

Convening for Action on Vancouver Island Leadership in Water Sustainability



Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation On Vancouver Island: The 2007 Series

WHEN & WHERE:	Friday, September 14, 2007 Regional District of Nanaimo Friday, September 28, 2007 Cowichan Valley Regional District Friday, October 12, 2007 Regional District of Comox-Strathcona
WHO:	Each event comprises presentations in the morning and a tour of project sites in the afternoon The Series will be of interest to Engineering, Planning, Public Works, Development Services, Parks and Environment Departments in Regional Districts and Municipalities
AGENDA:	Refer to page 2 for details of September 14 program
TO REGISTER ON SEPT 14:	Contact Bev Farkas or Rebecca Graves of the RDN at 250-390-6560 or bfarkas@rdn.bc.ca There is a Registration Fee of \$25 to offset the cost for bus transportation to the sites plus lunch. Please make cheques payable to Regional District of Nanaimo. Payment must be received to guarantee a place on the bus and a lunch. Attendance will be capped at 40. First come, first served. So respond quickly! To accommodate bus and lunch arrangements, the deadline for registration is Thursday, September 6, 2007 . Parking (may be limited) is available at RDN offices at 6300 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo.

Showcasing Innovation in the Nanaimo Region: 'Designing with Nature'

The Regional District of Nanaimo and City of Nanaimo will showcase their over-arching 'green development' policies and how they are being implemented on the ground. The combination of presentations in the morning and a tour of project sites in the afternoon will provide some insight into strengths and limitations in trying to develop in a more sustainable manner.

Three policies each address public concerns on different scales: a regional Climate Change policy (which led to *Community Action Plans for Greenhouse Gas Reduction*); a Steep Slope subdivision development policy, and two site-specific approaches: a Green 'Sustainable' building construction policy for City buildings and an alternative rainwater treatment approach taken at a commercial industrial site. Each policy and application represents a 'first' for either the region or the City of Nanaimo.

In the City, the site tour will feature Cottle Creek Estates (Steep Slope Development), the Oliver Road Community Centre (LEED Silver Green Building), and the 'Island Kenworth' site on Northfield Road. In the Regional District, the tour will feature the Fairwinds Green Solutions Demonstration Home, a rainwater infiltration pond at the RDN offices, and creek channel day-lighting at the Greater Nanaimo wastewater treatment plant on Hammond Bay Road.

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation On Vancouver Island: The 2007 Series

Showcasing Innovation in the Nanaimo Region: 'Designing with Nature'

Time	Program for Friday, September 14, 2007	Speakers
0830	Meet & Greet at the Regional District of Nanaimo offices at 6300 Hammond Bay Road	
CONTEXT PRESENTATIONS (Kim Stephens, Moderator)		
0900	Context & Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opening Remarks ▪ Convening for Action on Vancouver Island: Leadership in Water Sustainability 	Joe Stanhope, RDN John Finnie, CAVI
0915	Lessons Learned in Piloting Innovation in the City of Nanaimo <i>Oliver Road Community Centre: A LEED Silver Green Building</i> The City's Green Building Policy requires all new public buildings over 500 square metres to meet the LEED Silver standard. Because the Oliver Road Community Centre is the first City project to follow the LEED approach, it has been a learning experience, with the lessons learned being transferable to other communities that are considering LEED policies. Having an integrated design and construction team proved invaluable. This approach enabled timely and effective resolution of unforeseen challenges. The team came up with a number of innovative solutions on site, which would not have happened with a traditional approach to project implementation. The site incorporates a number of rainwater capture features.	Rob Lawrance & Maurice Mauch, City of Nanaimo
	<i>Rainwater Capture at 'Inland Kenworth' Industrial Site</i> This award-winning project applied a unique approach to site development that combined function and design in first capturing and then absorbing rainwater on-site. The site and developer won a City design and environmental award.	Gary Noble & Dean Mousseau, City of Nanaimo
	<i>Cottle Creek Estates: First Application of Steep Slope Policy</i> Pressure to build on hillside lands was the catalyst for adopting the City's steep slope development permit area and zoning bylaws. Cottle Creek Estates provides an early example of how these bylaws, and Nanaimo's approach to green infrastructure, are being implemented. Guiding principles include altering standard development practices, working with the landscape, and allowing greater opportunity for rainwater to be absorbed by the surrounding landscape.	Kevin Brydges & Deborah Jensen, City of Nanaimo
1100	Climate Change Adaptation: Community Action Plans Set a Direction In 2002, the RDN and City joined the <i>Partners for Climate Change Program</i> . Five individual plans (for the RDN, Nanaimo, Qualicum Beach, Parksville and Lantzville) plus one overall community plan are being developed to reduce corporate energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.	Carey McIver, RDN
1130	Bus departs. A box lunch will be provided.	
	Field Tour: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rainwater infiltration pond at RDN offices 2. Fairwinds Green Solutions Demonstration Home 3. Island Kenworth industrial site 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Oliver Street Community Centre 5. Cottle Creek Estates on Hammond Bay Road 6. Creek restoration at Greater Nanaimo treatment plant
1530	Bus returns to RDN offices	

For more information on the Showcasing Innovation Series, contact sustainabilitycoordinator@shaw.ca

Convening for Action on Vancouver Island Leadership in Water Sustainability



CAVI Explained

Roundtable of partnerships provides leadership in water sustainability

CAVI is the acronym for **Convening for Action on Vancouver Island**. CAVI is a regional pilot program that is being implemented under the umbrella of the **Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia**. By 2010, the CAVI vision is that Vancouver Island will be well on its way to achieving water sustainability. CAVI was formally launched in September 2006 by means of a consultation workshop held as an adjunct to the **Water in the City Conference**.

What could Vancouver Island look like in 50 years with a new way-of-thinking?

Where and how land is developed determines how water is used => *sustainability of supply*,
 and how water runs off the land
 => *sustainability of terrestrial & aquatic habitat*

Who is CAVI?

The CAVI Partnership comprises these five organizations:

- British Columbia Water & Waste Association (BCWWA)
- Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Community Services
- Green Infrastructure Partnership

CAVI is co-funded by the Province and the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia. The Water Sustainability Committee of the BCWWA is the managing partner and is providing program delivery.

CAVI is an inclusive partnership. CAVI is reaching out to groups that share a vision for Vancouver Island, with the goal of creating a roundtable of partnerships.

What does CAVI do?

The purpose of CAVI is to provide leadership, coordination, research and education for practitioners (primarily local government administrators, engineers, planners and elected officials) so that they can plan for sustainable water resources in the context of burgeoning settlement activity.



Convening for Action on Vancouver Island Leadership in Water Sustainability



What does CAVI want to do?

Between now and 2010, the CAVI mission is to:

1. Provide leadership on water sustainability
2. Integrate with other groups
3. Bring together local government and the development community
4. Provide access to expertise
5. Encourage introduction of a 'design with nature' way-of-thinking in local government decision processes
6. Celebrate examples of green infrastructure that achieve 'design with nature' outcomes
7. Evolve a framework for water-centric planning that is keyed to accepting and managing risk, learning by doing, and rewarding innovation

The operative words are vision, partnerships, communication, ecological integrity, human well-being, sustainability, water-centric...and simply put...a desire to work together for Vancouver Island

What is the role or involvement of local government with CAVI?

To learn from the experience of others in implementing green infrastructure, local government elected officials and/or staff can:

- **Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island** – Attend the three seminar/field tour events that will be held in Nanaimo (September 14), Cowichan Valley (September 28), and Courtenay (October 12). These events are designed to promote networking and sharing of on-the-ground experience.
- **Green Infrastructure Leadership Forum** – Attend a 'learning event' for elected representatives and senior managers that CAVI is organizing in collaboration with AVICC (Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities) on December 3, 2007. This event will build on the *Creating Our Future Workshop* that was held as a shoulder event to the [Gaining Ground Summit Conference](#) in June.
- **Water Balance Model Training Workshop** – Attend a hands-on training session that will be held in a computer lab at the Cowichan Valley campus of Malaspina College in early 2008. The Water Balance Model is a web-based tool for 'green design'. The main focus is on source controls for reduction of rainwater runoff volume.

How do I learn more about CAVI?

For more information, contact Kim Stephens at sustainabilitycoordinator@shaw.ca or go to the Convening for Action community-of-interest on the WaterBucket Website at: www.conveningforaction.ca

Convening for Action on Vancouver Island Leadership in Water Sustainability



Green Vocabulary Defined

Projected growth and resulting cumulative impacts are the driver for implementing changes in *where and how* we develop land and use water.

To help advance a new way-of-thinking about land development, CAVI has developed and is promoting use of the following hierarchy of 'green' vocabulary:

- **Green Value** means land use strategies will accommodate settlement needs in practical ways while protecting the ecological resources upon which communities depend. At the heart of a *Green Value* approach is the valuation methodology that provides the business case for reconciliation of short-term versus long-term thinking related to risk and profit.
- **Design with Nature** is one approach to achieve *Green Value*, and is supportive of community goals that relate to building social capacity.
- **Green Infrastructure** is the on-the-ground application of *Design with Nature* standards and practices.
- **Water Sustainability** is achieved through *Green Infrastructure* practices that reflect a full and proper understanding of the relationship between land and water.

This cascading vocabulary was unveiled at the **Creating Our Future Workshop** that was held in conjunction with the *Gaining Ground Summit* in Victoria in June 2007. The Creating Our Future Workshop was a consultation opportunity for Vancouver Island local governments that are interested in implementing infrastructure practices and regulation that result in **green value**.

What could British Columbia look like in 50 years with a new way-of-thinking?

Where and how land is developed determines how water is used => *sustainability of supply*, and how water runs off the land => *sustainability of terrestrial & aquatic habitat*

A 'Design with Nature' approach to community design means...



- 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 stream, wetland and lake protection

Water Sustainability

BCWWA partners with the province to deliver the Water Sustainability Action Plan.

BY KIM STEPHENS

THE WATER Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia provides a partnership umbrella for an array of on-the-ground initiatives that promote a ‘water-centric’ approach to community planning. (Water-centric means planning with a view to water — whether for a single site or the entire province.) The Action Plan comprises inter-connected program elements that give local governments and practitioners the tools and experience to do things differently. The over-arching goal is to advance a water balance way-of-thinking and acting.

To achieve the goal, a water-centric approach puts water stewardship and sustainability front and centre on the agenda of comprehensive land use, development or resource planning initiatives. Water-centric planning considers the amount of water available, the amount of water needed, innovative efficiency strategies, the quality of water leaving an area, how rain and snow water are managed, and the impact on the natural environment. Implementation of integrated strategies and solutions ultimately requires integration of missions, mandates and accountabilities of participating agencies.

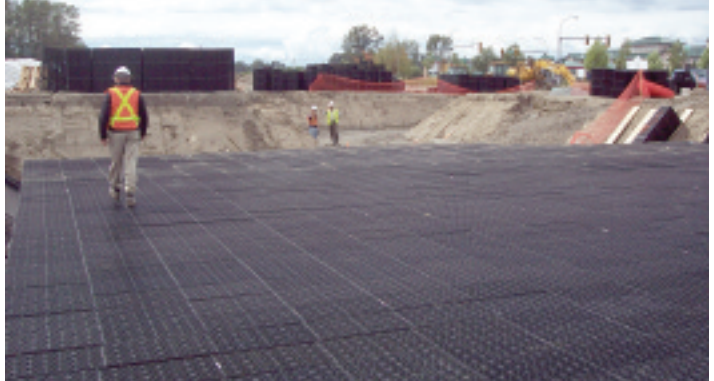
Through a partnership with the Ministry of Environment, program delivery for the Water Sustainability Action Plan is being carried out by the Water Sustainability Committee (WSC) of the British Columbia Water & Waste Association (BCWWA). The WSC is providing the leadership, facilitation and organizational services necessary for successful program implementation. According to Raymond Fung, WSC chair, “The Water Sustainability Action Plan is aimed at building capacity by improving awareness about effective approaches to the sustainable use of water resources and demonstrating how to integrate these approaches into land and resource planning, development and management decisions at the regional, community through to site levels.”

The Action Plan builds on the foundation provided by A Water Conservation Strategy for British Columbia, also developed and implemented by the province in partnership with BCWWA from 1997 to 2001.

Within the BCWWA framework, WSC is a broadly based roundtable of organizations that have a specific interest or mission in implementing the Action Plan. The roundtable encompasses government organizations, non-government associations, the private sector, and universities. “By drawing its members from a diverse range of disciplines and organizations, the WSC functions across the boundaries and beyond the historical limits or constraints of the mandates, knowledge and expertise found in specific organizations. One of the criteria for membership is that individuals will feed back the WSC outcomes into their organizations,” says Fung.

The Water Balance Model for British Columbia was the first of the six elements to be implemented. This web-based decision support and scenario modeling tool quantifies the benefits — in terms of reducing rainwater runoff volume — of installing source controls such as green roofs, rain gardens and infiltration facilities under different combinations of land use, soil and climate conditions. The outreach and continuing education program for the Water Balance Model was launched at the 2003 Annual Conference of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities with

Implementing a natural systems approach to rainwater management means capture rain where it falls and minimize surface runoff volumes. Detention storage volume is being provided under a parking lot in the Township of Langley.



a session for elected officials. Key partners for delivery of hands-on training workshops for practitioners are the Real Estate Foundation of B.C., the UDI, and the Association of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of BC. Training workshops in computer lab settings have been hosted by UBC, University of Victoria, BCIT, North Island College in Courtenay, and the University of British Columbia Okanagan.

“The early success of the Water Balance Model in British Columbia generated interest in expanding the focus of the tool to reach a national audience. This led to the decision in 2004



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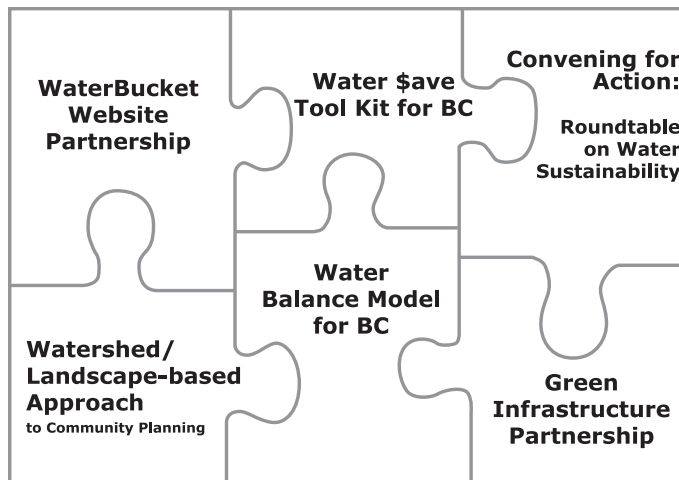
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by Environment Canada, Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation, and the Province of British Columbia to join forces to create a truly national Water Balance Model for Canada at www.waterbalance.ca and foster the formation of inter-provincial partnerships as a means to pool resources”, reports Ted van der Gulik, chair of the Inter-Governmental Partnership that is responsible for model development.

“The success of the Water Balance Model website helped create momentum for development of the WaterBucket website at www.waterbucket.ca”, adds Michael Tanner, WaterBucket chair. “Launched in 2005, the WaterBucket is the primary communication vehicle for the Action Plan. Our vision is to provide a resource-rich, highly interactive ‘destination location’ for timely and provocative information about water sustainability in British Columbia.”

Over the past year, WaterBucket has expanded from one to six communities-of-interest, namely: Water-Centric Planning; Water Use and Conservation; Rainwater Management; Green Infrastructure; Agriculture and Water; and Convening for Action.

The Water Balance Model and the WaterBucket are stand-alone initiatives under the Action Plan umbrella, yet are fully integrated with the Green Infrastructure Partnership. Formed in 2003, the mission of the Green Infrastructure Partnership is to provide leadership and encourage others to implement ‘green infrastructure’ design practices and regulation province-wide. According to Paul Ham, chair of the Partnership, “Consultation workshops in May 2004 and May 2005 resulted in successive reconfigurations of our work plan, with the emphasis now on educating stakeholders regarding the benefits of a design with nature approach to community planning and land development, and facilitating adoption of this approach. This means build



and/or rebuild communities in harmony with the natural environment. Water-centric green infrastructure and ‘water balance management’ can be viewed as one and the same, in that both start at the site level and both revolve around how we develop the landscape.”

In 2006, the WSC is playing a leadership role in implementing the Convening for Action initiative through regional partnerships, with an initial emphasis on the South Okanagan. Through an outreach and continuing education program that is outcome-oriented, this key element of the Water Sustainability Action Plan is promoting water stewardship provincially by demonstrating what the water balance way-thinking and acting means on-the-ground.

According to Erik Karlsen, co-lead for the Convening for Action initiative, “We are building on the successful precedent that the former Ministry of Water, Land & Air Protection established in 2002 when the Ministry published *Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia*. The guidebook set in motion a chain of outcomes that has resulted in British Columbia being recognized internationally as a leader in implementing a natural systems approach to rainwater management in the urban environment. The Convening for Action initiative creates an opportunity to move beyond rainwater management to embrace all components of the water cycle through integrated water management. It will turn ideas into action.”

The Convening for Action initiative is designed to ‘turn ideas into action’ through a three-step process that builds capacity by:

- Challenging practitioners and others to step back from their existing paradigms (e.g. big pipe solutions, whether for water supply or drainage conveyance);
- Informing them regarding alternatives (e.g. rainwater harvesting to augment water supply and/or reduce rainwater runoff volume); and
- Giving them the tools and the experience to do things differently (e.g. the Water Balance Model).

The Minister of Environment, Barry Penner, recently said: “I am pleased with the continuing success of the ministry’s partnership with the BCWWA’s Water Sustainability Committee in providing program delivery for the Water Sustainability Action Plan... I value the important role this partnership is playing in promoting awareness and supporting communities to integrate water management practices with local land use planning and development programs. The ministry continues to provide core funding to support implementation of this Action Plan.” **CB**

Kim A Stephens, M.Eng., P.Eng., is program coordinator for the Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia. He can be reached at kimastephens@shaw.ca.

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Water Sustainability Action Plan evolves into a comprehensive program
BCWWA Water Sustainability Committee provides program delivery



Released in 2004, the [Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia](#) is sponsored by the Province of British Columbia, and the Action Plan elements are being delivered through partnerships and regional pilot projects and programs. To view a story that elaborates on this document, please [click here](#).

The Action Plan is a partnership umbrella for an array of on-the-ground initiatives that promote a 'water-centric' approach to community planning and development. The Action Plan comprises inter-connected program elements that give local governments and practitioners the tools and experience to better manage land and water resources.

Through outreach and education, the guiding vision is to influence land and water practitioners to learn about and use practices that better balance the necessary relationships of settlement activity and ecological assets in local and regional landscapes.

Under the Action Plan umbrella, the [Water Sustainability Committee](#) of the [BC Water & Waste Association](#) is the managing partner and is responsible for providing leadership, facilitation and organizational services for program delivery. The Water Sustainability Committee is a roundtable of organizations that have a specific interest or mission in implementing the Action Plan.

In 2004, the Action Plan was represented by a 'puzzle piece' that comprised six elements and provided branding. To capture the evolution of the Action Plan, the graphic shown above has replaced the 'puzzle piece'. The inter-connected elements fall into four areas of activity as shown.

Convening for Action in British Columbia

In 2004, **Convening for Action in British Columbia** was one of the six elements in the 'puzzle piece'. Over the last three years, it has evolved into a 'made in BC' process for moving British Columbians from awareness to action.



"Convening for Action is our mantra", states **Raymond Fung**, Chair of the Water Sustainability Committee, "When we gather, it is for a purpose. There must be an action item or an outcome. Our aim is to move from talk to action by developing tools, building capacity, and providing training."

There are three regional pilots for Convening for Action. "In the South Okanagan, we have helped bring a voice to water issues. In Greater Vancouver, practitioners working for local governments told us they did not want more documents that simply go on a shelf; rather, they wanted to network and share their experiences. On Vancouver Island, we have an ambitious program to bring people together and apply/adapt what we have learned in the Okanagan and in Greater Vancouver", explains **Ray Fung**.

The Convening for Action vision is that water sustainability in British Columbia will be achieved through implementation of green infrastructure policies, practices and standards.

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Regional Events

[Water, Water Everywhere.....](#)

Rainwater harvesting workshops held in Vancouver and Victoria in mid-2005 were part of a series of cross-Canada events sponsored by Canada Mortgage &...