



Green Infrastructure Partnership

Present

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation in Greater Vancouver: The 2007 Series

In partnership with



Delta





Green Infrastructure Partnership

The Green Infrastructure Partnership is collaborating with Metro Vancouver, The Corporation of Delta, Township of Langley, and UniverCity to present....

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation In Greater Vancouver: The 2007 Series

How land is developed determines how water is used, and how water runs off the land

WHY:	<p>The purpose of the <i>Showcasing Innovation Series</i> is to celebrate... and build on...the on-the-ground successes that are enhancing the ways communities are being developed and water is being managed.</p> <p>The goal is to promote networking, build regional capacity, and move 'from awareness to action' --- through sharing of approaches, tools, experiences and lessons learned.</p>						
WHAT:	<p>Green infrastructure is associated with the management of water that runs off the land and how water runoff impacts on the <i>sustainability of both terrestrial and aquatic habitat and resources</i>.</p> <p>Green infrastructure is also associated with how water is used and how water use impacts on the <i>sustainability of water supply</i>.</p>						
WHEN & WHERE:	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Friday, September 21, 2007</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Corporation of Delta</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday, October 5, 2007</td> <td>Township of Langley</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday, October 19, 2007</td> <td>UniverCity on Burnaby Mountain</td> </tr> </table> <p style="color: #800000;"><i>Each event comprises presentations in the morning and a tour of project sites in the afternoon</i></p>	Friday, September 21, 2007	Corporation of Delta	Friday, October 5, 2007	Township of Langley	Friday, October 19, 2007	UniverCity on Burnaby Mountain
Friday, September 21, 2007	Corporation of Delta						
Friday, October 5, 2007	Township of Langley						
Friday, October 19, 2007	UniverCity on Burnaby Mountain						
WHO:	<p>The Series will be of interest to Engineering, Planning, Public Works, Development Services, Parks and Environment Departments in Regional Districts and Municipalities</p>						

For more information:

Kim Stephens, PEng, Program Coordinator, Water Sustainability Action Plan for BC
sustainabilitycoordinator@shaw.ca OR www.greeninfrastructure.ca

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation In Greater Vancouver: The 2007 Series

Showcasing Innovation in Delta: 'Greener Developments, Roadside Rainwater Management, and the Urban Forest'

The Corporation of Delta will showcase how progress towards sustainability on-the-ground is being made incrementally through small steps. Changes in standard municipal practices that are being implemented today will ripple through time and result in cumulative benefits.

Moving 'green infrastructure' from awareness to action requires a way to measure progress. The 100-acre Delsom Estates residential community illustrates how the *Sustainable Template for Development* has been applied through a collaborative process to achieve a 'design with nature' outcome.

About 1/3 of the urban landscape is typically covered by road rights-of-way. This creates opportunities to capture rain where it falls and restore it to natural hydrologic pathways. Delta is implementing landscape-based solutions to rainwater management; and is planting an urban forest to mitigate climate change.

Showcasing Innovation in Langley Township: 'Harmony and Integration'

The Township of Langley will showcase what can be accomplished with large-scale projects when Council, the community and staff are in alignment and embrace a 'green culture'. Resource protection – for groundwater supply and fisheries habitat – is the driver for implementing 'green infrastructure'.

Three new neighbourhood communities illustrate how a 'water-centric' approach is changing the way that land is developed. Each development has built on the experience of the last in raising the bar for the next.

Featured projects will be the Routley, Yorkson and Northeast Gordon Estates neighbourhoods. *Routley* is defined by a multi-purpose greenway and shallow infiltration systems on individual residential properties. *Yorkson* has a 'third-pipe system' for roof drainage; as well, it has a sand filtration treatment system plus deep-well injection for aquifer recharge. *Northeast Gordon Estates* is distinguished by its 'green streets'.

Showcasing Innovation on Burnaby Mountain: 'A Partnership in Action: from Vision to Implementation'

UniverCity on Burnaby Mountain will showcase the fruits of its partnership with the City of Burnaby – first, in developing a shared vision of what a 'sustainable community' on top of a mountain would look like; and then, in taking that vision from concept to reality.

In 2000, translating high expectations for *UniverCity* into practical design guidelines meant revisiting accepted drainage engineering practice. The precedent-setting plan for rainwater management and watercourse enhancement set in motion a chain of outcomes that has resulted in British Columbia being recognized internationally as a leader in achieving 'design with nature' outcomes in an urban environment.

The *UniverCity* experience became the heart of *Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia*. This then triggered development of the *Water Balance Model*, which in turn led to formation of the Green Infrastructure Partnership.

UniverCity on Burnaby Mountain is a pioneer application in North America of 'adaptive management' in a local government setting. The goal of adaptive management is to learn by doing and constantly improve.

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation In Greater Vancouver: The 2007 Series

Showcasing Innovation in the Corporation of Delta: “Greener Developments, Roadside Rainwater Management, and the Urban Forest”

Time	Program for Friday, September 21, 2007	Speakers
0830	Meet & Greet (sponsored by Deep Root) will be held in the Municipal Hall foyer	
CONTEXT PRESENTATIONS (Kim Stephens, Moderator)		
0900	Context & Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcome ▪ Green Infrastructure Partnership: Convening for Action ▪ Climate Change Initiative 	Mayor Lois Jackson Paul Ham, GIP Chair Ian Radnidge, Delta
0915	Sustainable Template for Development The 100-acre Delsom site is the largest undeveloped tract of land in North Delta, outside of the Agricultural Land Reserve. Sustainability was a key principle from the inception of this project. Corporation of Delta staff initiated a checklist of environmental, social, and economic sustainability for this site. This checklist has evolved into a new sustainable template for future development in Delta.	Marcy Sangret, Delta
0945	Landscape-based Solutions to Rainwater Management Municipalities have a responsibility to sustainably manage the rainwater falling on our street rights-of-way, parks, and other municipal lands. Roadside swales, permeable parking lots, and parkland are ideal locations for small-scale and effective projects. Delta is implementing a sidewalk retrofit strategy to construct at-grade sidewalks and increase permeable surfaces throughout the municipality.	Hugh Fraser and Sarah Howie, Delta
1015	Coffee Break	
1030	Cougar Canyon Elementary School Rain Garden The entire school population was involved in creation of this garden, which infiltrates rainwater runoff from the school parking lot. Located opposite Cougar Canyon Environmental Reserve, this site has a direct impact on the quality of Delta's primary salmon-bearing stream. Followed by recommendations for rain gardens.	Sarah Howie, Delta & Deborah Jones, Cougar Canyon Streamkeepers
1115	The Urban Forest – Planning for Climate Change Trees to clean and cool the air, provide habitat for birds and insects, and counteract greenhouse gas emissions. Delta has pledged to plant 20,100 trees by 2010; an update will be provided on the progress to date.	Frank Van Manen and Nancy McLean, Delta
1145	LUNCH ON THE BUS	
1215 until 1600	Field Tour:	
	1. 86 Avenue swale 2. Huff Blvd planting 3. Cougar Canyon rain garden and nearby swales	4. 120 Street sidewalk, swales, and rain gardens 5. Green Gateway (drive-by) 6. Evergreen Lane parking lot

For more information on the Showcasing Innovation Series, contact sustainabilitycoordinator@shaw.ca

Water - Choosing Sustainability for Life & Livelihoods: Convening for Action in British Columbia

FOREWORD

IN RECENT DECADES, THE HIGH GROWTH REGIONS of British Columbia have been experiencing *cumulative impacts* as a result of pressures on land and water resources. The desire to mitigate environmental and social impacts has provided a driver for the ‘green infrastructure’ movement across North America, and especially in British Columbia. Looking ahead, the challenge for high growth communities is to make informed choices that will produce *cumulative benefits* over time, and thereby ensure long-term community livability.

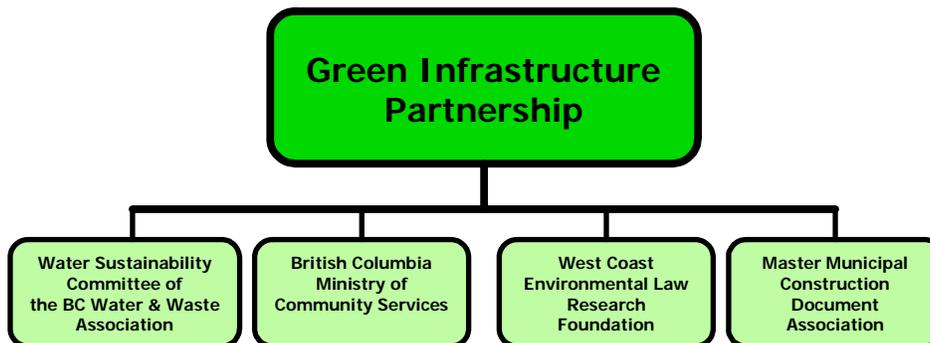
CONVENING FOR ACTION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA is an element of the Water Sustainability Action Plan, and is outcome-oriented. It is being implemented through collaboration and regional partnerships. The desired outcome is to bring the vision for *Communities in Balance with Water* to fruition. Conversations with elected officials are an essential ingredient in developing a shared understanding of what the vision looks like on the ground. The goal is to implement changes in the way we develop land and use water.

The Water Sustainability Action Plan for BC....



... provides a partnership umbrella for an array of *on-the-ground* initiatives that promote a ‘water-centric’ approach to community planning

THE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIP was formed in 2003 and is a consortium of four organizations. Under the Action Plan framework, its mission is to facilitate implementation of *design with nature* infrastructure practices and regulation province-wide. If we design with nature, then the *water balance* can be maintained or even restored over time.



Convening for Action in British Columbia

The Green Infrastructure Partnership

Green Vocabulary Defined

Projected growth and resulting cumulative impacts are the driver for implementing changes in *where and how* we develop land and use water.

To help advance a new way-of-thinking about land development, CAVI has developed and is promoting use of the following hierarchy of 'green' vocabulary:

- **Green Value** means land use strategies will accommodate settlement needs in practical ways while protecting the ecological resources upon which communities depend. At the heart of a *Green Value* approach is the valuation methodology that provides the business case for reconciliation of short-term versus long-term thinking related to risk and profit.
- **Design with Nature** is one approach to achieve *Green Value*, and is supportive of community goals that relate to building social capacity.
- **Green Infrastructure** is the on-the-ground application of *Design with Nature* standards and practices.
- **Water Sustainability** is achieved through *Green Infrastructure* practices that reflect a full and proper understanding of the relationship between land and water.

This cascading vocabulary was unveiled at the **Creating Our Future Workshop** that was held in conjunction with the *Gaining Ground Summit* in Victoria in June 2007. The Creating Our Future Workshop was a consultation opportunity for Vancouver Island local governments that are interested in implementing infrastructure practices and regulation that result in **green value**.

What could British Columbia look like in 50 years with a new way-of-thinking?

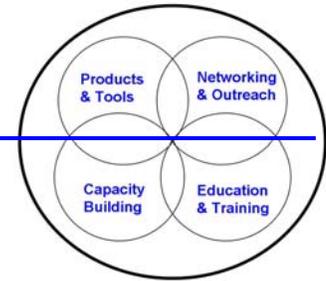
Where and how land is developed determines how water is used => *sustainability of supply*, and how water runs off the land => *sustainability of terrestrial & aquatic habitat*

A 'Design with Nature' approach to community design means...



- Develop compact, complete communities
- Increase transportation options
- Reduce the loads on water, waste and energy systems
- Protect and restore urban 'green' space
- Strive for a lighter 'hydrologic footprint'
- Achieve higher levels of stream, wetland and lake protection

Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia



Beyond the Guidebook: Context for Rainwater Management and Green Infrastructure in British Columbia

June 2007



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

DRAFT PROGRAM

Rainwater Management & Green Infrastructure: Resources and Successes for Protecting Stream Health

Moderator: Kim Stephens

APEGBC Seminar on November 15, 2007			
	Time	Theme	Speaker
	0830	<i>Registration & Continental Breakfast</i>	
PART A - WHY	0900	<i>Green Infrastructure Innovation: On-the-Ground Successes</i>	
	0905	1. The Showcasing Innovation Series: Who is Doing What	Paul Ham
	0920	2. Green Infrastructure Roundtable: Sharing Lessons Learned <small>Note: this segment will be conducted as a roundtable session to engage the audience in telling their stories</small>	Ray Fung, Richard Boase & Dave Desrochers
	0955	3. Beyond the Guidebook: Why the <i>Water Balance Model Powered by QUALHYMO</i>	Jim Dumont
	1030	<i>Take a Break & Re-Energize</i>	
PART B - WHAT	1050	<i>Beyond the Guidebook: Applying What We Have Learned to Protect Stream Health</i>	
	1100	4. Promoting Integration of Rainwater Management & Green Infrastructure: The Province's Perspective	Chris Jensen
	1135	5. Moving from <i>Stormwater Management</i> to <i>Rainwater Management</i> : A Federal Fisheries Perspective	Corino Salomi
	1155	6. Implementing Legal and Policy Actions to Support Green Infrastructure	Susan Rutherford
	1230	<i>Lunch will be served</i>	
PART C - HOW	1315	<i>A Pilot for Beyond the Guidebook: Fergus Creek Watershed Plan</i>	
	1320	7. <i>Context Presentations for Breakout Session:</i> (a) Greenways for Rainwater Management: Lower Cost and More Effective than Ponds (b) Watershed Restoration Over Time: Redevelopment Creates Green Infrastructure Opportunities	Paul Ham, Remi Dube & Jim Dumont
	1400	8. <i>Breakout Session - Moving from Awareness to Action:</i> How to Implement More Effective Green Infrastructure in your Municipality: An Exercise to Apply What We Have Learned Today	
	1600	9. <i>Plenary Session:</i> What will you now do differently as a result of one thing you learned today?	Facilitated by Meggin Messenger
	1700	<i>That's All Folks</i>	

Toolbox



Landscape
Irrigation
Scheduling
Calculator

Finder



Events +

September 2007

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

[RSS](#) [Subscribe](#)

Search Directory

Keyword Search:

[Go!](#)
or [Search by Map](#)

[Home](#) » [Apply Green Standards](#) » [Runoff Controls - Watershed](#)

Resources and Successes for Protecting Stream Health in British Columbia

Green Infrastructure Partnership and APEGBC co-host 'Beyond the Guidebook' seminar in November 2007

"Beyond the Guidebook" refers to a runoff-based approach to drainage modeling that connects the dots between source control evaluation and stream health assessment. In a nutshell, it means this is 'where science meets analysis' because **runoff volume management** is directly linked to **stream erosion** and **water quality**.



Building on the interest in rainwater / stormwater modelling that led to a [province-wide series of technical seminars](#) being organized through the continuing education program of the [Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia](#) (APEGBC), the **Green Infrastructure Partnership** is teaming with APEGBC to deliver a one-day seminar on how to implement 'green solutions' that actually protect stream health.

Scheduled for November 15, the seminar is the next step in the rollout of [Beyond the Guidebook: Context for Rainwater Management and Green Infrastructure in British Columbia](#). This guidance document was released in June 2007.

For an overview of the seminar agenda, please click on this link to the Draft Program for [Rainwater Management & Green Infrastructure: Resources and Successes for Protecting Stream Health](#).



Event Registration:

APEGBC is the event coordinator. To register for the seminar, please [click here](#) to access the APEGBC website.

Beyond the Guidebook

In 2002, when [Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia](#) was published, its underlying premise that **land development and watershed protection can be compatible** represented a radical shift in thinking. The Guidebook recognized that water volume is something over which local government has control through its infrastructure policies, practices and standards.

[Beyond the Guidebook](#) is an

inter-governmental initiative that builds on this foundation by advancing a runoff-based approach and tool – the '[Water Balance Model powered by QUALHYMO](#)' – to help local governments achieve desired urban stream health and environmental protection outcomes at a watershed scale. For more information on how the existing Water Balance Model is being integrated with an enhanced version of QUALHYMO, please [click here](#).

"Aligning our efforts with APEGBC to deliver the seminar is timely", notes **Paul Ham**, Chair of the Green Infrastructure Partnership (and General Manager, Engineering, City of Surrey). "The seminar will be a month after the last event in the [2007 Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation Series](#). The goal of the series is to share green infrastructure approaches, tools, experiences and lessons learned as an outcome of designing with nature. As a logical next step, the seminar creates a learning opportunity to help practitioners move from awareness to action."



Program Design

The seminar is being held under the umbrella of the [Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia](#) and is structured in three parts to deal with the **Why, What and How** in going *Beyond the Guidebook*:

- Part A is titled **Green Infrastructure Innovation: On-the-Ground Successes**
- Part B is titled **Beyond the Guidebook: Applying What We Have Learned to Protect Stream Health**
- Part C is titled **A Pilot for Beyond the Guidebook: City of Surrey's Fergus Creek Watershed Plan**



"Parts A and B in the morning session will provide a common understanding regarding the technical, regulatory and legal aspects of going *Beyond the Guidebook*", explains **Kim Stephens** (Program Coordinator, [Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia](#)). He will be the Moderator for the seminar.

"Learning from the precedents that the City of Surrey is establishing with the Fergus Creek watershed plan, Part C in the afternoon will engage participants in an interactive application titled **How to Implement More Effective Green Infrastructure in your Municipality**", adds Stephens.

Part A - Green Infrastructure Innovation: On-the-Ground Successes

The objective for Part A is that participants will be able to express why showcasing on-the-ground successes will help change the way we develop land and manage rainwater runoff.



Master Municipal Construction Document Association
Water Sustainability Committee of the BC Water & Waste Association
West Coast Environmental Law Association
Ministry of Community Services

The Green Infrastructure Partnership: Convening for Action in British Columbia

July 2005 Progress Report

Developing Sustainable Solutions for a Liveable Province

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

KEY MESSAGES: The Green Infrastructure Partnership (GIP) is one of six inter-connected initiatives that comprise the **Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia**. The Action Plan provides a partnership umbrella for on-the-ground initiatives that are informing Provincial policy through shared responsibility. The Action Plan is also enabling the Province to collaborate with local government to advance water stewardship and sustainable communities.

This Progress Report provides a record of how consultation workshops are shaping the work plan of the GIP, and identifies next steps. Key messages in this report are distilled as follows to provide a seamless storyline:

Section 1 - Creating our Future:

In planning for the next 50 years and beyond, the vision is one of greener communities that will achieve higher levels of ecological and stream protection. Achieving this outcome will require changes to existing land use regulations, design guidelines and construction standards.

Section 2 - Design with Nature:

To both accommodate population growth and achieve a community vision for sustainability and liveability, the GIP is encouraging implementation of a *design with nature* approach to community planning and land (re)development.

Section 3 – Turning Ideas Into Action:

Reaching the critical mass necessary to achieve the *design with nature* vision requires a series of transformational events that will be the catalyst for comprehensive partnership action that creates a legacy. The desired outcome in ‘convening for action’ is on-the-ground changes in the way we develop land and manage water.

Sections 4 and 5 – Roundtable Sharing:

The GIP convened Consultation Workshops in 2004 and 2005 in order to:

- Obtain feedback/input.
- Generate enthusiasm.
- Obtain tangible commitments of support.

The 2004 workshop was practitioner oriented. They stressed the need for systems-based thinking and an integrated approach to planning, zoning and infrastructure design. It also stressed that green infrastructure was more than tinkering with the ways things are currently done.

The 2005 workshop involved local government. The atmosphere was upbeat with participants enthusiastically stressing that the number of success stories is growing. There are hurdles to overcome, but they are not insurmountable. The clear message was to make outreach and practitioner education the #1 priority.

Section 6 – An Integrated Work Plan:

Partnership initiatives that are already underway as part of the Water Sustainability Action Plan will enable the GIP to move forward with implementation of a multi-pronged Outreach & Continuing Education Program (OCEP), efficiently and effectively. Refer to next page for a synopsis of the OCEP elements.

Section 7 – Benefits in Pooling Resources:

Willing municipalities will be asked to assign staff to pool resources under a partnership framework. This will result in the following benefits:

- Builds relationships.
- Municipalities can leverage the efforts of their own staffs.
- Cross-fertilization of case study experience.
- Common understanding of issues and solutions.
- Consistent messaging region-wide.

Water Sustainability

BCWWA partners with the province to deliver the Water Sustainability Action Plan.

BY KIM STEPHENS

THE WATER Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia provides a partnership umbrella for an array of on-the-ground initiatives that promote a ‘water-centric’ approach to community planning. (Water-centric means planning with a view to water — whether for a single site or the entire province.) The Action Plan comprises inter-connected program elements that give local governments and practitioners the tools and experience to do things differently. The over-arching goal is to advance a water balance way-of-thinking and acting.

To achieve the goal, a water-centric approach puts water stewardship and sustainability front and centre on the agenda of comprehensive land use, development or resource planning initiatives. Water-centric planning considers the amount of water available, the amount of water needed, innovative efficiency strategies, the quality of water leaving an area, how rain and snow water are managed, and the impact on the natural environment. Implementation of integrated strategies and solutions ultimately requires integration of missions, mandates and accountabilities of participating agencies.

Through a partnership with the Ministry of Environment, program delivery for the Water Sustainability Action Plan is being carried out by the Water Sustainability Committee (WSC) of the British Columbia Water & Waste Association (BCWWA). The WSC is providing the leadership, facilitation and organizational services necessary for successful program implementation. According to Raymond Fung, WSC chair, “The Water Sustainability Action Plan is aimed at building capacity by improving awareness about effective approaches to the sustainable use of water resources and demonstrating how to integrate these approaches into land and resource planning, development and management decisions at the regional, community through to site levels.”

The Action Plan builds on the foundation provided by A Water Conservation Strategy for British Columbia, also developed and implemented by the province in partnership with BCWWA from 1997 to 2001.

Within the BCWWA framework, WSC is a broadly based roundtable of organizations that have a specific interest or mission in implementing the Action Plan. The roundtable encompasses government organizations, non-government associations, the private sector, and universities. “By drawing its members from a diverse range of disciplines and organizations, the WSC functions across the boundaries and beyond the historical limits or constraints of the mandates, knowledge and expertise found in specific organizations. One of the criteria for membership is that individuals will feed back the WSC outcomes into their organizations,” says Fung.

The Water Balance Model for British Columbia was the first of the six elements to be implemented. This web-based decision support and scenario modeling tool quantifies the benefits — in terms of reducing rainwater runoff volume — of installing source controls such as green roofs, rain gardens and infiltration facilities under different combinations of land use, soil and climate conditions. The outreach and continuing education program for the Water Balance Model was launched at the 2003 Annual Conference of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities with

Implementing a natural systems approach to rainwater management means capture rain where it falls and minimize surface runoff volumes. Detention storage volume is being provided under a parking lot in the Township of Langley.



a session for elected officials. Key partners for delivery of hands-on training workshops for practitioners are the Real Estate Foundation of B.C., the UDI, and the Association of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of BC. Training workshops in computer lab settings have been hosted by UBC, University of Victoria, BCIT, North Island College in Courtenay, and the University of British Columbia Okanagan.

“The early success of the Water Balance Model in British Columbia generated interest in expanding the focus of the tool to reach a national audience. This led to the decision in 2004



**Engineers
Project Managers
Surveyors**

Municipal Services

Roads & Paving

Transportation & Highways

Land Development

Parks & Sports Facilities

Design/Build

Engineering Survey

Fraser Valley 604 • 574 • 3336

Lower Mainland 604 • 420 • 1721

Sea to Sky Country 604 • 892 • 8222

135
YEARS

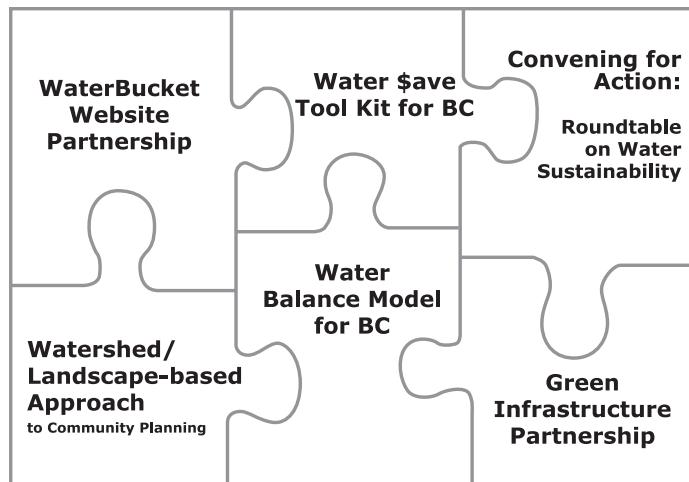
www.binnie.com

by Environment Canada, Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation, and the Province of British Columbia to join forces to create a truly national Water Balance Model for Canada at www.waterbalance.ca and foster the formation of inter-provincial partnerships as a means to pool resources”, reports Ted van der Gulik, chair of the Inter-Governmental Partnership that is responsible for model development.

“The success of the Water Balance Model website helped create momentum for development of the WaterBucket website at www.waterbucket.ca”, adds Michael Tanner, WaterBucket chair. “Launched in 2005, the WaterBucket is the primary communication vehicle for the Action Plan. Our vision is to provide a resource-rich, highly interactive ‘destination location’ for timely and provocative information about water sustainability in British Columbia.”

Over the past year, WaterBucket has expanded from one to six communities-of-interest, namely: Water-Centric Planning; Water Use and Conservation; Rainwater Management; Green Infrastructure; Agriculture and Water; and Convening for Action.

The Water Balance Model and the WaterBucket are stand-alone initiatives under the Action Plan umbrella, yet are fully integrated with the Green Infrastructure Partnership. Formed in 2003, the mission of the Green Infrastructure Partnership is to provide leadership and encourage others to implement ‘green infrastructure’ design practices and regulation province-wide. According to Paul Ham, chair of the Partnership, “Consultation workshops in May 2004 and May 2005 resulted in successive reconfigurations of our work plan, with the emphasis now on educating stakeholders regarding the benefits of a design with nature approach to community planning and land development, and facilitating adoption of this approach. This means build



and/or rebuild communities in harmony with the natural environment. Water-centric green infrastructure and ‘water balance management’ can be viewed as one and the same, in that both start at the site level and both revolve around how we develop the landscape.”

In 2006, the WSC is playing a leadership role in implementing the Convening for Action initiative through regional partnerships, with an initial emphasis on the South Okanagan. Through an outreach and continuing education program that is outcome-oriented, this key element of the Water Sustainability Action Plan is promoting water stewardship provincially by demonstrating what the water balance way-thinking and acting means on-the-ground.

According to Erik Karlsen, co-lead for the Convening for Action initiative, “We are building on the successful precedent that the former Ministry of Water, Land & Air Protection established in 2002 when the Ministry published *Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia*. The guidebook set in motion a chain of outcomes that has resulted in British Columbia being recognized internationally as a leader in implementing a natural systems approach to rainwater management in the urban environment. The Convening for Action initiative creates an opportunity to move beyond rainwater management to embrace all components of the water cycle through integrated water management. It will turn ideas into action.”

The Convening for Action initiative is designed to ‘turn ideas into action’ through a three-step process that builds capacity by:

- Challenging practitioners and others to step back from their existing paradigms (e.g. big pipe solutions, whether for water supply or drainage conveyance);
- Informing them regarding alternatives (e.g. rainwater harvesting to augment water supply and/or reduce rainwater runoff volume); and
- Giving them the tools and the experience to do things differently (e.g. the Water Balance Model).

The Minister of Environment, Barry Penner, recently said: “I am pleased with the continuing success of the ministry’s partnership with the BCWWA’s Water Sustainability Committee in providing program delivery for the Water Sustainability Action Plan... I value the important role this partnership is playing in promoting awareness and supporting communities to integrate water management practices with local land use planning and development programs. The ministry continues to provide core funding to support implementation of this Action Plan.” **CB**

Kim A Stephens, M.Eng., P.Eng., is program coordinator for the Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia. He can be reached at kimastephens@shaw.ca.

Aon

THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY'S BROKER OF CHOICE...



Aon Reed Stenhouse has earned its position as the construction industry's broker of choice through years of innovation, proven programs and successful surety relationships.

Contact our Construction Services Division about our complete range of insurance and bonding services.

Vancouver 604.688.4442	Victoria 250.388.7577	Kamloops 250.376.1133
----------------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------

www.aon.ca

Risk Management • Insurance Brokerage

HOME

ABOUT

Communities of Interest

search

Turning Ideas Into Action | On the Ground Changes | Resources

Toolbox



Finder



Events

September 2007

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

RSS Subscribe

Search Directory

Keyword Search:

[Go!](#)
or [Search by Map](#)

Home » Turning Ideas Into Action » Water Sustainability Action Plan

Water Sustainability Action Plan evolves into a comprehensive program
BCWWA Water Sustainability Committee provides program delivery



Released in 2004, the [Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia](#) is sponsored by the Province of British Columbia, and the Action Plan elements are being delivered through partnerships and regional pilot projects and programs. To view a story that elaborates on this document, please [click here](#).

The Action Plan is a partnership umbrella for an array of on-the-ground initiatives that promote a 'water-centric' approach to community planning and development. 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.

Through outreach and education, the guiding vision is to influence land and water practitioners to learn about and use practices that better balance the necessary relationships of settlement activity and ecological assets in local and regional landscapes.

Under the Action Plan umbrella, the [Water Sustainability Committee](#) of the [BC Water & Waste Association](#) is the managing partner and is responsible for providing leadership, facilitation and organizational services for program delivery. The Water Sustainability Committee is a roundtable of organizations that have a specific interest or mission in implementing the Action Plan.

In 2004, the Action Plan was represented by a 'puzzle piece' that comprised six elements and provided branding. To capture the evolution of the Action Plan, the graphic shown above has replaced the 'puzzle piece'. The inter-connected elements fall into four areas of activity as shown.

Convening for Action in British Columbia

In 2004, **Convening for Action in British Columbia** was one of the six elements in the 'puzzle piece'. Over the last three years, it has evolved into a 'made in BC' process for moving British Columbians from awareness to action.



"Convening for Action is our mantra", states **Raymond Fung**, Chair of the Water Sustainability Committee, "When we gather, it is for a purpose. There must be an action item or an outcome. Our aim is to move from talk to action by developing tools, building capacity, and providing training."

There are three regional pilots for Convening for Action. "In the South Okanagan, we have helped bring a voice to water issues. In Greater Vancouver, practitioners working for local governments told us they did not want more documents that simply go on a shelf; rather, they wanted to network and share their experiences. On Vancouver Island, we have an ambitious program to bring people together and apply/adapt what we have learned in the Okanagan and in Greater Vancouver", explains **Ray Fung**.

The Convening for Action vision is that water sustainability in British Columbia will be achieved through implementation of green infrastructure policies, practices and standards.

Contribute an Article

[Create](#) an article for this site. The success of this online community depends on contributions from people like you!

RSS (Syndication) Feeds

[RSS](#) [Subscribe to this Section](#)

[RSS](#) [Subscribe to the Entire Site](#)

Google News - Water Sustainability

[Coca Cola For Bringing Efficiency In Water Usage - Greaterkashmir.Com \(Press Release\)](#)

[Water Not Unlimited Resource In Sa - Business Day](#)

Google News - Water for Life

[Kkma Holds 'Water For Life' Drawing Contest - Kuwait Times](#)

[Light And Water For Life - Sun.Star](#)

Regional Events

[Water, Water Everywhere.....](#)

Rainwater harvesting workshops held in Vancouver and Victoria in mid-2005 were part of a series of cross-Canada events sponsored by Canada Mortgage &...