

Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual Create Liveable Communities & Protect Stream Health

2008 Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Organized by:

Convening for Action on Vancouver Island
Leadership in Water Sustainability



In partnership with:



And in collaboration with:



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

Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual

Change the Way We Develop Land to Create Liveable Communities & Protect Stream Health

Learning Lunch Seminar Series: Pilot for Local Government Capacity-Building

CONTEXT: Vancouver Island is the pilot region for rollout of *Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual* through an innovative and precedent-setting approach to practitioner continuing education, namely the Learning Lunch Seminar Series. This provincial initiative builds on the foundation provided by *Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia*, published in 2002, and incorporates lessons learned over the past six years.

Beyond the Guidebook advances a performance target methodology for correlating green infrastructure effectiveness in protecting stream health. To support Beyond the Guidebook, the Province has funded integration of the *Water Balance Model* with a hydrologic engine known as *QUALHYMO*. The web-based *Water Balance Model powered by QUALHYMO* is unique, bridges engineering and planning, links the site to the stream and watershed, and enables local governments to establish watershed targets.

Session	Theme	Scope
1	Today's Expectation are Tomorrow's Standards EVOLUTION	<p>Session #1 will trace the evolution of rainwater/stormwater management policies and practices over the past two decades. This will provide a frame-of-reference and a common understanding for subsequent sessions.</p> <p>The <i>2002 Stormwater Guidebook</i> and the <i>Water Balance Model</i> will be introduced so that participants have an understanding of the purpose and application of performance targets.</p> <p>A desired outcome is that participants will understand why drainage practice comprises a continuum of paradigms, and communities progress at different rates along the continuum.</p>
2	Legal and Policy Strategies to Support Green Infrastructure TOOLS	<p>Session #2 will introduce the extensive and very specific tools available under the Local Government Act so that they can proactively manage the complete spectrum of rainfall events: from light showers to heavy rain to extreme storms.</p> <p>The <i>Green Infrastructure Guide</i> will be explained so that participants will know how to use it effectively as a resource.</p> <p>A desired outcome is that participants will understand what bylaw and policy tools enable incorporation and retrofitting of engineered green infrastructure into development plans.</p>
3	Nature Knows No Boundaries TARGETS	<p>Session #3 will elaborate on a performance target approach to land development that makes sense, meets multiple objectives, is affordable, and results in net environmental benefits at a watershed and/or regional scale.</p> <p>A framework for 'bringing it all together' will be introduced so that participants can explore a regional team approach that ensures a common understanding and consistency at the front counter.</p> <p>A desired outcome is that participants will understand how a Design with Nature approach to rainwater management (i.e. using infiltration and trees) will influence the greening of the built environment and protect stream health.</p>

Members of APEGBC and PIBC who participate can count the seminar series towards their Professional Development credits.

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Themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “We can create our future” ▪ “What happens on the land matters” ▪ “To get to the big picture, start with the smallest pieces”
Purposes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide an inter-departmental learning opportunity for collaborative exploration ▪ Enable local government practitioners to obtain professional development credits ▪ Rollout <i>Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual</i>
Structure:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organize three 3½ -hour teaching sessions held at four-week intervals ▪ Conduct the series as a cumulative process, from philosophy to tools ▪ Provide information in an interactive way that triggers reflection, strategizing and action ▪ Incorporate roundtable segments and provide a challenge for subsequent sessions
Context:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Vancouver Island landscape is being transformed by settlement and economic growth. ▪ While the island has been experiencing a development boom, mitigation of environmental impacts has provided a driver for a ‘Design with Nature’ movement that is founded on a natural systems approach to rainwater management and green infrastructure. ▪ The desired outcome is human settlement in balance with ecology.
Guidebook Vision:	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health </div> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: center;"> <p>A ‘Design with Nature’ approach to community design means...</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 </div> </div>
Goal:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Help practitioners make informed land development decisions that meet multiple objectives, result in Green Value, and add up to <i>A Positive Settlement Strategy for VI</i>.
Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local government practitioners will have a common and consistent understanding of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. watershed performance targets and how they can establish them; 2. how they can integrate good planning and innovative engineering designs; and 3. the importance and maintenance of green infrastructure watershed performance targets (as they relate to land use and rainwater/stormwater management)
Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia</i>, published by the Province in 2002 ▪ <i>Develop with Care: Environmental Guidelines for Urban and Rural Land Development in British Columbia</i>, published by the Ministry of Environment in March 2006 ▪ <i>The Green Infrastructure Guide: Issues, Implementation Strategies and Success Stories</i>, published by West Coast Environmental Law in 2007 ▪ <i>Beyond the Guidebook: Context for Rainwater Management and Green Infrastructure in British Columbia</i>, jointly released by the Green Infrastructure Partnership and Inter-Governmental Partnership in June 2007
Tools:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Water Balance Model powered by QUALHYMO</i>, an online decision tool at www.waterbalance.ca