



Flood Walk in Karlstad – Raising the Local Flood Risk Awareness

Karlstad University - Centre for Climate and Safety, Sweden

Main Idea

To raise the awareness of flood risks in Karlstad, Sweden, a flood walk has been developed by the Centre for Climate and Safety. Groups of people are guided on a walking tour to learn and reflect about flood hazards from river or lake floodings or from intense rainfall. A discussion among the participants is encouraged to create a walking seminar.

Approach

The city of Karlstad is flood prone with its location on a big delta, on the shore of Lake Vänern. At the same time the municipality is active to reduce flood risks. During 90 minutes, groups of participants are guided along a 3 km long walk with about six stops. Each stop has a certain theme, for example about flood hazard characteristics regarding the River Klarälven or the Lake Vänern, historical floods or about vulnerabilities such as the function of the regional hospital or electricity or sewage systems. Alternative city planning and risk-reducing measures are also included.

The Flood Walk concept was created with the aims of providing a more participatory and on-site approach of flood related learning. The concept includes a study material to guide through the entire tour. The material is free to use in education or as guiding material, and can be found on our website.

Link to further information www.kau.se/ccs

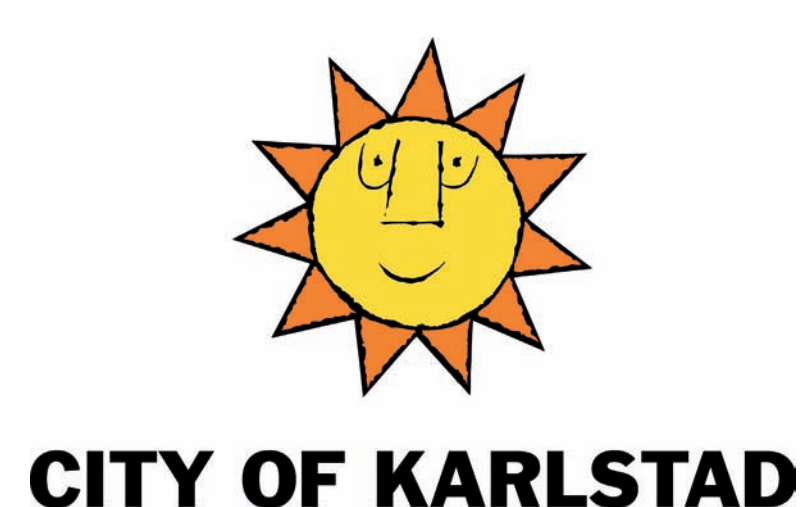
Results

By November 2011 about 15 groups have been guided. It has been students, representatives from the public, from regional and national authorities and visiting European and international flood experts. The group size has varied between 10 and 50 persons.

Contribution to SAWA

The Flood Walk has been developed as a part of the SAWA-project. SAWA is an EU-project with 22 partners from 5 countries spread around the Northsea. The project goal is to develop common strategies for implementation of the EU Flood directive.

Co-partners



Map of Flood walk in Karlstad with all 14 stops. Normally 5-6 stops are used during one walk.



Flood walk with a delegation from Schlesien, Poland in May 2011



Flood walk where the public in Karlstad was invited, Aug 2011.

