

**Convening for Action on  
Vancouver Island:  
It Starts with a Teachable Moment**

Presentation to Meeting of the Minds  
Parksville, May 2006

President of British Columbia  
Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks  
**VANCOUVER ISLAND  
ATELLITE IMAGE MAP**

Scale 1:100,000

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The image shows a satellite map of Vancouver Island with a blue overlay indicating water bodies. The text is overlaid on the map. A small inset map in the top right corner shows the location of Vancouver Island within the province of British Columbia.



Okanagan Lake

Kelowna

Active Burning

**Drought, Forest Fires and Floods in 2003  
Created a 'Teachable Moment' for Change  
that resulted in the  
Water Sustainability Action Plan for BC**

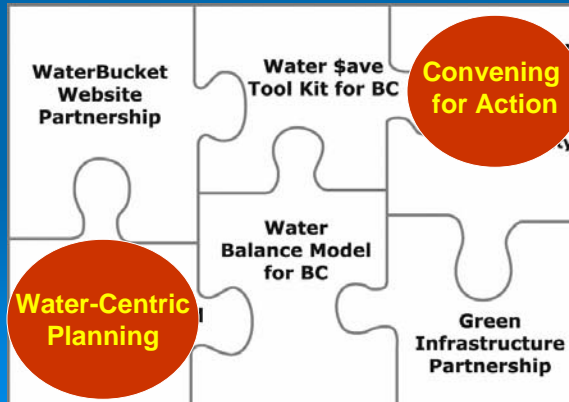
Burn Scar

The image is a satellite map of the Okanagan region in British Columbia. It shows Okanagan Lake, the city of Kelowna, and areas affected by forest fires. Labels with arrows point to 'Okanagan Lake', 'Kelowna', 'Active Burning' (a bright purple/pink area), and 'Burn Scar' (a dark, irregular area). A text box with a light blue background and yellow text is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.



**BCWWA**  
British Columbia Water  
& Waste Association

## and the Province are partnering to deliver the Water Sustainability Action Plan



### It Starts With a Teachable Moment

- Convening for Action
- Water-Centric Planning
- Provincial Pilots

## Change is being advanced through these partnerships:



- Convening for Action
- Water Bucket Website Partnership
- Water Balance Model Partnership
- Green Infrastructure Partnership

## “Convening for Action” is designed to turn ideas into action

- **What** is the problem?
- **So What** can be done about it?
- **Now What** will be done?

## Convening for Action in British Columbia comprises regional initiatives:

- Okanagan
- Greater Vancouver
- Vancouver Island

## When 'convening for action', we build capacity through a 3-step process:

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1. **Challenge** practitioners and others to step back from existing paradigms
2. **Inform** them regarding alternatives
3. **Provide** the tools & experience to develop land and use water differently

## We are 'turning ideas into action' through outreach & continuing education

- Partnership-Building
- Outreach Presentations
- Regional Events
- Product Development



## Key Messages

- It starts with a conversation
- It starts at the site

## It Starts With a Teachable Moment

- Convening for Action
- Water-Centric Planning**
- Provincial Pilots

## The Water Sustainability Action Plan for BC....



... provides a partnership umbrella for an array of *on-the-ground* initiatives that promote a 'water-centric' approach to community planning

## Water-Centric Planning means....

...we will plan with a view to water  
– whether we are planning  
for a site, a region, or the Province

Water OUT = Water IN

## Water-Centric Planning also means that we will integrate:

- Missions
- Mandates
- Accountabilities

Creating  
the  
Future  
Together

# The goal is to...

...move British Columbia towards a water balance *way-of-thinking* and acting



This deceptively simple equation embodies the basic principles and concepts that communities must embrace to achieve water sustainability

Over time,  
the safety factor has been shrinking:

## The Water Balance

$$\text{OUT} = \text{IN}$$

$$\text{IN} = f(\text{hydrology, weather, time, infrastructure, ...})$$

$$\text{OUT} = \text{Uses} + F_{\text{safety}}$$
$$= (U_{\text{essential}} + U_{\text{excess}}) + F_{\text{safety}}$$

where....

$$U_{\text{essential}} = f(\text{population, ecology, industry, time, ...})$$

$$U_{\text{excess}} = f(\text{wealth, society, technology...})$$



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## Building on Case Study Experience: Convening for Action in the South Okanagan

- Water-Centric Planning:  
A Guidebook for British Columbia
- South Okanagan  
Regional Growth Strategy
- Convening for Action  
in the South Okanagan
- Town of Oliver:  
Smart Growth on the Ground





## We have been 'connecting the dots' in Oliver



The March 30<sup>th</sup> 2006 Working Session was the first step in an educational process to change water-use habits, technologies and practices

## The Green Infrastructure Partnership is educating stakeholders regarding 'Design with Nature'

### Outreach & Continuing Education Program (OCEP)

	<b>Celebrating Green Infrastructure: Showcasing Innovation Series</b>	<b>Communication Guide for Elected Officials</b>	<b>Guide to Green Infrastructure Standards</b>	
<b>Speaker Series</b>		<b>Communication Guide for Senior Managers</b>	<b>Green Infrastructure Standards</b>	<b>Streamlined Environmental Approvals Protocol</b>

## Showcasing Innovation in North Vancouver – the first in the series



A Lane



An Eco-Industrial Community



An Arterial Highway



## Seek to Understand:

To Build Trust & Respect,  
It Starts with a Conversation.

Listen, Listen, Listen.

Because...

Conversations →  
will lead to Dialogue →  
will lead to Consensus