



**the partnership  
for water sustainability in bc**

Convening for Action in British Columbia

## **Sustainable Rainwater Management: What Does It Look Like?**

---

Rainwater Panel session on February 28, 2012 from 3:45pm to 5:00pm  
At the 2012 Building SustainAble Communities Conference in Kelowna



### **Integrating the Site with the Watershed and the Stream**

---

Use Effective Green Infrastructure, Lighten the 'Water Footprint',  
Achieve More at Less Cost, and Protect Stream Health

# Sustainable Rainwater Management: What Does It Look Like?

## Integrating the Site with the Watershed and the Stream

Sustainable Rainwater Management: What Does It Look Like?	
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>The unifying theme for the session is: <i>Integrate the site with the watershed and stream to protect watershed and stream health</i>. The Rainwater Panel will present a series of 'vignettes' to showcase the experience of local governments that are BC leaders in innovation. These vignettes will be cascading in providing the audience with a picture of what 'Sustainable Rainwater Management' looks like at three scales: watershed basin, watershed catchment and project site. The vignettes will illustrate desired outcomes for the current "ISMP Course Correction" initiative in BC, where ISMP is the acronym for <i>Integrated Stormwater Management Plan</i>.</p> <p>NOTE: The Sustainable Infrastructure Delivery and Sustainable Rainwater Management panels are companion sessions; and the first at 2:00pm will set the stage for the second at 3:45pm.</p>
<b>Regulatory Context:</b>	<p>Government's position as stated on p 43 of <b>Living Water Smart, BC's Water Plan</b> is the lynch-pin for a collaborative and consistent approach that aligns local government policies and actions with provincial / regional goals and objectives:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>By 2012, all land and water managers will know what makes a stream healthy, and therefore be able to help land and water users factor in new approaches to securing stream health and the full range of stream benefits.</i></p>
<b>Panel Members</b>	<b>Synopsis of Vignette</b>
Kim Stephens, MEng, PEng. Executive Director Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC	An ISMP is a potentially powerful tool. It can influence other municipal processes for the better. It can generate the blueprint for truly integrated and coordinated action at a watershed scale. A goal of the <i>ISMP Course Correction</i> is to restore watershed function over time. The linkage to infrastructure asset management is a way to (re)focus ISMPs on outcomes: Agree on the vision. Set the targets. Provide planners with the detail necessary to guide site level decisions as opportunities arise. Then implement.
Laura Byrne, M.Sc., A.Ag Parks & Environmental Services Coordinator District of Sooke	Sooke has exceeded provincial requirements for liquid waste management and created a rainwater management plan that makes protecting water quality a guiding principle in land use decisions. It works on three principles: protect existing water quality, prevent future damage, and remediate areas that may already be damaged. The District aims to improve water quality in Sooke Harbour and the Sooke Basin to the point where a longstanding ban on shellfish harvesting can be lifted. The District requires green infrastructure for rainwater capture and encourages use of the Water Balance Model.
Richard Boase, P.Geo Environmental Protection Officer District of North Vancouver	The District of North Vancouver is pioneering the integrated application of performance targets for runoff management, at the neighbourhood scale, to protect stream health. Land redevelopment and densification to create the Lynn Valley Town Centre has created the research and implementation opportunity. The District has demonstrated the cost-effectiveness and power of imagery analysis as a rainwater management tool. A decade ago, North Vancouver was a founding member of the inter-governmental Water Balance Model Partnership.
Carrie Baron, P.Eng. Drainage & Environment Manager City of Surrey	The City of Surrey has more ISMP experience than any other jurisdiction in BC. Now in its fifth decade of continuous implementation experience, the City continues to evolve and adapt a watershed-based approach that incorporates lessons learned in getting green infrastructure built right. Adopted in the late 1970s, the <i>Natural Drainage Policy</i> is a foundation piece for the City's environmental ethic and commitment. The City has developed supporting policies, bylaws, information and educational tools. Surrey was also a founding member of the inter-governmental Water Balance Model Partnership.
<b>Guidance Documents:</b>	<p><a href="#">Primer on Rainwater Management in an Urban Watershed Context</a></p> <p><a href="#">Primer on Urban Watershed Modelling to Inform Local Government Decision Processes</a></p>