

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: The New Business As Usual

Summary Report

on

Showcasing Innovation at the University of Victoria: 'Towards a New Infrastructure – Integrated and Water-Centric Planning at the University of Victoria and Beyond'



University
of Victoria



POLIS Project
on
Ecological Governance
University of Victoria

Convening for Action on Vancouver Island
Leadership in Water Sustainability



October 2008



Organized under the umbrella of the Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia
In partnership with the Capital Regional District and in collaboration with the Green Infrastructure Partnership

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Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: The New Business As Usual

The 2008 Capital Region Series was....

Organized by:

Convening for Action on Vancouver Island
Leadership in Water Sustainability



In partnership with:



University
of Victoria



POLIS Project
on
Ecological Governance
University of Victoria



And in collaboration with:



BCWWA



BRITISH
COLUMBIA



Green Infrastructure Partnership

Organized under the umbrella of the Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: The New Business As Usual

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: The 2008 Series

- ☑ **September 12 – Town of View Royal**
'Design with Nature and be Rewarded with Infrastructure Grants'
- ☑ **September 26 – City of Langford**
'Integrated Service Delivery – Transforming the Community'
- ☑ **October 10 – University of Victoria & POLIS**
'Towards a New Infrastructure – Integrated and Water-Centric Planning at UVic and Beyond'

Showcasing Innovation Format

INSIDE



First, the project preview

OUTSIDE



Then, the site visit and walkabout

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: The New Business As Usual

2008 Series builds on 2007 Georgia Basin program successes to demonstrate what “The New Business As Usual” means

Doing Business Differently

The genesis for the Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation Series on Vancouver Island was a 2005 consultation workshop organized by the Green Infrastructure Partnership. This resulted in the 2007 Showcasing Innovation program, with parallel series held on both sides of the Georgia Basin.

The 2007 Vancouver Island Series was held north of the Malahat under the umbrella of **Convening for Action on Vancouver Island (CAVI)**. The Series was hosted by three regional districts, namely: Cowichan Valley, Nanaimo and Comox-Strathcona.

While the 2007 Series was mainly about networking and relationship-building, the 2008 Showcasing Innovation Series in the Capital Region is about raising the bar and establishing expectations to truly achieve Design with Nature outcomes at a community scale.

The 2008 Series features projects that demonstrate what is meant by **The New Business As Usual**, and set provincial benchmarks for others to measure themselves against.



Bridging Engineering and Planning

According to **Dale Wall**, Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Community Development (and a member of the Green Infrastructure Partnership Steering Committee), “The vision is that the Showcasing Innovation Series can play an integrating role to cut across disciplines and ultimately serve as a catalyst to create neighbourhoods that integrate both good planning and innovative engineering designs, for overall greater sustainability....environmental, social and economic.”



“The strength of the Green Infrastructure Partnership lies in its engineering infrastructure foundation, with the Showcasing Innovation Series proving powerful in getting the images right and seeing them on the ground,” continues Dale Wall. “It is when we deal with engineering and planning issues together...telling the whole story of how to overcome BOTH engineering and planning hurdles...that we cut across other disciplines.”

From Exception to Norm:

“We are using the slogan **The New Business As Usual** to convey the message that, for change to really occur, practices that until now have been viewed as the exception must become the norm moving forward. We have to build regulatory models and develop models of practice and expertise to support The New Business As Usual”, stated Dale Wall at the Gaining Ground Leadership Summit in May 2008.



Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: The New Business As Usual

Design with Nature Outcomes

"In embracing a 'design with nature' philosophy, we have borrowed from Ian McHarg and the title of his 1969 book," explains **Kim Stephens**, series organizer and Program Coordinator for the **Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia**, "Furthermore, we have developed a definition of Design with Nature that is consistent with what McHarg intended in terms of ecological planning and letting the landscape inform development, yet goes beyond McHarg in terms of synthesizing Smart Growth principles with an infrastructure way-of-thinking."



The mind map for a Design with Nature strategy is presented below, and comprises six elements:



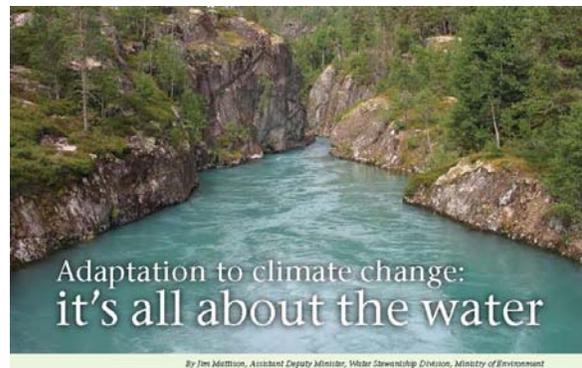
A 'Design with Nature' approach is key to climate change adaptation

- 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 receiving water protection

Climate Change Adaptation:

"The focus of the 2007 Series was on the last three bullets in the Design with Nature mind map because the showcasing emphasis was on rainwater management at the site scale," continues Kim Stephens. "In 2008, the focus is on the first three bullets because we are placing the emphasis on land use planning at a community scale, with the objective of achieving a transformation of the built environment."

"Furthermore, the Design with Nature paradigm captures the essence of **climate change adaptation**," concludes Kim Stephens. "If mitigation is about CARBON, says, Jim Mattison (Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment), then adaptation is about WATER. Adaptation is responding to the changes that will inevitably occur. Adaptation is at the community level and is therefore about collaboration. Our operating premise is that if we can show how to get the water part right, then other parts are more likely to follow."



Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: The New Business As Usual

Integration and Innovation:

The Town of View Royal, City of Langford and University of Victoria are showcasing community-scale initiatives and/or projects that achieve all six elements of a Design with Nature strategy. In terms of a desired outcome, a unifying theme for the three events is 'a liveable community that is in harmony with nature'. The desired outcome is being achieved through the combination of *integration and innovation*:

- **Town of View Royal** - The Transportation Master Plan provides the backdrop for an holistic, ecosystem approach that integrates transportation, drainage and water quality objectives; and looks for opportunities and synergies to do business differently.
- **City of Langford** - The LEED-ND (Neighbourhood Development) designation is a catalyst for creating socially supportive, healthy neighbourhoods and promoting urban design excellence throughout the public realm in the Westhills Green Community.
- **University of Victoria** – Through leadership, partnerships, and collaboration, UVic has been able to transition from an incremental approach in planning and resource management to a much more holistic and integrated approach.

"Practitioners are passionate about their individual slices; but it is the rare individual who is passionate about integration," observes **Dale Wall**. "This reality creates its own set of challenges when promoting changes in policies, practices and standards relating to infrastructure and the Built Environment."



Origin of the Showcasing Innovation Series

Population growth and resulting cumulative impacts have been drivers for reassessing how land is developed and water is used. At a 2005 Consultation Workshop hosted by the City of Surrey, municipalities told the **Green Infrastructure Partnership** that they want to hear firsthand from those who are implementing green infrastructure, and they want to see what it looks like on the ground.

In 2005, the Green Infrastructure Partnership convened a Consultation Workshop that resulted in the 'Showcasing Innovation Series'



Because it is lonely being a champion, and everyone in local government is so busy, participants expressed a strong desire to pool resources and convene on-the-ground to share 'how to do it' experiences

In response to this need, and to promote a new way-of-thinking related to infrastructure policies and practices, the Green Infrastructure Partnership initiated the **Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation Series**. The goal of the program is to build local government capacity by facilitating province-wide networking and sharing of lessons learned. The 2006 pilot program was held in Metro Vancouver. In 2007 parallel series were held on both sides of the Georgia Basin on alternating Fridays during the September/October period.

A Unique Forum:

"The Showcasing Innovation Series creates pride and enables local governments to tell their stories in a way that no other forum currently provides," observes **Raymond Fung**, Chair of the Green Infrastructure Partnership. "A Showcasing Innovation event is not a conference. Neither is it a workshop nor seminar in the conventional sense. Rather the purpose of the presentations is to whet the appetites of participants for the site tour that follows. The quality one-on-one conversations take place on the bus and when we go for a walkabout."



The CAVI Partnership collaborated with the Capital Regional District and the Green Infrastructure Partnership to present....

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: The New Business As Usual

<p>WHY:</p>	<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 in the Capital Region.</p> <p>The goal of the Series is to promote networking, inform and educate practitioners, and help local governments move ‘from awareness to action’ in doing business differently --- <i>The New Business As Usual</i> --- through sharing of approaches, tools, experiences and lessons learned that will ultimately inform a pragmatic strategy for climate change adaptation.</p>								
<p>WHAT:</p>	<p>Green Infrastructure is the on-the-ground application of <i>Design with Nature</i> principles. See the list below. Water sustainability and climate change adaptation are desired outcomes, both in terms of how water is used and how water runs off the land, when <i>Design with Nature</i> solutions are implemented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Develop compact, complete communities</i> ▪ <i>Increase transportation options</i> ▪ <i>Reduce the loads on water, wastewater and energy systems</i> ▪ <i>Protect and restore urban ‘green’ space</i> ▪ <i>Strive for a lighter ‘hydrologic footprint’</i> ▪ <i>Achieve higher levels of stream, wetland and lake protection</i> <p>Stand-alone showcasing events can serve as building blocks to inform a comprehensive strategy for urban watershed restoration and enhancement, over time, in conjunction with land redevelopment.</p>								
<p>WHEN & WHERE:</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Friday, September 12, 2008</td> <td>Town of View Royal</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday, September 26, 2008</td> <td>City of Langford</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday, October 10, 2008</td> <td>University of Victoria</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Date in 2009 to be determined</td> <td>Bowker Creek Initiative</td> </tr> </table> <p>Each event comprises presentations in the morning and a tour of project sites in the afternoon. The series is eligible for professional development credits from APEGBC and PIBC.</p>	Friday, September 12, 2008	Town of View Royal	Friday, September 26, 2008	City of Langford	Friday, October 10, 2008	University of Victoria	Date in 2009 to be determined	Bowker Creek Initiative
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<p>WHO:</p>	<p>The Series was designed for 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.conveningforaction.ca

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: The New Business As Usual

Showcasing Innovation at the University of Victoria: 'Towards a New Infrastructure – Integrated and Water-Centric Planning at UVic and Beyond'



University
of Victoria



POLIS Project
on
Ecological Governance
University of Victoria

Convening for Action on Vancouver Island
Leadership in Water Sustainability



ABSTRACT: Situated at the headwaters of Bowker Creek, the University of Victoria, a community of more than 25,000 people, is a case study for green buildings and compact growth. The primary focus of the day will be on the built environment and implementing approaches and practices that achieve a Design with Nature outcome, and reduce physical impacts resulting from intensive urbanization.

The University and POLIS Project will showcase how each is 'walking the talk' in turning theory into action; also, POLIS will elaborate on how it is engaging local governments in discussions about new strategies for achieving the goal of sustainable water management and reduced 'hydrologic footprints'. Emphasis will be on how water sustainability can be achieved through the 'soft path' for water and complemented by green infrastructure practices that flow from a Design with Nature guiding philosophy; especially when those infrastructure practices reflect a full and proper understanding of the relationship between land and water.

The workshop will cascade in three major sections: *education* (with a focus on broader social and cultural contexts that shape attitudes and behaviour), *engagement* (taking research into the community) and *decisions* (making it work on campus). This will be followed by a walkabout to inspect green buildings and green infrastructure at UVic.

Organized under the umbrella of the Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia
In partnership with the Capital Regional District and in collaboration with the Green Infrastructure Partnership

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: The New Business As Usual

Showcasing Innovation at the University of Victoria: 'Towards a New Infrastructure – Integrated and Water-Centric Planning at UVic and Beyond'

Time	Program for Friday, October 10, 2008	Speakers
0830	Meet & Greet at University Club	
CONTEXT PRESENTATIONS (Kim Stephens, Moderator)		
0900	Convening for Action on Vancouver Island: Leadership in Water Sustainability & Green Infrastructure	Eric Bonham & Glen Brown
0920	Ecological Governance & Thinking Beyond Pipes and Pumps The POLIS Project on Ecological Governance fills a unique niche as a place where academic and policy research meets community action, with the objective of identifying how we can 'create a sustainable future' and a clear focus on lasting solutions. The water focus at POLIS is taking this conceptual work and developing tools and practices on the ground that move society from endless supply augmentation to a more balanced "water soft path" approach that situates ourselves in the context of the watershed as the central focus of decision making and action. POLIS has produced a number of notable publications on water management (see www.waterdsm.org) including: <i>Thinking Beyond Pipes and Pumps: Top 10 Ways Communities Can Save Water and Money</i> ; <i>Flushing the Future?</i> ; and <i>The Soft Path for Water in a Nutshell</i> .	Oliver M Brandes POLIS Project Associate Director and Water Sustainability Project Leader
	Turning Research into Action: Water Sustainability Pilot Projects in BC POLIS is taking its water research into communities across the province to help build capacity for conservation and water stewardship. By working with municipalities and key partners to develop and implement long-term integrated water conservation plans, POLIS is developing water sustainability as part of a broader community vision and seeks to help establish the leaders today that will raise the bar for water management tomorrow. The process of turning research into on-the-ground action creates a self-fulfilling cycle of success and moves case studies into pilot projects to tomorrow's "new business as usual."	Susanne Bopp- Porter Community Water Coordinator at POLIS
1015	<i>Take a break!</i>	
1035	Campus Planning & Development: An Evolution Towards Sustainability The campus planning process in 2003 was a significant turning point at the University of Victoria. Through leadership, partnerships, and collaboration, UVic has been able to transition from an incremental approach in planning and resource management to a much more holistic and integrated approach – <i>the new business as usual</i> . This transformational experience resulted in a new vision for constructing water and energy efficient buildings in a built environment that respects the natural environment. This presentation will provide context and background for the afternoon tour.	Sarah Webb, University of Victoria Sustainability Coordinator
	Group Exercise – Water-Centric Planning at UVic Working groups will get a sneak peek at the University of Victoria's innovative Sustainability Policy and Action Plan (to be released in 2009) and an opportunity to apply a watercentric approach to provide input to the Plan.	Facilitated by Sarah Webb
1145	The Perspective of an Elected Representative on Water-Centric Planning in the Capital Regional District: Application of the "Natural City Vision" to Bowker Creek	Vic Derman, Vice-Chair, CRD Water Commission
1215	<i>A nice sit-down lunch will be served!</i>	
1315	Campus Walkabout – Green Buildings & Green Infrastructure Delegates will get a chance to tour a number of different LEED buildings, view innovative landscape projects, and learn about the campus waste water treatment system and rainwater management programs.	Sarah Webb
1430	<i>That's all folks!</i>	

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation at the University of Victoria: List of Water Bucket Stories

“Towards a New Infrastructure –
Integrated and Water-Centric Planning at UVic and Beyond”

Doing Business Differently

Building on the interest and momentum generated by successful series on both sides of the Georgia Basin in 2007, [Convening for Action on Vancouver Island \(CAVI\)](#) collaborated with the Capital Regional District and the Green Infrastructure Partnership to present **Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation in the Capital Region: The 2008 Series.**

The third in the series was held on October 10 at the University of Victoria, and was co-hosted by the *Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability* and the *POLIS Project on Ecological Governance*.

List of Water Bucket Stories

Six stories about **Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation at the University of Victoria** are posted on the various communities-of-interest that comprise the Water Bucket Website:

- **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE COI:** [Sustainability Policy and Action Plan: University of Victoria showcases on-the-ground implementation --- UVic precedent provides local governments with a template for moving from talk to action](#)
- **WATER-CENTRIC PLANNING COI:** [The University of Victoria' POLIS Project Thinks Beyond Pipes and Pumps - and Takes Action Towards a New Water Infrastructure in BC and Beyond ---University of Victoria and POLIS co-host third of three showcasing events in the 2008 Vancouver Island Series organized by CAVI \(October 10, 2008\)](#)
- **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE COI:** [Meeting the Climate Change Challenge on Vancouver Island: The Natural City Vision - getting from here to there ---At the University of Victoria on October 10, Sannich Councillor Vic Derman will outline an integrated approach to urban watershed restoration that can inform A Positive Settlement Strategy for Vancouver Island](#)
- **CONVENING FOR ACTION COI:** [The Natural City Vision: Three Lenses to Shape the Future of Southern Vancouver Island --- Vic Derman publishes a "call to action" - implement an integrated approach to urban watershed restoration!](#)
- **CONVENING FOR ACTION COI:** [Convening for Action at the University of Victoria: Towards a New Infrastructure – Integrated and Water-Centric Planning --- Stage set for an integrated approach to urban watershed restoration that can inform A Positive Settlement Strategy for Vancouver Island](#)
- **CONVENING FOR ACTION COI:** [Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation: Towards a New Infrastructure - Integrated and Water-Centric Planning at the University of Victoria and Beyond --- University of Victoria and POLIS co-host third of three showcasing events in the 2008 Vancouver Island Series organized by CAVI](#)

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation: Towards a New Infrastructure – Integrated and Water-Centric Planning at the University of Victoria and Beyond

University of Victoria and POLIS Project co-host third of three events in the 2008 Showcasing Green Innovation on Vancouver Island Series

Doing Business Differently

Building on the interest and momentum generated by successful series on both sides of the Georgia Basin in 2007, [Convening for Action on Vancouver Island \(CAVI\)](#) is collaborating with the Capital Regional District and the Green Infrastructure Partnership to present **Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation in the Capital Region: The 2008 Series**.

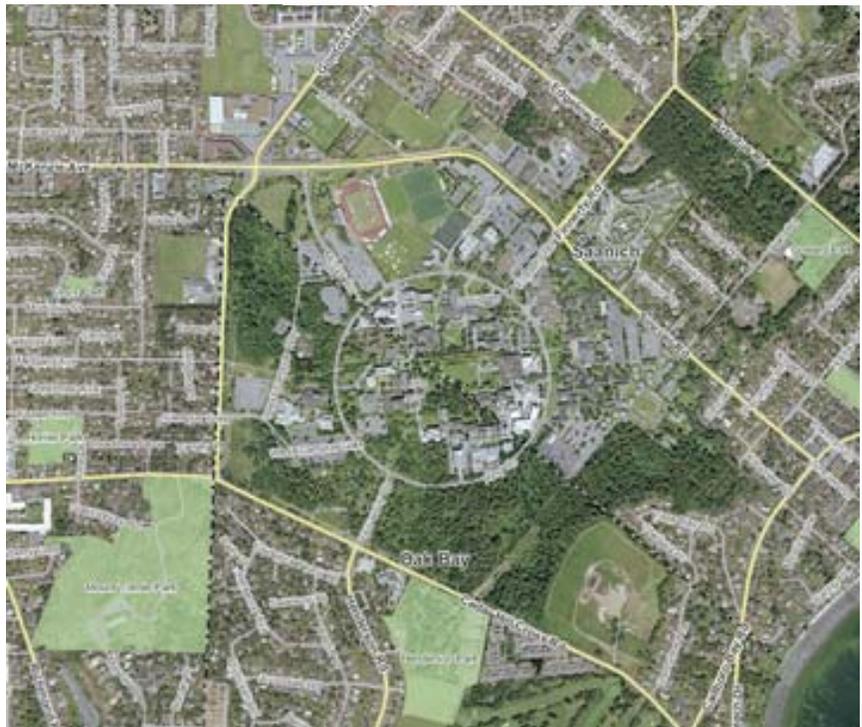
The third in the series will be held on October 10 and will be co-hosted by the University of Victoria and the POLIS Project on Ecological Governance.



University of Victoria



POLIS Project
on
Ecological Governance
University of Victoria



Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation at the University of Victoria

Water Bucket Story #1

Showcasing Innovation at UVic

Situated at the headwaters of Bowker Creek, the [University of Victoria](#), a community of more than 25,000 people, is a case study for green buildings and compact growth. According to **Sarah Webb** of the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability at UVic, "The primary focus of the day will be on the built environment and implementing approaches and practices that achieve a **Design with Nature** outcome, and reduce physical impacts resulting from intensive urbanization."



The University and [POLIS Project](#) will showcase how each is 'walking the talk' in turning theory into action; also, POLIS will elaborate on how it is engaging local governments in discussions about new strategies for achieving the goal of sustainable water management and reduced 'hydrologic footprints'.



"Emphasis will be on how water sustainability can be achieved through the 'soft path' for water and complemented by green infrastructure practices that flow from a Design with Nature guiding philosophy; especially when those infrastructure practices reflect a full and proper understanding of the relationship between land and water," reports **Oliver Brandes**, Associate Director of POLIS.



"The workshop will cascade in three major sections: **education** (with a focus on broader social and cultural contexts that shape attitudes and behaviour), **engagement** (taking research into the community) and **decisions** (making it work on campus). This will be followed by a walkabout to inspect green buildings and green infrastructure at UVic," adds **Susanne Porter-Bopp**, Community Water Coordinator with POLIS.

"A sit down lunch will be served in the University Club," concludes Sarah Webb.

How October 10 will unfold

Each event in the Showcasing Series comprises presentations in the morning and a site tour or walkabout in the afternoon.



"Experience shows that the site tour creates those unplanned moments for spontaneous and effective sharing of knowledge and lessons learned," reports **Kim Stephens**, series organizer and Program Coordinator for the [Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia](#), "We also find that the presentations in the morning serve to whet the appetite of the audience, and people then seek out the one-on-one opportunities to have a conversation on the bus or while walking. It is then that the real learning takes place."

Showcasing Innovation at UVic

- Ecological Governance & Thinking Beyond Pipes and Pumps
- Turning Research into Action: Water Sustainability Pilot Projects in BC
- Campus Planning & Development: An Evolution Towards Sustainability
- Group Exercise – Water-Centric Planning at UVic
- The Perspective of an Elected Representative
- Walkabout

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation at the University of Victoria

Water Bucket Story #1

Setting the Scene

"To set the scene for the day, we have structured the morning segment in two parts," explains **Sarah Webb**. "First, Oliver Brandes and Susanne Porter-Bopp will tell their story about the POLIS Project. Then I will elaborate on how UVic has implemented the New Business As Usual. This will be followed by a group exercise which creates an opportunity for Showcasing participants to provide input to UVic's innovative *Sustainability Policy and Action Plan*."

"The UVic event should not be viewed as the end of a series; rather, it is the beginning of the next phase in a continuing process to raise the bar and improve the way land is developed and water is managed on Vancouver Island," adds **Kim Stephens**.

Natural City Vision

"Vic Derman will round out the morning session by elaborating on his vision for a Natural City." continues Kim Stephens. "This will help us address the question: what do we want this place to look like in 50 years?"



Vic Derman is a District of Saanich Councillor. He is also Vice-Chair of the Capital Region Water Commission. As an elected representative, he is well-versed in a water-centric way-of-thinking. Vic Derman chaired the organizing committee and was the driving force behind the highly successful **Water in the City Conference**, held in Victoria. This 2006 flagship event provided the platform for a Consultation Workshop that served as the [official launch of Convening for Action on Vancouver Island](#) (CAVI).

"The CAVI Leadership Team anticipates that the Natural City vision will help shape the design of the program elements for the 2009 CAVI program, in particular how the current multi-jurisdictional [Bowker Creek Urban Watershed Renewal Initiative](#) could inform [A Positive Settlement Strategy for Vancouver Island](#)," concludes Kim Stephens.

The Bowker Creek Initiative is a collaboration between local governments, community groups, post-secondary institutions and private citizens, to improve the health of Bowker Creek and its watershed.



Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation at the University of Victoria

Water Bucket Story #1

First, the POLIS Story

The **POLIS Project on Ecological Governance** is a centre for transdisciplinary research that investigates and promotes sustainability. **POLIS** was established in 2000 by the Eco-Research Chair of Environmental Law and Policy at the University of Victoria. POLIS researchers work together with a diversity of people in different ways – urban and rural communities, First Nations, Aboriginal organizations, businesses, co-operatives, public officials and the non-profit sector -- to foster healthy and sustainable communities.



POLIS Project
on
Ecological Governance
University of Victoria

Ecological Governance & Thinking Beyond Pipes and Pumps

The [POLIS Project on Ecological Governance](#) fills a unique niche as a place where academic and policy research meets community action, with the objective of identifying how we can 'create a sustainable future' and a clear focus on lasting solutions.

"The water focus at POLIS is taking this conceptual work and developing tools and practices on the ground that move society from endless supply augmentation to a more balanced "water soft path" approach that situates ourselves in the context of the watershed as the central focus of decision making and action," explains **Oliver Brandes**.

POLIS has produced a number of notable publications on water management, including: *Thinking Beyond Pipes and Pumps: Top 10 Ways Communities Can Save Water and Money*, *Flushing the Future?: Examining Urban Water Use in Canada*, and *The Soft Path for Water in a Nutshell*. These are downloadable from www.waterdsm.org.

Turning Research into Action: Water Sustainability Pilot Projects in BC

POLIS is taking its water research into communities across the province to help build capacity for conservation and water stewardship.

"By working with municipalities and key partners to develop and implement long-term integrated water conservation plans, POLIS is developing water sustainability as part of a broader community vision and seeks to help establish the leaders today that will raise the bar for water management tomorrow," explains **Susanne Porter-Bopp**.

"The process of turning research into on-the-ground action creates a self-fulfilling cycle of success and moves case studies into pilot projects to tomorrow's *new business as usual*," concludes Susanne.



Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation at the University of Victoria

Water Bucket Story #1

Then the UVic Story

Because Bowker Creek originates on the [University of Victoria](#) campus, the on-the-ground successes in implementing the New Business As Usual can inform the community vision for restoring the Bowker Creek watershed over time. The "UVic story" encompasses both planning and engineering.



University of Victoria

Campus Planning & Development: An Evolution Towards Sustainability

According to **Sarah Webb**, the campus planning process in 2003 was a significant turning point at the University of Victoria.

"Through leadership, partnerships, and collaboration, UVic has been able to transition from an incremental approach in planning and resource management to a much more holistic and integrated approach – *the new business as usual*," explains Sarah Webb.

"This transformational experience resulted in a new vision for constructing water and energy efficient buildings in a built environment that respects the natural environment," concludes Sarah.

Group Exercise – Water-Centric Planning at UVic

The *2007 UVic Strategic Plan, A Vision for the Future — Building on Strength*, calls for the establishment of a formal framework to manage the University's physical and financial resources in a sustainable manner—that is, with attention paid to the "triple bottom line" of economic, social, and environmental consequences.

Throughout 2008, the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability is undertaking a process to develop a new **Sustainability Policy and Action Plan**.

On October 10, participants will get a sneak peek at the innovative Sustainability Policy and Action Plan (to be released in 2009) and an opportunity to apply a water-centric approach to provide input to the Plan. This will be accomplished through a working group exercise.



Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation at the University of Victoria Water Bucket Story #1

Finally, the Walkabout

Delegates will get a chance to tour a number of different LEED buildings, view innovative landscape projects, and learn about the campus waste water treatment system and rainwater management programs.

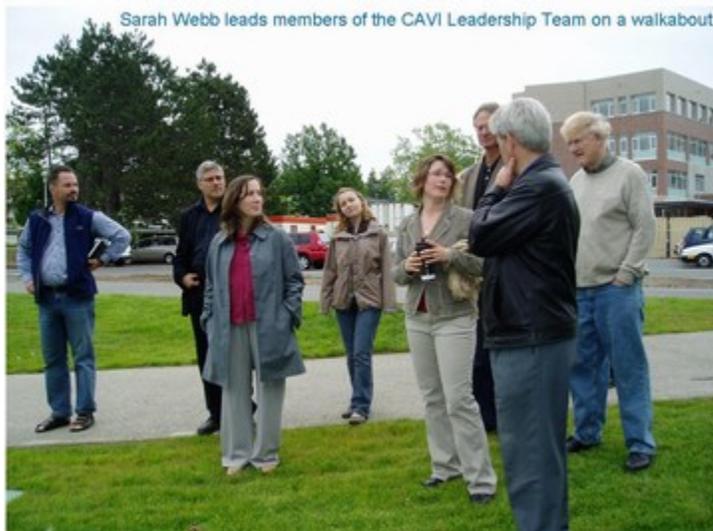


New green roofs at the Social Sciences and Mathematics Building



Showcasing Innovation Format

INSIDE	OUTSIDE
	
First, the project preview	Then, the walkabout



Sustainability Policy and Action Plan: University of Victoria showcases on-the-ground implementation

UVic precedent provides local governments with a template for moving from talk to action

Doing Business Differently

A community of more than 25,000 people, the University of Victoria (UVic) is a case study for green buildings and compact growth. Over the past five years, UVic has been able to transition from an incremental approach in planning and resource management to a water-centric approach that is much more holistic and integrated --- ***the new business as usual.***

“This transformational experience resulted in a new vision for constructing water and energy efficient buildings in a built environment that respects the natural environment,” reports **Sarah Webb** of the [Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability](#). “UVic is leading by example in implementing approaches and practices that achieve **Design with Nature** outcomes, and reduce physical impacts resulting from intensive urbanization.”



On-the-Ground Successes

UVic has seen a number of successes in the past decade when it comes to comprehensive water management -- notably the integrated rainwater/stormwater management plan, the green building program, and the treated wastewater program have helped to reduce both potable water consumption and rainwater leaving campus even while the campus has continued to grow in size.

The surrounding municipalities now have an opportunity to learn from, and adapt, the UVic experience. On October 10, the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability and the POLIS Project on Ecological Governance are co-hosting [Towards a New Infrastructure – Integrated and Water-Centric Planning at the University of Victoria and Beyond](#).



Sustainability Policy and Action Plan

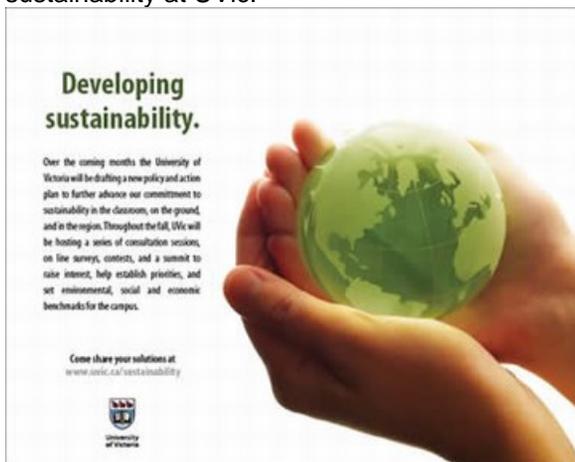
Throughout 2008, the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability is undertaking a process to develop a new and innovative **Sustainability Policy and Action Plan**. This one of the key strategies to help achieve the UVic mission:

- *“We are committed to promoting the development of a sustainable society through our programs of education and research and the stewardship of our own financial and physical resources.”*

A sustainability policy will provide an overview of UVic’s institutional commitment to sustainability and will empower individuals, offices, departments and units to take action on incorporating sustainability into their daily activities.

A sustainability action plan will provide a formal framework for identifying opportunities, establishing strategic priorities, and developing resourcing strategies for sustainability. It will also include a campus generated vision, goals, sample actions and indicators of success.

“On October 10, participants will get a sneak peek at sections of the draft action plan and will have an opportunity to provide ideas and input from their own knowledge and experiences,” explains Sarah Webb. “It will be a unique opportunity to help shape the future of sustainability at UVic.”



Possible Template for the Bowker Creek Initiative?

“When we designed the Showcasing Innovation program, we wanted to achieve a progression,” reports **Jody Watson**, Harbours and Watersheds Coordinator with the Capital Regional District. “From a road in View Royal...to a neighbourhood in Langford...to a mini-municipality at UVic.”

“Because UVic is situated in the Bowker Creek headwaters, we saw an opportunity to connect the dots between what UVic is doing and what the current multi-jurisdictional [Bowker Creek Urban Watershed Renewal Initiative](#) would like to see,” continues Jody Watson, who is also Chair of the Bowker Creek Initiative.

“UVic is applying water-centric planning across the campus, and is leading by example in doing business differently in the Bowker Creek watershed. The UVic experience can inform how three partner municipalities guide watershed redevelopment,” concludes Jody Watson. “Specifically, the UVic Sustainability Policy and Action Plan could serve as a useful template for the purposes of watershed renewal. Other local governments may also find the UVic template helpful and/or adaptable.”

Sustainability Plan Topic Areas:

The UVic Sustainability Plan encompasses eight topic areas, each of which has possible applications at the municipal scale:

- Grounds, Food, and Urban Agriculture
- Water and Waste Management
- Education, Research, and Civic Engagement
- Energy, Climate, and Transportation
- Green Buildings and Renovations
- Purchasing and Social Responsibility
- Healthy Campus Community
- Governance, Decision making, and Sustainability Resources

Each topic will have a format of: Vision; Principles; Goals; Sample Actions; Quantitative Indicators. The last three are especially relevant to municipalities.

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation at the University of Victoria Water Bucket Story #2

Natural City Vision:

On October 10, **Councillor Vic Derman** of the District of Saanich will round out the UVic program by elaborating on his vision for a Natural City. He will pose the question: ***What do we want this place to look like in 50 years, and how will we get from here to there?***

Well-versed in a water-centric way-of-thinking, Vic Derman chaired the organizing committee and was the driving force behind the highly successful **2006 Water in the City Conference**, held in Victoria.



The University of Victoria's POLIS Project Thinks Beyond Pipes and Pumps – and Takes Action Towards a New Water Infrastructure in BC and Beyond

University of Victoria and POLIS co-host third of three showcasing events
in the 2008 Vancouver Island Series organized by CAVI

Doing Business Differently

Building on the interest and momentum generated by successful series on both sides of the Georgia Basin in 2007, [Convening for Action on Vancouver Island \(CAVI\)](#) is collaborating with the Capital Regional District and the Green Infrastructure Partnership to present **Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation in the Capital Region: The 2008 Series.**

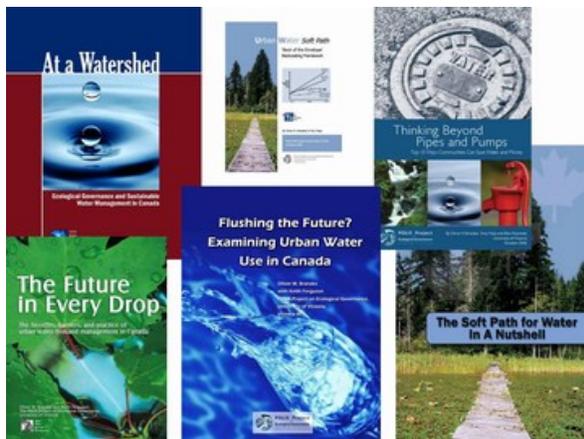


University
of Victoria



POLIS Project
on
Ecological Governance
University of Victoria

The third in the series will be held on October 10 at the University of Victoria, and will be co-hosted by the *Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability* and the *POLIS Project on Ecological Governance*.



The POLIS Story

Since 2000 the [POLIS Project on Ecological Governance](#) at the University of Victoria has filled a unique niche on campus as a place where academic and policy research meets community action.

According to **Oliver Brandes**, Water Sustainability Project Leader and Associate Director of POLIS, "The question that motivates and unites our work is: ***What does governance that is shaped by the principles of ecological sustainability look like?*** How, in other words, can we embed environment in all levels of decision-making?"



Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation at the University of Victoria

Water Bucket Story #3

Design with Nature Guiding Philosophy:

In British Columbia, the on-the-ground application of ecological sustainability principles is captured by the phrase 'design with nature'. Borrowed from Ian McHarg and the title of his 1969 book, this means let the landscape inform development; it also synthesizes Smart Growth principles with an infrastructure way-of-thinking and acting. The mind-map for a Design with Nature strategy is presented opposite and comprises six elements. **Design with Nature** is one approach to achieve *Green Value*, and is supportive of community goals that relate to building social capacity.



POLIS Water Sustainability Project:

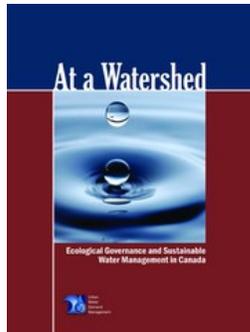
The Water Sustainability Project began at POLIS in 2003 to address the above-noted central question in the context of urban water use in Canada. "Our work focuses on reorienting Canadian water management from a supply development approach toward stewardship and managing demand as priorities for governments and decision makers," continues Oliver Brandes.



"Our goal is to catalyze the movement toward a new paradigm of sustainable water use and conservation by building capacity from the ground up and engaging communities to make lasting structural and behavioral changes," concludes Oliver Brandes.

At a Watershed:

In 2005, POLIS published *At a Watershed: Ecological Governance and Sustainable Water Management in Canada*. This report built on the



strength of the action plans laid out in previous reports. *At a Watershed* went beyond the urban environment, addressing specific issues of governance that are relevant to a multi-jurisdictional watershed such as Bowker Creek.

"Through detailed case studies and innovative practices from around the world, **At a Watershed** reveals models and best practices that can be adapted in Canada. This report outlines the enabling environment that fosters long-term, integrated and comprehensive water management where ecosystem health and social sustainability take the primary role," explains Oliver Brandes.

On-the-Ground Successes at UVic:

A community of more than 25,000 people, the University of Victoria (UVic) is a case study for green buildings and compact growth. According to **Sarah Webb** of the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability, "UVic has seen a number of successes in the past decade when it comes to comprehensive water management -- notably the integrated rainwater/stormwater management plan, the green building program, and the treated wastewater program have helped to reduce both potable water consumption and rainwater leaving campus even while the campus has continued to grow in size."



"The surrounding municipalities now have an opportunity to learn from, and adapt, the UVic experience," suggests Sarah Webb.

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation at the University of Victoria Water Bucket Story #3

Natural City Vision for Bowker Creek:

On October 10, **Councillor Vic Derman** of the District of Saanich will round out the UVic program by elaborating on his vision for a Natural City. He will pose the question: ***What do we want this place to look like in 50 years, and how will we get from here to there?***



Well-versed in a water-centric way-of-thinking, Vic Derman chaired the organizing committee and was the driving force behind the highly successful **2006 Water in the City Conference**, held in Victoria.

Meeting the Water Challenge

POLIS launched its **Water Conservation and Stewardship Pilot Project Program** in Spring 2008 to engage local governments in Canada in discussions and action about the need for sustainable water management and strategies for achieving it.

According to Oliver Brandes, "This program seeks to actively engage communities and build capacity to move away from supply-side solutions and move along the water management spectrum towards a sustainable approach to water management....sometimes called the Soft Path."

"To date, few communities or institutions in Canada are sufficiently equipped with the capacity needed to plan and implement a comprehensive, long-term and integrated approach to water conservation," notes **Susanne Porter-Bopp**, Community Water Coordinator at POLIS.



"The Water Conservation and Stewardship Pilot Project Program allows us to provide communities with the latest research and tools to help them adapt to future challenges and entrench water sustainability as a core focus," elaborates Susanne. "These outcomes will be advanced through initiatives such as our **Water**

Soft Path Conservation Calculator and our **Water Conservation Program Implementation 101** toolkits for municipal and regional decision-makers. These are being undertaken in partnership with the Ministry of Community Development,"



Getting from Here to There – Showcasing Best Water Practices from Canada and Beyond

"The water sustainability challenge is now a question of accelerating the implementation and commitment to new approach to water management," states **Oliver Brandes**. "A managing demand and **Soft Path** approach, coupled with a clear focus on watershed governance offers a genuine win-win solution, as communities can reap environmental, economic and social dividends from balancing their water use with local availability."

"The session on Friday October 10th will allow participants to expand their toolbox for promoting sustainable water use by showcasing the latest and greatest local, national and international examples of offsetting future growth through conservation and new sources of water such as rainwater and reuse and recycling," adds **Susanne Porter-Bopp**.

"Our goal is to demonstrate that not only 1/3 to 1/2 water savings are readily available, but, more importantly, that water sustainability is possible," concludes **Oliver Brandes**.

Meeting the Climate Change Challenge on Vancouver Island: The Natural City Vision - getting from here to there

Sannich Councillor Vic Derman will outline an integrated approach to urban watershed restoration that can inform
A Positive Settlement Strategy for Vancouver Island

Doing Business Differently

Building on the interest and momentum generated by successful series on both sides of the Georgia Basin in 2007, [Convening for Action on Vancouver Island \(CAVI\)](#) is collaborating with the Capital Regional District and the Green Infrastructure Partnership to present **Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation in the Capital Region: The 2008 Series.**

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The Natural City

Councillor Vic Derman of the District of Saanich will round out the UVic program by elaborating on his vision for The Natural City. He will pose the question: ***What do we want this place to look like in 50 years, and how will we get from here to there?***

Well-versed in a water-centric way-of-thinking, Vic Derman chaired the organizing committee and was the driving force behind the highly successful **2006 Water in the City Conference**, held in Victoria. He is a Director of the Capital Regional District; and is Vice-Chair of the Capital Region Water Commission.



3 Lenses to Shape Our Region's Future

In his blueprint for action titled **The Natural City**, Vic Derman opens by writing that "Without doubt, Saanich and our region face a future where we must 'do things differently' to succeed. Past practices have produced a myriad of outcomes such as loss of open space, environmental degradation and choking congestion that are unsustainable and inconsistent with citizen's hopes and expectations." He then introduces three lenses to shape the future of the region:

- The Regional Growth Strategy
- Climate Change
- Quality of Life and Place

"Collectively, the three lenses bring our future into focus," writes Vic Derman. "The picture they define is one of environmental, social and economic sustainability. It portrays a new approach that cannot be accomplished with tinkering and incremental change. Instead, bold and visionary action will be needed."

A Design Process to Achieve the Vision

Vic Derman calls the project **"THE NATURAL CITY"** to reflect the dramatic shift in direction it demands. "Accomplishing it will not be easy but the rewards will be worth the effort," writes Derman. "Getting even close to The Natural City would: fulfill the vision of the Regional Growth Strategy, help meet the challenge of climate change and all but guarantee our future economic success. Can we afford to do anything else?"

On October 10 at the University of Victoria, Vic Derman will introduce the principles and attributes of The Natural City. He will also lay out a layered design process that demonstrates how conventional approaches to urban design could be modified to meet the goals of the *The Natural City*.

Application to Bowker Creek Watershed?

"The CAVI Leadership Team anticipates that The Natural City vision will help shape the design of the program elements for the 2009 CAVI program, in particular how the current multi-jurisdictional [Bowker Creek Urban Watershed Renewal Initiative](#) could inform [A Positive Settlement Strategy for Vancouver Island](#)," observes Kim Stephens, organizer of the Showcasing Innovation Series and Program Coordinator for the [Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia](#).

The Bowker Creek Initiative is a collaboration between local governments, community groups, post-secondary institutions and private citizens, to improve the health of Bowker Creek and its watershed.

"Because UVic is situated in the Bowker Creek headwaters, we saw an opportunity to connect the dots between what UVic is doing, Vic Derman's vision for The Natural City, and what the current multi-jurisdictional [Bowker Creek Urban Watershed Renewal Initiative](#) would like to see," adds **Jody Watson**, Chair of the Bowker Creek Initiative.



The Natural City Vision: Three Lenses to Shape the Future of Southern Vancouver Island

Vic Derman publishes a "call to action" - implement an integrated approach to urban watershed restoration!



In his blueprint for action titled **The Natural City**, Vic Derman opens by writing that "Without doubt, Saanich and our region face a future where we must 'do things differently' to succeed. Past practices have produced a myriad of outcomes such as loss of open space, environmental degradation and choking congestion that are unsustainable and inconsistent with citizen's hopes and expectations." He then introduces three lenses to shape the future of the region:

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Design with Nature

Vic Derman defines a set of ten principles that provide a planning framework for The Natural City. One of these is a 'design with nature' way-of-thinking and acting. "Integration with nature and minimal interference with the natural environment are at the core of The Natural City," writes Vic Derman. "The urban area **must** exist harmoniously with the surrounding environment. Key systems should mimic natural processes and integrate with them to the highest degree possible."

3 Lenses
to
Shape
our
Region's
Future:

The RGS

Climate
Change

Quality
of
Life and
Place

A Design Process to Achieve the Vision

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The design process outlined by Vic Derman does not differ greatly from traditional approaches with one exception. "The usual approach is to acquire land, decide what will be placed on it, then go about making it sustainable as possible," writes Vic Derman. "The layered approach effectively turns this upside down. Rather than being 'fitted into the project' after key decisions have been made, elements such as sustainability, amenity and social equity become the drivers of development outcomes."

Saanich Councillor Vic Derman,
Vice-Chair, Capital Region Water Commission



*Why not
build:
The World's
Most
Attractive,
Livable and,
above all
else,
Sustainable
Medium
Sized Urban
Area
PERIOD!*

*Call it:
"THE
NATURAL
CITY"*

Convening for Action at the University of Victoria: Towards a New Infrastructure - Integrated and Water-Centric Planning

Stage set for an integrated approach to urban watershed restoration that can inform A Positive Settlement Strategy for Vancouver Island

Doing Business Differently

Building on the interest and momentum generated by successful series on both sides of the Georgia Basin in 2007, [Convening for Action on Vancouver Island \(CAVI\)](#) collaborated with the Capital Regional District and the Green Infrastructure Partnership to present **Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation in the Capital Region: The 2008 Series**.

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A compact, complete community

A community of more than 25,000 people, the University of Victoria (UVic) is a case study for green buildings and compact growth. Over the past five years, UVic has been able to transition from an incremental approach in planning and resource management to a water-centric approach that is much more holistic and integrated --- ***the new business as usual***.

“This transformational experience resulted in a new vision for constructing water and energy efficient buildings in a built environment that respects the natural environment,” reports **Sarah Webb** of the [Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability](#). “UVic is leading by example in implementing approaches and practices that achieve **Design with Nature** outcomes, and reduce physical impacts resulting from intensive urbanization.”

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation at the University of Victoria

Water Bucket Story #6

PowerPoint Presentations



A set of five PowerPoint Presentations in the morning provided context for the day and set the scene for a campus walkabout after lunch. The walkabout provided an on-the-ground opportunity to see exactly how UVic is implementing its vision for 'designing with nature'.

- **Eric Bonham:** [Creating Our Future - The New Business As Usual \(Visualize What We Want Vancouver Island to Look Like in 50 Years\)](#). Eric Bonham explained how CAVI got started and provided insight as to why this bottom-up initiative is resonating with local government and beyond.

What Does CAVI Do?

CAVI brings together those who plan and regulate (*local government*), those who build (*developers*), those who provide the legislative framework (*the Province*) and those who provide research (*University and College*).

- **Glen Brown:** [Green Infrastructure: Leadership in Water Sustainability](#). Glen Brown explained how the Province is employing its infrastructure grant programs to influence green infrastructure policies and practices, and thereby facilitate change on the ground



- **Oliver Brandes:** [Thinking Beyond Pipes and Pumps](#). Oliver Brandes elaborated on the concept and principles of the Soft Path for water. He emphasized that water conservation is emerging as a new kind of infrastructure and is the next best source of "new" water for growing communities.

Ecological governance

- Embedding environment in all levels of decision making
- Environment not an 'add on' but central
- Asks how we might foster circular systems – reducing demand on distant and local ecosystems

With the fundamental question:
What does governance shaped by the principles of ecological sustainability look like?

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation at the University of Victoria Water Bucket Story #6

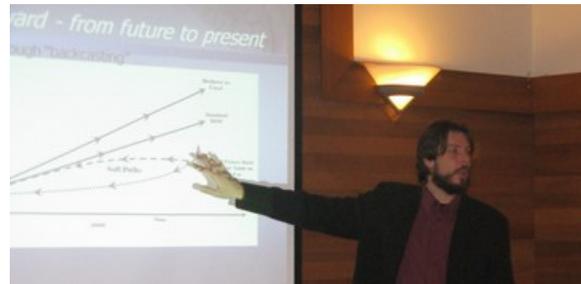
- Susanne Porter-Bopp:** [Turning Research into Action - Water Soft Path Pilot Projects in BC and Beyond](#). Susanne Porter-Bopp built on the presentation by Oliver Brandes. She elaborated on the **Water Conservation and Stewardship Pilot Program** launched by POLIS in Spring 2008. This is the first test anywhere in the world of the application of *water soft path planning concepts* in a variety of jurisdictional and geographical settings.



Afterwards, **Eric Bonham** observed that "The presentations were excellent and the continuity of the sustainability message from one speaker to the next was clearly well thought out and obvious to those attending."

"The CAVI Leadership Team is delighted with the UVIC-CAVI partnership and also note the innovative partnership between POLIS and the Ministry of Community Development," continued Eric Bonham. "UVIC clearly has a unique role to play in the sustainability story in the CRD and beyond. Without doubt the academy is well placed to push the envelope and try new ideas."

- Sarah Webb:** [Integrated Planning and Sustainability](#). According to Sarah Webb, "The UVIC Campus has many of the same challenges that small cities do...The knowledge and expertise from our students, faculty and staff can help create practical and innovative solutions!" She then went on to describe how the 2003 Campus Plan outlines the university's commitment to low impact development; smart growth and integrated building design to enhance and protect UVic's unique campus environment.



Group Exercise - providing input to UVic's Sustainability Policy & Action Plan

Throughout 2008, the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability is undertaking a process to develop a new and innovative **Sustainability Policy and Action Plan**. This one of the key strategies to help achieve the UVic mission:

- *"We are committed to promoting the development of a sustainable society through our programs of education and research and the stewardship of our own financial and physical resources."*



"On October 10, participants had a sneak peek at the water section of the draft action plan and provided ideas and input from their own knowledge and experiences," explained **Sarah Webb**. "It was a unique opportunity to help shape the future of sustainability at UVic."

"The 'brainstorming' exercise was a worthwhile component of the session program," added **Eric Bonham**. "Once again the University can stretch across the campus to include social sciences, engineering, political science, environmental studies, law, philosophy and education to address issues around sustainability including, I would suggest such topics as ethics, values etc."



Shaping Our Region's Future



After the working group exercise, **Councillor Vic Derman** of the District of Saanich presented his blueprint titled [The Natural City](#). "Accomplishing it will not be easy but the rewards will be worth the effort," stated Derman. "Getting even close to The Natural City would: fulfill the vision of the Regional Growth Strategy, help meet the challenge of climate change and all but guarantee our future economic success. Can we afford to do anything else?"

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Saanich Councillor Vic Derman,
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Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation at the University of Victoria

Water Bucket Story #6

Informing A Positive Settlement Strategy for Vancouver Island:

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Campus Walkabout

Delegates toured a number of different LEED buildings, viewed innovative landscape projects, and learned about the campus waste water treatment system and rainwater management programs. "The walkabout demonstrated that sustainability leadership at UVic is truly happening on the ground," observed **Eric Bonham**. To gain an appreciation for the accomplishments of UVic, click on this link to [Sarah Webb explains green roof](#).



Links to YouTube Videos

Click on the links below to access and view video clips on YouTube of the members of the UVic presentation team telling their stories. These videos supplement the PowerPoint presentations and provide context and flavour.

- **Eric Bonham:** [Creating Our Future](#)

- **Glen Brown:** [Green Infrastructure](#)

- **Sarah Webb:**

[Integrated Planning and Sustainability at UVic](#)

[Group Exercise - Water-Centric Planning at UVic](#)

[Campus Walkabout - Green Roof](#)

- **Vic Derman:**
[Vic Derman - Part 1](#)
[Vic Derman - Part 2](#)
[Vic Derman - Part 3](#)
[Vic Derman - Part 4](#)
[Vic Derman - Part 5](#)

