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In the course of climate change the frequency of heavy rain events has been increasing. Especially in large cities this is presenting considerable problems to the sewerage system. In order to avoid devastating damage being caused by severe floodings in the future, a change of politics in the areas of town planning on the one hand and water supply and distribution on the other, and a close cooperation in these two fields will be essential. Coordination between these departments can generate synergy effects and result in better utilization of available land. One instrument for reducing drainage peaks is the advancement of green roofs. Due to intensive research in this area, their implementation can be attained at relatively low expenditure while they are capable of making a considerable contribution to reducing drainage peaks.

The responsibility now lies with town planning to make use of the groundwork and reinforce it in local development schemes. There are several instruments which can support and advance the realization. For a successful implementation, the right choice, development and application of these instruments is often crucial. In Hamburg this process is still in its infancy. However, the course of town development policy seems to be set in a favourable way, and should decisions in Hamburg politics and town planning be in favour of an implementation, the coming exhibitions for urban development planning (IBA and IGS) hold various promising chances of integrating the advancement of green roofs into the concept of water policies in Hamburg as well as the political and social concept of the city.