



the partnership  
for water sustainability in bc

CAVI - Convening for Action on Vancouver Island

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

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2012 Water Balance Model Forum on March 28 from 8:00am to 12:30pm

Hosted by Cowichan Valley Regional District at Vancouver Island University Cowichan Campus

(the venue is the "Theatre - Room 140" located at 2011 University Way, Duncan, V9L 0C7)



## Integrating the Site with the Watershed and the Stream

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

*To learn more →*

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An initiative under the umbrella of the Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia

# Sustainable Rainwater Management: What Does It Look Like?

## Integrating the Site with the Watershed and the Stream

### 2012 Water Balance Model Forum - Agenda Preview

#### Abstract:

Land development practices and actions at the site scale can result in either cumulative impacts or cumulative benefits at the watershed scale. You will learn WHY and HOW:

*The Water Balance Methodology holds the key to protecting stream health because it integrates the site with the watershed and the stream.*

The water balance methodology accounts for all the rainfall-days in a year. The methodology links rain that falls on a site...to the runoff leaving the site...to the flow in a stream. This methodology is a foundation block for those tasked with developing a master drainage plan.

#### Regulatory Context:

The Provincial Government's position is stated on p 43 of **Living Water Smart, BC's Water Plan**. This position is the lynch-pin for a collaborative and consistent approach that aligns local government policies and actions with provincial and regional goals:

- 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.*

The context for local governments is land use guidelines, rain/storm water management, infrastructure planning, and the rainwater component of Liquid Waste Management Plans.

### Structure for an Interactive Knowledge-Transfer Session

(To start each hour, "vignettes" will provide context to inform town-hall sharing and learning)

#### Theme for Hour #1

**Rainwater Management in the Cowichan Valley:** In 2008, the Cowichan Valley was the first demonstration region for the initial rollout of Living Water Smart, and also hosted the inaugural *Vancouver Island WBM Forum*. The five local governments comprising the Cowichan Valley Regional Team will report out on how each has progressed since 2008. Their emphasis will be on "targets and criteria", lessons learned, and practices necessary to protect stream health.

#### Theme for Hour #2

**Rainwater Management in Central Saanich:** The municipality has an award-winning ISMP (Integrated Stormwater Management Plan) and *Surface Water Management Bylaw*, adopted in Feb 2010. The bylaw requires rainwater capture, encourages use of the WBM, and gives Central Saanich the means to restore the water balance as and when properties redevelop. David McAllister and Roland Rocheleau will report out on their implementation experience.

#### Theme for Hour #3

**Rainwater Management in a Watershed Sustainability Context:** Four regional districts are embarking upon an *Inter-Regional Education Initiative*. Sharing of experiences, collaboration, alignment and consistency will allow everyone to go farther, more efficiently and effectively. Representatives of MOE, DFO and MOTI will elaborate on regulatory requirements that provide a driver for local governments to protect and/or restore watershed health over time.

#### Theme for Hour #4

**An Introduction to the Water Balance Model:** Rebuilt on a new platform, the WBM is quicker and easier to use; and has launch buttons at three scales: SITE, NEIGHBOURHOOD and WATERSHED. Jim Dumont will explain the science behind the methodology; demonstrate how to establish and assess performance targets; and showcase modules for stream erosion, rainwater harvesting, climate adaptation, tree canopy interception, infrastructure assessment.

#### Information:

Contact [partnership@watersustainabilitybc.ca](mailto:partnership@watersustainabilitybc.ca)

#### Guidance Documents:

[Primer on Rainwater Management in an Urban Watershed Context](#)  
[Primer on Urban Watershed Modelling to Inform Local Government Decision Processes](#)

#### Try the WBM:

Those attending the Forum are encouraged to register beforehand as TRIAL USERS at [www.waterbalance.ca](http://www.waterbalance.ca) so that they can familiarize themselves with the Water Balance Model.