

Metro Vancouver Reference Panel calls for Liquid “Resource” Management Plan

Community members provide advice on integrated planning

Since there is an invitation from the Province to ‘change the rules to achieve the goals’...

...start the paradigm-shift by changing the name to:
Liquid Resource Management Plan

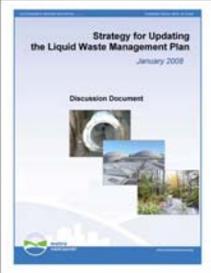
In April 2008, Metro Vancouver appointed a 9-person Reference Panel to provide comments and advice on the region’s strategy for updating its Liquid Waste Management Plan. The Reference Panel reported back to the Waste Management Committee on July 9th. Kim Stephens (Water Sustainability Action Plan for BC) and Christianne Wilhelmson (Georgia Strait Alliance) co-presented on behalf of the Reference Panel. Several members of the committee described the presentation as inspiring.

The Liquid Waste Management Plan has three inter-connected dimensions:

- **SEWAGE TREATMENT:**
technology choices, level of treatment and innovation
- **BUILT ENVIRONMENT:**
asset management, cost control and greening of the urban landscape
- **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT:**
protection and/or improvement of stream habitat and marine receiving environment

The New Business As Usual

In his opening comments, **Kim Stephens** observed that: “The Reference Panel found itself in much the same position as the Waste Management Committee. We were deluged with information covering a spectrum of issues, and we also had to integrate the nine perspectives on the Reference Panel, all in a very short period of time. As an outcome of this integration process, we have produced a consolidated and succinct storyline that we hope Metro Vancouver will find helpful in promoting understanding of challenges and a path forward.”



Presentation Road Map

- Where we are **NOW**
- What **NEXT?**

The storyline was organized in two parts. **Christianne Wilhelmson** explained how the Reference Panel process had worked and stated that the Reference Panel endorsed the work by Metro Vancouver staff related to strategy development. She also set the stage for the Reference Panel’s key message that Metro Vancouver elected representatives must provide leadership in implementing the **New Business As Usual** so that ideas are turned into action, sooner rather than later.



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"There is a window of opportunity to do business differently because we know from experience that the old ways do not work," stated Christianne Wilhelmson. "Changing the language is part of the process of advancing change."

We submit that policy choices can be expressed in these contrasting terms:

- **The Old Business As Usual** is proven to be unsustainable, unaffordable and ineffective
- **The New Business As Usual** must be integrated, adaptable and affordable to achieve livability and sustainability objectives

Kim Stephens elaborated on this observation by drawing attention to recent research findings for Vancouver Island which provide an indication of how quickly 'green development' is moving from market-niche to market-share. "Based on the dollar value of residential building permits, the shift is from 10% in 2006 and 2007 to 60% going forward," he reported. "Analysis of available data may well confirm similar statistics for Metro Vancouver."

The Reference Panel urged Metro Vancouver to provide visionary leadership that 'turns ideas into action'

1. **Vision:** What we want this region to look like in 50 years
2. **Goal:** Implement the "New Business As Usual"
3. **Strategy:** What we are going to do better or differently to get from here to there

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