

Living Water Smart

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S WATER PLAN



how do we get there?



Governance, legislation,
regulatory change

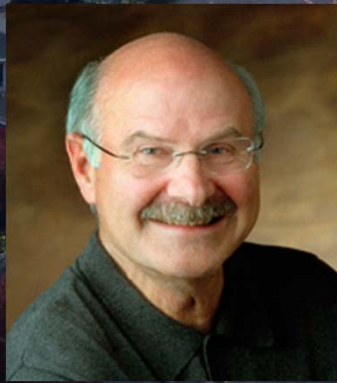
Efficiency, outreach, public
awareness

Science, information, learning

Watershed planning and
restoration

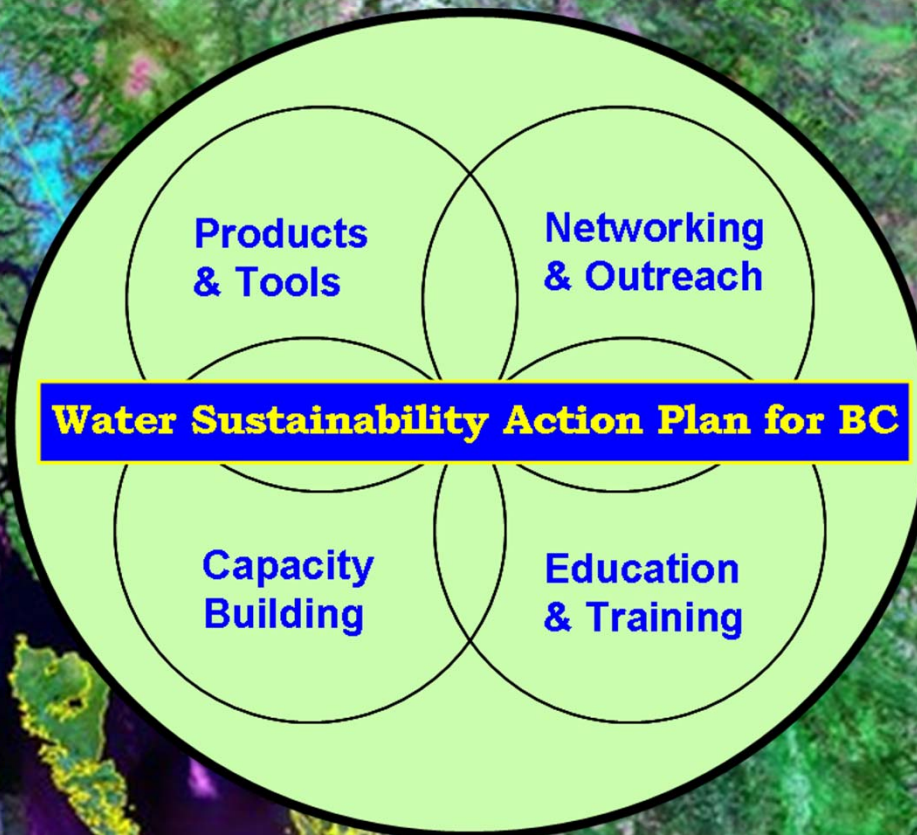
Community planning and
development

Context for changing water management practices at the site level



“Cities are all about choices – choices that become reality very quickly, with lasting consequences. Over the 21st century – the urban century – much will depend upon getting the choices right.”

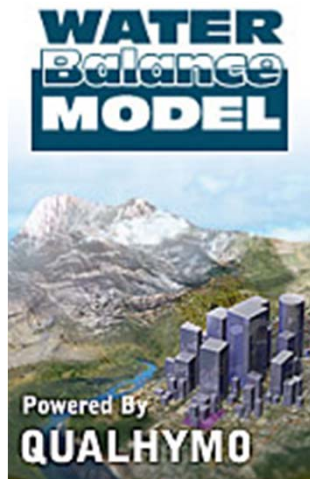
Mike Harcourt
former Premier of BC
September 2003



The approach is bottom-up:

Change expectations and build practitioner capacity
by providing education and tools

Web-based provincial tools enable Water-Centric Planning & Living Water Smart



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Convening for Action in British Columbia



Beyond the Guidebook 2010:
Implementing a New Culture for Urban
Watershed Protection and Restoration
In British Columbia

June 2010



A decade ago we made a conscious decision to follow an educational rather than prescriptive path in BC.

We knew it would take time to change the practitioner culture.

Beyond the Guidebook 2010 is the story of what local governments are accomplishing on the ground.

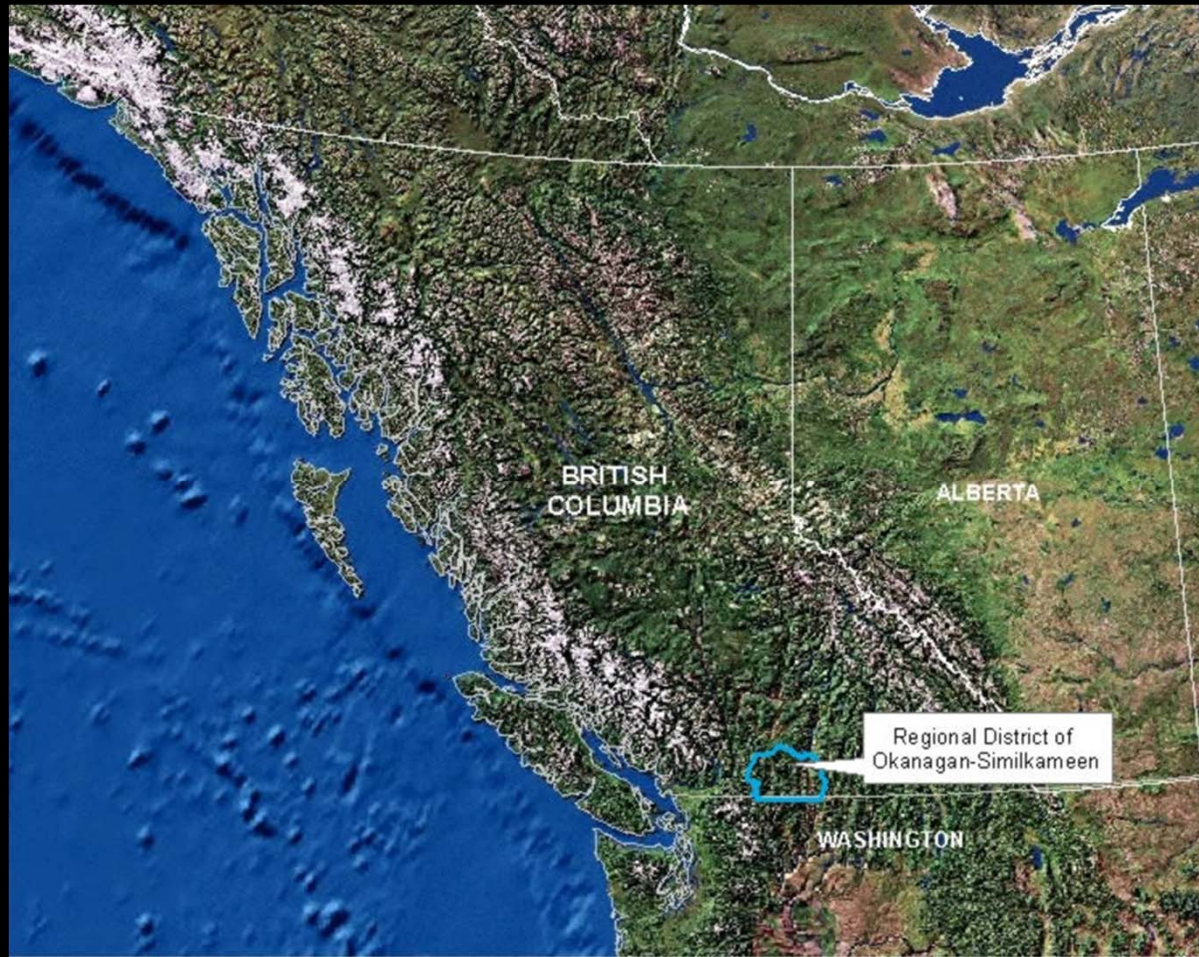
A large group of approximately 40 people, including men and women of various ages, are standing in front of a modern building with a curved roof. The building has a sign that reads "FRESHWATER ECO-CENTRE" in blue capital letters. The people are dressed in casual to business-casual attire, including jackets, sweaters, and button-down shirts. They are standing on a paved area with a brick pattern. The background shows the building's facade with large windows and a curved roofline.

FRESHWATER ECO-CENTRE

The Action Plan provides neutral forums for advancing a 'regional team approach'

- **The Province** - *those who provide legislative framework*
- **Local Government** - *those who plan and regulate*
- **Developers** - *those who build*
- **Stewardship Sector** – *those who advocate for conservation*
- **Agricultural Sector** – *those who grow food*
- **Academia** - *those who provide research*

In 2005, we chose the South Okanagan as the sub-regional pilot for ‘Convening for Action’



“Convening for Action in British Columbia” is cross-fertilizing six precedent-setting initiatives

1

C

Comox Valley: An Integrated Watershed Approach to Settlement

2

A

Regional District of Nanaimo: Action for Water

3

V

Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan

4

I

Capital Regional District: Bowker Creek Blueprint

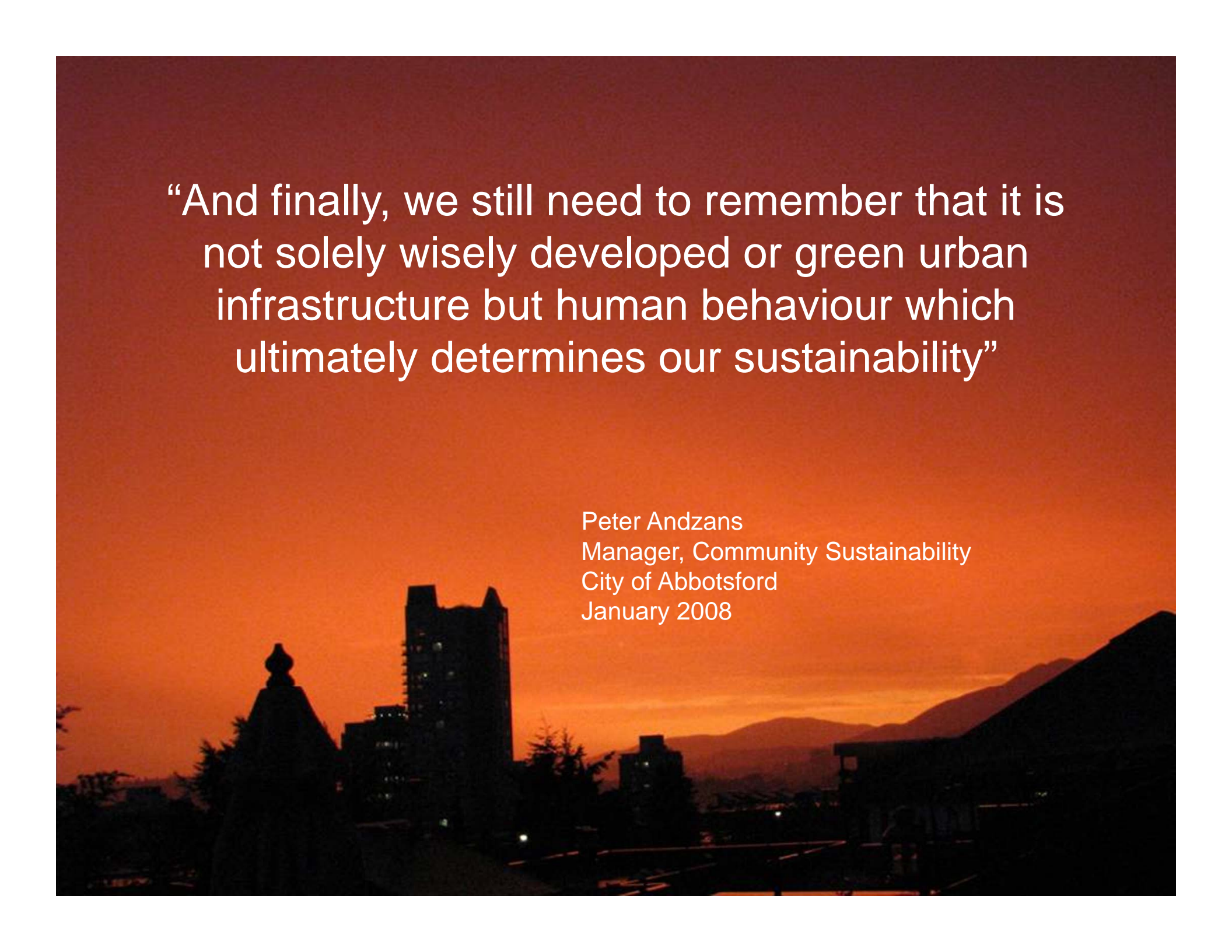
5

Metro Vancouver Integrated Liquid Waste & Resource Management Plan

6

South Okanagan-Similkameen Local Government Ecological Standards and Practices Capacity-Building Initiative



The background of the slide is a photograph of a city skyline at sunset. The sky is a deep orange-red, and the silhouettes of various buildings, including a prominent tall one, are visible against the horizon. Mountains are also visible in the distance. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

“And finally, we still need to remember that it is not solely wisely developed or green urban infrastructure but human behaviour which ultimately determines our sustainability”

Peter Andzans
Manager, Community Sustainability
City of Abbotsford
January 2008