

Convening for Action in British Columbia



Influencing Actions on the Ground in British Columbia: Today's Expectations are Tomorrow's Standards

Living Water Smart & Making Green Choices:
Rainwater Management is at the heart of Green Infrastructure

The New Business As Usual:

Visualize What We Want British Columbia to Look Like in 50 years

The Mission is to Create a Legacy

- 1. Influence choices by individuals and organizations*
- 2. Use the term "sustainability" as a lens for considering approaches that influence choices*

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Creating a Legacy

The Province's [Living Water Smart](#) and [Green Communities](#) initiatives provide a framework for **convening for action** in British Columbia. The ultimate goal is to establish expectations that will, in turn, influence the form and function of the built environment.

The desired outcome is to align efforts, build commitment and establish consistent expectations for effecting change on the ground: ***This is what we want to achieve, and this is how we will get there.***

By taking the time to read the following selection of stories published on the Water Bucket website, the busy reader will gain insight into the partnership initiatives that are driving changes in accepted practices in British Columbia.

Living Water Smart, BC's Water Plan

Living Water Smart is a visionary document that provides a framework for province-wide action. The Province is encouraging local governments to do business differently, prepare communities for change, and choose to be water smart.

By informing, educating and inspiring everyone, an over-arching goal is to change the way that land is developed and water is used. To learn more about local governments in particular are responding to the challenge, click on [Living Water Smart in BC](#).



Green Communities Project

The mandate of the Ministry of Community Development is to foster partnerships, collaboration, innovation and integration through the program elements that comprise the **Green Communities Project**. The goal is to build capacity that will result in sustainable, healthy and vibrant communities.

The continuous process for improvement is illustrated by the graphic below. To learn more, click on [Creating Our Future: Today's Expectations are Tomorrow's Standards for Living Water Smart](#).



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Prescriptive versus Educational Approach

A decade ago, the Province of British Columbia made a conscious decision to take an educational rather than prescriptive route to facilitating and leading change. It was recognized that one needs to inform, educate and inspire people to do better.

A decade ago, British Columbia and Washington State had the same science and a common understanding of what it meant. The two had the same point of departure, yet Washington State followed the prescriptive route, in part because of national regulations.

To learn more about what a difference that approach has made, click on [Rainwater Management on Diverging Paths in British Columbia and Washington State?](#)

Accomplishing the Paradigm-Shift

Stormwater Management, Low Impact Development, Sustainable Drainage, Green Infrastructure, RAINwater Management, Design with Nature, Water Sensitive Urban Design, Innovative Stormwater Management, Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems.... what is an appropriate term to use?

Choice of language is a critical factor in moving from an "old" paradigm to a "new" paradigm. The Province of British Columbia is making a conscious effort to wean practitioners away from a single-objective stormwater management way of thinking and designing ...to a way of doing business that is holistic, namely RAINwater management.

To learn more, click on [From Stormwater Management to RAINwater Management.](#)

What's Holding Washington State Back?

- Distributed responsibility of Growth Management Act
- Powerful & multiple interests in land development
- Economic implications and unknowns
 - Who makes \$, and how it is made
 - Profit margins and risks
- Lack of Public Interest, Understanding and Will

- from a 2007 presentation by Ed O'Brien, Washington State Department of Ecology

from Stormwater Management to RAINwater Management

From TRADITIONAL to	INTEGRATED:
■ Drainage Systems	➔ ■ Ecosystems
■ Reactive (Solve Problems)	➔ ■ Proactive (Prevent Problems)
■ Engineer-Driven	➔ ■ Interdisciplinary Team-Driven
■ Protect Property	➔ ■ Protect Property and Habitat
■ Pipe and Convey	➔ ■ Mimic Natural Processes
■ Limited Consultation	➔ ■ Extensive Consultation
■ Local Government Ownership	➔ ■ Partnerships with Others
■ Extreme Storm Focus	➔ ■ Rainwater Integrated with Land Use
■ Peak Flow Thinking!	➔ ■ Volume-Based Thinking!

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Over the past decade, British Columbia has made considerable progress in changing infrastructure practices through an educational approach. Now, the focus is on how the Province's grant programs provide incentives necessary to influence behaviour; and reward those who meet program objectives for doing business differently on-the-ground.

Integration of legislative goals and strategies with grant programs is achieved through the combination of Eligibility Requirements, Evaluation Criteria, and Conditionality of Contracts. To learn more, click on [Today's Expectations are Tomorrow's Standards for Green Infrastructure in British Columbia](#)

Aligning Local Actions with Provincial Goals

A key message relates to the desirability and importance of aligning local actions with provincial goals. Alignment leads to win-win outcomes for communities

Metro Vancouver is realigning the goals, strategies and actions in its' updated **Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP)** to keep current with senior government policies and positions, as well as ensure that Metro Vancouver's and senior governments' environmental and fiscal objectives and actions are mutually supportive and successful. To learn more, click on [Liquid Waste Management Plan provides framework for regional sewage treatment and municipal rainwater management.](#)



Leveraging Change

TODAY: **Eligibility:** Open to all projects
Assessment Criteria: The greener the better
Conditions: e.g., Water Conservation Plan

TOMORROW: **Eligibility:** All projects must meet a green standard
Assessment Criteria: Strong support for green projects
Conditions: e.g. Watershed Management Plan

Today's Expectations are Tomorrow's Standards

What will our neighbourhoods look like? We do have choices!

14 units per acre – Will it be 75% Impervious?

14 units per acre – Or will it be 55% Impervious?



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Advancing a Regional Team Approach

The Province of British Columbia is promoting a regional team approach so that there will be consistent messaging regarding on-the-ground expectations for rainwater management and green infrastructure. The essence of a regional team approach is captured by this problem statement:

- *How do we simultaneously work together as staff within a municipality and as a region AND externally with developers and other private sector players, to ensure we implement sustainable approaches to development?*

In 2008, Vancouver Island was the pilot region for a regional team approach founded on broad and inclusive partnerships and collaboration. To learn more, click on [The Story of the 2008 Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series](#).

