

Convening for Action in British Columbia: Water - Choosing Sustainability for Life & Livelihoods

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

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:

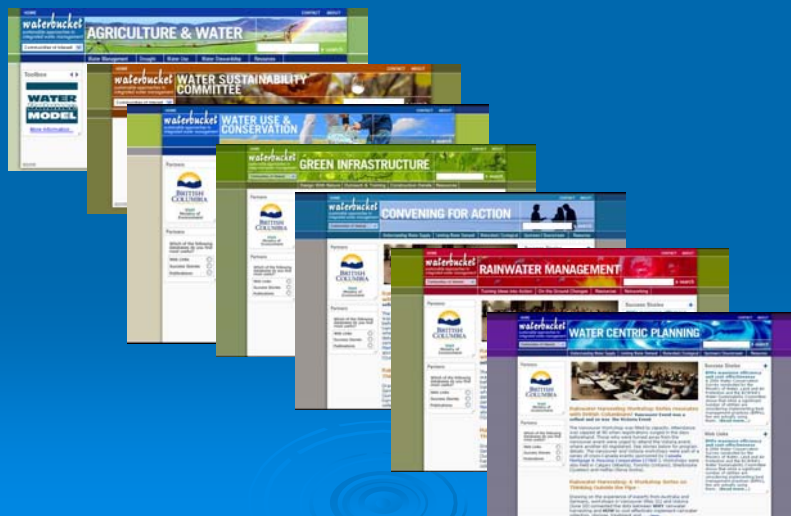


- Convening for Action in British Columbia
- Water Bucket Website Partnership
- Water Balance Model Partnership
- Green Infrastructure Partnership

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** the tools & experience to develop land and use water differently

waterbucket.ca is a resource-rich
‘destination location’ for timely
and provocative information





**WATER
Balance
MODEL**
FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA


www.waterbalance.ca

The Partnership has broad provincial and national representation



Logos of participating organizations and governments:

- Greater Vancouver Regional District
- WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE GEORGIA BASIN / AU TRAVAIL POUR LE BASSIN DE GEORGIA
- SURREY CITY OF PARKS
- westvancouver
- CITY OF COQUITLAM
- CITY OF COURTENAY
- BRITISH COLUMBIA
- BCWWA British Columbia Water & Waste Association
- CMHC SCHL HOME TO CANADIANS
- Township of Langley
- City of Chilliwack
- the city of NORTH VANCOUVER
- CITY OF Abbotsford
- City of Kelowna
- DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS
- Environment Canada / Environnement Canada / Fisheries and Oceans Canada / Pêches et Océans Canada
- DISTRICT OF METSKER
- THE REAL ESTATE FOUNDATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
- MAPLE RIDGE Incorporated 12 September, 1974
- CITY OF VANCOUVER
- UDI



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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*



KEY MESSAGE #1:
The Water Balance Model enables changes in land development practices...

...by quantifying the benefits – in terms of reducing **rainwater runoff volume - of installing source controls under different land use, soil and climate conditions**

KEY MESSAGE #2:
Anybody with a computer and internet connection can access the model



The screenshot shows the website for the Water Balance Model. The navigation bar includes links for Home, About this site, WATER BALANCE MODEL, RESOURCES, NETWORKING, and a map of British Columbia. The main content area features a 'Partners' section with the City of Chilliwack logo, an 'Events' calendar for June 2009, and a 'Poll' section. The central text describes the model's purpose: '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.' It also mentions 'Environmental Best Management Practices for Urban and Rural Land Development in British Columbia' and 'Water-sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) - Adapting the Australian Experience'. The footer includes the WSUD logo and the text 'WATER SENSITIVE URBAN DESIGN: SOURCE CONTROL OF SUBURBAN AREAS' and 'Watershed Report Page 2'.



KEY MESSAGE #3: 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 'turning ideas into action' on-the-ground !

Outreach & Continuing Education Program (OCEP)

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



A provincial pilot is currently being implemented in the GVRD

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