



Canadian Society for Ecological Economics
2009 Annual Conference, Vancouver

Getting Ahead of the Wave: Convening for Action in British Columbia to Achieve Settlement in Balance with Ecology

OUTLINE FOR PANEL SESSION

The Province of British Columbia's **Living Water Smart** and **Green Communities Project** provide a policy framework for *convening for action* in order to improve the way that land is developed and water is used.

Convening for action means bringing together those who plan and regulate (*local government*), those who build (*developers*), those who provide the legislative framework (*the Province*), those who advocate conservation of resources (*the stewardship sector*), and those who do research (*universities and colleges*):

How do we align our efforts at three scales – provincial, regional and local - to do business differently, prepare communities for change, and achieve settlement in balance with ecology?

How do we simultaneously work together as staff within a municipality and as a region AND externally with the stewardship sector, developers and other private sector players, to ensure we implement sustainable approaches to development?

The panel session will showcase how **partnerships, collaboration, innovation** and **integration** are helping local governments in the Vancouver Island, Okanagan and Metro Vancouver regions of British Columbia apply a water-centric lens to make the best choices for sustainable, healthy and vibrant communities: *This is what we want to achieve, and this is how we will get there.* The importance of establishing a vision combined with practical steps to reach the goal will be emphasized.

The *Convening for Action Panel Presentation Team* comprises four representatives of the Water Sustainability Committee (WSC) of the British Columbia Water & Waste Association, namely: Kim Stephens, Eric Bonham, Ted van der Gulik and Mike Tanner, all from Canada.

The WSC is a roundtable of volunteers representing government and non-government organizations which have a specific interest or mission in implementing the [Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia](#). The Action Plan comprises inter-connected program elements that give local governments and practitioners the tools and experience to better manage land and water resources.

