

Convening for Action in British Columbia

Moving Towards a Water Balance Way-of-Thinking and Acting

Freshwater for the Future,
Policies for Sustainable Water Management in Canada
Gatineau Conference, May 2006

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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....

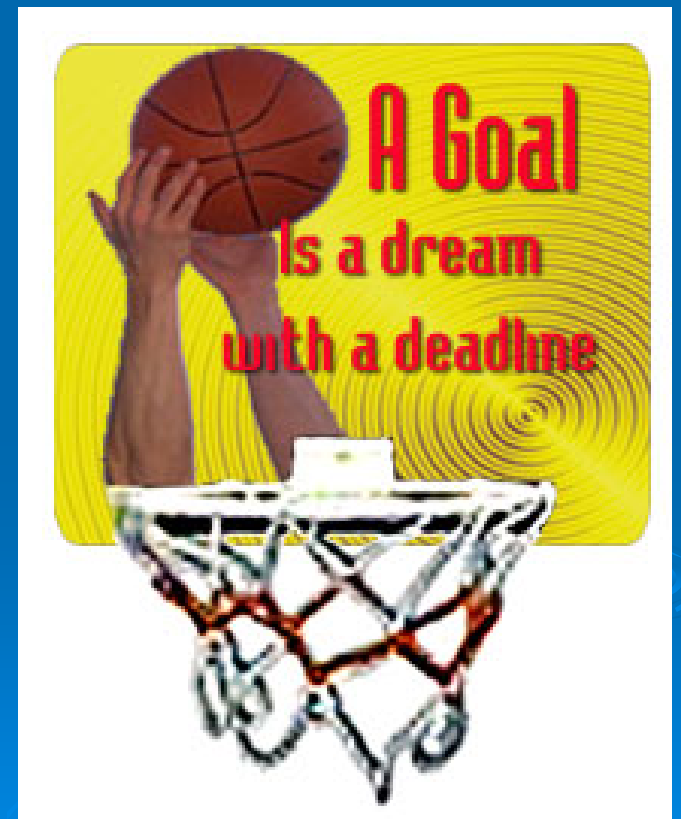
...we will plan with a view to water
– whether we are planning
for a site, a region, or the Province

Water OUT = Water IN



The goal is to...

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



Change is being advanced through these partnerships:



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

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

1. Challenge practitioners and others to step back from existing paradigms
2. Inform them regarding alternatives
3. Provide tools & experience to do differently

"To Make Change Happen, It Has to Happen on the Ground"

- Ted van der Gulik, Ministry of Agriculture & Lands, 2005

***waterbucket.ca* is a resource-rich 'destination location' for timely and provocative information**



The screenshot shows the website's navigation and content sections. At the top, there are links for Home, Partners, Contact Us, and About This Site. Below this is a 'Visit these Communities of Interest' menu with options for Water Centric Planning, Water Use and Conservation, Rainwater Management, Green Infrastructure, Agriculture and Water, Convening for Action, and Water Sustainability Committee. To the right is a 'Latest Updates' section featuring several articles with titles and 'Read more' links. At the bottom left is the 'waterbucket' logo with the tagline 'Sustainable Approaches to Water Resources'. At the bottom right is a mission statement.

Home | Partners | Contact Us | About This Site

Visit these Communities of Interest

- Water Centric Planning
- Water Use and Conservation
- Rainwater Management
- Green Infrastructure
- Agriculture and Water
- Convening for Action
- Water Sustainability Committee

Latest Updates

- Irrigation Scheduling Calculator**
Read more at Agriculture and Water
- Water Balance Model**
Read more at Agriculture and Water
- POLIS Project report goes beyond the urban environment, addressing specific issues of governance**
Read more at Convening for Action
- WATER SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA**
Read more at Convening for Action
- Lantzville introduces low-impact development bylaw**
Read more at Green Infrastructure
- BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES LEAD THE WAY WITH ECO-SENSITIVE STREETS**

waterbucket
Sustainable Approaches to Water Resources

The vision of waterbucket.ca is to provide a resource-rich, highly interactive 'destination location' for timely and provocative information about water sustainability in British Columbia.

waterbucket.ca has seven “Communities-of-Interest”

The image displays seven overlapping screenshots of the waterbucket.ca website, each representing a different 'Community of Interest'. The screenshots are arranged in a grid-like fashion, with some overlapping others. Each screenshot shows the website's header, navigation menu, and main content area. The communities of interest are:

- AGRICULTURE & WATER**: Features a search bar and navigation links for Water Management, Drought, Water Use, Water Stewardship, and Resources.
- WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**: Includes a search bar and navigation links for Water Management, Drought, Water Use, Water Stewardship, and Resources.
- WATER USE & CONSERVATION**: Includes a search bar and navigation links for Water Management, Drought, Water Use, Water Stewardship, and Resources.
- GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE**: Includes a search bar and navigation links for Design With Nature, Outreach & Training, Construction Details, and Resources.
- CONVENING FOR ACTION**: Includes a search bar and navigation links for Understanding Water Supply, Limiting Water Demand, Watershed / Ecological, Upstream / Downstream, and Resources.
- RAINWATER MANAGEMENT**: Includes a search bar and navigation links for Turning Ideas into Action, On the Ground Changes, Resources, and Networking.
- WATER CENTRIC PLANNING**: Includes a search bar and navigation links for Understanding Water Supply, Limiting Water Demand, Watershed / Ecological, Upstream / Downstream, and Resources.


Each screenshot also shows a sidebar with a 'Partners' section listing the British Columbia Ministry of Environment and a 'Which of the following databases do you find most useful?' section with radio buttons for Web Links, Success Stories, and Publications. The waterbucket.ca logo and tagline 'sustainable approaches to integrated water management' are visible in the top left of each screenshot.

Partners



City of Chilliwack

Visit
City of Chilliwack



TRY THE MODEL

1. Enter the area of your site, add existing soil conditions, and land use information.
2. Create a graph of rainwater volume summaries and see how well your site performs.
3. Add a Green Roof or a Rain Garden or similar rainwater source control and compare before and after results.

Organizations

Recent Additions...

[British Columbia Ground Water Association](#)

[Canadian Water Resources Association](#)
The Canadian Water Resources Association is a national organization of individuals and organizations interested in the management of Canada's water resources. The membership of the Association is composed of private and public sector water resource professionals including managers, administrators, scientists, academics, students and users. It has branch organizations in eight provinces and members throughout Canada and beyond.

[Watershed Report Card](#)

Key Message:
Anybody with a computer and internet connection can access the model

Events

Jun 2005

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Add an event


Poll

A poll is not available

primary purpose is to provide province-wide guidelines for the maintenance of environmental valuesMore

www.waterbalance.ca

Adapting the Australian Experience



BASIC PROCEDURES FOR 'SOURCE CONTROL' OF STORMWATER



WATER
Balance
MODEL
FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

Inter-Governmental Partnership: Vision

To promote changes in land development practices so that:

- The built environment will preserve and/or restore the natural water balance over time
- Performance targets will be achieved for rainwater runoff volume and flow rate reduction at the source, *where rain falls*

An aerial photograph of a suburban residential neighborhood. The houses are densely packed, with a mix of two-story and three-story homes. The roofs are mostly brown and grey. In the background, there is a large, forested hill with a clear blue sky above it. The text "The Water Balance Model is..." is overlaid in yellow on the hillside.

The Water Balance Model is...


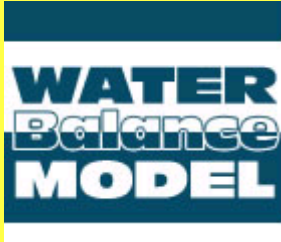
A tool that quantifies the benefits –
in terms of reducing **rainwater runoff volume**
- of installing source controls under different
land use, soil and climate conditions

Water Balance Model promotes Integration of Perspectives

- **Planners:** Tool for Better Use of Space
- **Engineers:** Tool for Pre-Design
- **Landscape Architects:** Tool for Green Solutions
- **Ecologists:** Tool for Watershed Function
- **Educators:** Tool for Social Marketing

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

Outreach & Continuing Education Program (OCEP)

	Project Tours	Communication Guide for Elected Officials	Guide to Green Infrastructure Standards	
Speaker Series	Workshop Roadshow	Communication Guide for Senior Managers	Green Infrastructure Standards	Streamlined Environmental Approvals Protocol

Build a Vision, Create a Legacy



- **Issue:** How Will We Accommodate Settlement Pressures?
- **Impact:** The Landscape is Being Transformed
- **Sustainability:** *Means Design with Nature*
- **Built Environment:** We Can Improve It
- **Natural Environment:** We Can Protect It
- **Cumulative Benefits:** Accrue Over Time
- **Desired Outcome:** Sustain Community Livability