



## ► Caring for buildings

Buildings are damaged by severe weather like high winds and heavy rain. This can cause water to leak in to buildings through broken gutters and cracks in walls resulting in damp, mould and condensation. Poor ventilation can also lead to buildings being too warm. Caring for buildings by repairing cracks in walls and paint work, removing plants that grow in gutters and, opening up air vents to allow air to flow through buildings can help to make sure that buildings are not damaged by high winds and heavy rain and, keep cool during warmer weather.

## ► Replace hard surfaces

Large areas of our cities and town centres are covered in hard concrete and tar mac surfaces that trap water above ground increasing the risk of flooding. These hard surfaces also absorb heat causing cities and towns to be warmer than the surrounding countryside and increasing the risk of overheating during warmer weather. We can improve public transport and cycle networks and re-place hard surfaces such as car parks with greenspace and softer surfaces that absorb less heat and allow water to drain away underground reducing flood risk.

## ► Floodplain park

In many cases we have put hard surfaces and buildings next to rivers meaning there is nowhere for rivers to flood safely when water levels are high. Increases in rainfall mean that rivers are now more likely to flood so we need to create safe spaces for flood water in our towns and cities. Replacing hard surfaces and buildings with riverside parks will provide lovely places for people to enjoy and, a natural place for water to be stored during floods. Including open streams in parks, in place of underground pipes, will also help to reduce the risk of flooding by providing a way for water from the streets surrounding the park to flow away in to the river.

## ► Changing buildings

Many buildings will need to be completely changed to help them to cope with increased rain and higher temperatures. Changes might include installing green roofs and walls that help buildings absorb rain water and also stay cool during warmer weather. Plug sockets and other electrics might also be moved from ground level to higher up walls so that they are not as badly damaged if buildings flood.

## ► Resilient travel

Stations, roads, railways and cycle paths can all be damaged by severe weather and sometimes have to be closed for repairs. These closures stop people from traveling to work and school and mean that businesses cannot deliver their products to customers. Improving the design of stations, railways, roads and cycle paths can help them cope better with problems such as flooding. We can also become more resilient by planning ahead and avoiding travel during severe weather.

## ► Public space

Public spaces can help us to enjoy our towns and cities and are great places for relaxing, holding events and meeting with friends. Public spaces can be redesigned to include greenspace, street trees and buildings with green roofs and walls. As well as looking good these changes benefit people by helping to hold rainwater and reduce flood risk, providing cool, shaded places during warmer summer weather and removing pollution from the air.