	17:05	Welcome & Opening	Swissnex	online
08:20	14:20	17:20	Keynote 2: Australia	TBA	TBA
09:00	15:00	18:00	Break		
09:40	15:40	18:40	Keynote 2: School of Environment	Prof. Haifeng Jia Tsinghua University	online
10:20	16:20	19:20	Risk management with BGI Switzerland	Prof. Joao Paulo Leitao Eawag	on-site
11:00	17:00	20:00	Best Practice China	TBA	TBA
11:30	17:30	20:30	Lunch break (End of conference for China & Australia)		
13:00	recorded	Multicoded city - challenges and strategies for the city of tomorrow		Dr. Carlo W. Becker bgmr Landschaftsarchitekten	TBA
13:30	recorded	NbS CataTool Decision Support System		Chiara Catalano Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche	TBA
14:00	recorded	International projects		TBA	TBA
14:30	recorded	Closing „Experience from practice and science“		Stefan Stevanovic	on-site
15:00			End of the conference, shuttle bus service until 16:00		

Zurich University of
Applied Sciences

**Life Sciences and
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Date:

Thursday 19 and Friday 20 March 2026 (registration deadline: 9 March 2026)

Venue:

Hybrid, ZHAW Wädenswil, Building GA, Grüentalstrasse 14, 8820 Wädenswil

Language:

English (on-site with German translation)

Getting there:

We recommend arriving by public transport, as there are no free parking spaces available on the Grüental campus. Conference participants may park at the the «Gerenu» car park (Schönenbergstrasse 189, Wädenswil). From there, free shuttle buses run to the ZHAW-Campus.

Fees:

Conference rate CHF 240.00 per day | Online conference rate CHF 150.00 per day |
Students or apprentices CHF 190.00 per day

Included:

Catering and campus tours (on-site only)

Cancellation:

Cancellations are possible up to 14 calendar days before the event without incurring any cancellation fees. If you cancel after this date or fail to attend, the conference fee will be charged in full or will not be refunded.

Payment methods: PostFinance Card, TWINT, Visa, Mastercard



Further information and registration: www.zhaw.ch/iunr/spongecitydays