

What We Like About the Plan

The Final Plan is an opportunity for Metro Vancouver to “get it right”, by promoting public and municipal leadership to take advantage of this opportunity. The Final Plan provides the means to translate the visionary *Metro Vancouver Sustainability Framework* into tangible **actions** on the ground. We like the Final Plan because:

- a. **Integrated Resource Recovery:** The new way of thinking about liquid discharges and rainwater as resources is evident throughout, starting with the title.
- b. **Connect to the Landscape:** Recognizes the connection of water to the landscape, and that the decisions we make on the built environment have a direct impact on the health of the natural environment.
- c. **Shared Responsibility:** Emphasizes achievable, enforceable actions; and introduces *accountability* and *shared responsibility* as precepts that guide the new business as usual.
- d. **Collaborate and Share:** Lays the groundwork for alignment of local actions with provincial and regional goals via an educationally-based *regional team approach*, one that develops a common understanding and results in consistent expectations region-wide.
- e. **Stewarding Committee:** Establishes the mandate for IUMAC (Integrated Utility Management Advisory Committee) to advise Metro Vancouver on plan implementation, particularly from the perspectives of integrated planning and resource recovery, across utility systems.
- f. **Climate Change:** Introduces the concept of ‘resilient infrastructure’ to address risks and long-term needs associated with climate change; and underscores that a financial investment is necessary to ensure the legacy of a ‘sustainable region’.
- g. **Rational Costs Allocation:** The shift to allocating costs based on wet weather flows rather than dry weather flows means price signals will be rationalized to incent reducing the most significant and costly flows that push our system to its limits. More generally, we support any move toward cost-recovery and accounting that reflects full life-cycle, polluter-pay principles.

In addition, we wish to draw your attention to these three specifics to illustrate how change happens:

- **Sewage Treatment:** Alignment with the *Canada-wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent* sets baseline wastewater management criteria, timelines and prioritization methodologies, and formalizes processes to assess environmental risk.
- **Inflow & Infiltration:** The I&I issue produced a defining moment during Plan development, thereby demonstrating what can happen when there is the will to “just do it”. A fundamental shift in thinking on the part of Metro Vancouver and the municipalities has resulted in a solid demonstration of leadership with the commitment to reduce the volume of rainwater and groundwater entering the sewer system through defects in public pipes and private laterals.
- **Connect to the Landscape:** Now that the I&I experience has established a precedent for a fundamental shift in thinking, we look for the same type of leadership and commitment from the municipalities to implement Recommendation #5: “*Refocus Integrated RAINwater/Stormwater Management Plans on watershed targets and outcomes so that there are clear linkages with the land use planning and development approval process.*”