

# MICHELLE FURTADO

michelle@futureecologic.co.uk

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As a dedicated and intelligent sustainability professional, I am committed to influencing a wide a range of people about the positive benefits of environmental improvement in its widest sense and creating change. My professional and personal life reflects an awareness of individual environmental impact. Across the course of my career, I have developed a keen ability to create strategic, structural thinking in the delivery and influence of sustainable outcomes for organisations and clients. Of particular interest, are the benefits created by positive, functioning partnership approaches to the challenges posed by climate change across sectoral, organisational or community level.

Various bodies have asked me to act in an expert capacity, as a speaker, contributor or advisor, for example as advisory board member of National Ecosystem Assessment Part Two under the Cultural Ecosystem Services Work Package. I continue a number of ongoing voluntary roles, as Trustee with the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces and Vice-Chair of Green Tides, the Adur and Worthing Green Spaces Partnership. Additionally, I volunteer with Worthing Climate Action Network, building relationships locally to deliver climate change information and action. This includes organising, managing and speaking at events, leading initiatives and undertaking supporting roles for other projects. Recent achievements include co-organising the Zero 2030 conference and acting as Advisory Board Member for the Adur and Worthing Citizens Climate Assembly.

## Employment History

### **Sep '17 to present FuturEcoLogic, Director**

- FuturEcoLogic provides mentoring services to deliver sustainable outcomes. Highlights of work to date include:
  - 2018 co-organiser of conference for parks managers across the south-east and beyond to look at funding and valuation of green spaces.
  - 2019 national pilot about enhancing ecosystem services in urban areas – built partnership and led opportunity.
  - 2019 project manager of Parks and People, Stronger Together series of national conferences.
  - 2020 co-organiser of Zero 2030, with 300 participants looking at challenges and scene-setting for local climate action.

### **Jun '13 to Aug '17 Low Carbon Europe Ltd, Sustainability and Environmental Consultant**

- Building upon extensive experience in the environment sector, I worked with a range of organisations to improve environments and deliver strategic organisational sustainability. My interest has always been broad, covering natural and built environments, regeneration and planning, social equity and climate change. The role allowed me to engage new audiences to understand and strategically plan for future sustainability challenges.
- I worked with several NHS trusts to develop plans and implement measures to achieve sustainable outcomes. The work was varied including; reviewing data to deliver required client outputs, achieving compliance outcomes, reporting and document writing, delivering staff engagement programmes, including training sessions and implementing strategic reporting lines and structures to embed sustainability thinking.
- Contacts made during my previous career have allowed me to deliver a strong partnership approach when considering strategic sustainability. I was particularly keen in introducing and building relationships between external organisations and clients with whom collaborations may be beneficial.

### **Aug '09 to Mar '13 GreenSpace South East, Regional Forum Manager and**

### **Aug '10 to Mar '13 GreenSpace, Policy and Research Officer**

- Responsible for promoting best practice and environmental policy amongst local authorities and other conservation organisations, a network numbering 500 contacts, through a regional forum, sub-regional groups and email communication. Working on behalf of members to ensure that partnerships secured with other organisations directly benefit the region, including funding and training opportunities.
- Skilled communication at all levels required from strategic planning at national forum level to practice discussion with local authority or community groups. Ongoing delivery, development and monitoring of the forum's action plan and long-term strategic aims. Provision of expert assistance to local authorities; for example, acting as critical friend during the development of Oxford City Council's Green Space Strategy, involvement in a European funded shared learning project between Rother District Council and the Belgium city of Oostende and speaking at a variety of events about green infrastructure.

- Projects include the development of an online discussion forum, events and training delivery, including the Green Flag Award national standard for parks and green spaces and green infrastructure Masterclasses, regular news updates and conference reports and the annual regional conference. Also, responsible for overall management of related administration systems including finance.
- Attendance at regional and national level working groups with partner organisations to understand and disseminate the latest sector projects and opportunities. Both roles aim to influence and advocate to central and local government policy makers the importance of green infrastructure in line with the latest research and evidence.
- The policy and research role required an up-to-date knowledge of the latest studies related to green infrastructure and the built environment within the wider context of sustainable urban growth.

**Jan '10 to Jul '10 Brighton and Hove City Council, Parks Project Officer**

- Part-time position working with the Parks Project team to deliver Playbuilder and other capital projects. This position was negotiated to compliment the contract fulfilment of GreenSpace South East prior to becoming a full-time employee with GreenSpace during a restructure.

**Jan '07 to Dec '09 Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, Greenspace Project Officer**

- Busy and varied role working for the Improving Neighbourhoods Board (INB), a multi-agency and resident group, which oversaw the £3.7m Safer, Stronger Community fund, of which £2.1m was for the Cleaner, Greener programme for five disadvantaged neighbourhoods in King's Lynn. From this £600k of capital projects were allocated and completed, forming a community park spaces network of six play sites and one entire park redesign, plus additional neighbourhoods grant programme, other tenders and funding bids.
- Initially carried out a large-scale green space audit including mapping, database and final report, which informed the INB action plan leading to my subsequent responsibility as landscape architect and project manager. My contract was extended in August 2007 and I was promoted in April 2008.
- I planned and managed all these projects from inception, community engagement strategies and planning, to overseeing the contractors on site, evaluation and promotion of the final outcomes. Where required, I organised outside skills and assistance to progress the various projects, for example commissioning artists to engage and develop ideas with children and communities.
- Fully responsible for all allocated budget management, including grant application submissions, collating all necessary information and producing business plans.
- Working in the public sector established a broad range of experience and transferable skills that fell on the periphery of my original position, such as inclusion in Council steering groups regarding regeneration and planning for King's Lynn and West Norfolk. This was coupled with extensive training, including CAFE Space Leaders programme.

**Jun '06 to Dec '06 Camelia Botnar Homes and Gardens, Nursery Supervisor**

- Supervisor role in a garden centre forming part of a charitable foundation to assist challenging teenagers between the ages of 16-21. Covering all aspects of nursery work including stock ordering, presentation, propagation and growing; working with one other supervisor on shift rotas meant I often had overall control of the nursery running.
- The supervision and development of the young people employed at the nursery was the main priority; I undertook tutorage of City and Guilds certification for them and additionally researched any further training that we could provide for them.

## Education

**Sep '08 to Jun '10 University of Cambridge, Cambridge**

Interdisciplinary Design and the Built Environment

I completed a Master of Studies (Mst) degree with my thesis is titled "Cultural Ecosystem Services and Urban Green Issues; Measuring Qualitative Values" for which I achieved an A-grade. The course, during seven residential weeks over two years, gave me a broad, strategic understanding of social, economic and environmental context of design and the current challenges and opportunities facing production of the built environment. There was a particular emphasis on sustainable ideals, ideas, technologies and interdisciplinary working themes.

**Sep '03 to Jun '06 University of Greenwich, London**

BA Hons Garden Design – 2:1

Design degree undertaken alongside landscape architects, but with more emphasis on planting and details. The course programme included conceptual design, Auto CAD, detailing and materials studies, planting, construction and masterplanning.