

Convening for Action on Vancouver Island Leadership in Water Sustainability



Presents

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation on Vancouver Island: The 2007 Series

In partnership with

**Regional District of
Nanaimo**

City of Nanaimo

**Cowichan Valley
Regional District**

**District of
North Cowichan**

**Comox Strathcona
Regional District**

City of Duncan

City of Courtenay



Convening for Action on Vancouver Island Leadership in Water Sustainability



The CAVI Partnership is pleased to announce that it is collaborating with three regional districts and their member municipalities to present....

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation On Vancouver Island: The 2007 Series

How land is developed determines how water is used, and how water runs off the land

WHY:	<p>The purpose of the <i>Showcasing Innovation Series</i> is to celebrate... and build on...the on-the-ground successes that are enhancing the ways communities are being developed and water is being managed.</p> <p>The goal is to promote networking, build regional capacity, and move ‘from awareness to action’ --- through sharing of approaches, tools, experiences and lessons learned.</p>						
WHAT:	<p>Green infrastructure is associated with how water is used and how water use impacts on the <i>sustainability of water supply</i>.</p> <p>Green infrastructure is also associated with the management of water that runs off the land and how water runoff impacts on the <i>sustainability of both terrestrial and aquatic habitat and resources</i>.</p>						
WHEN & WHERE:	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 45%;">Friday, September 14, 2007</td> <td style="width: 45%;">Regional District of Nanaimo</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday, September 28, 2007</td> <td>Cowichan Valley Regional District</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday, October 12, 2007</td> <td>Regional District of Comox-Strathcona</td> </tr> </table> <p>Each event comprises presentations in the morning and a tour of project sites in the afternoon</p>	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
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Friday, October 12, 2007	Regional District of Comox-Strathcona						
WHO:	The Series will be of interest to Engineering, Planning, Public Works, Development Services, Parks and Environment Departments in Regional Districts and Municipalities						
For more information:	Kim Stephens, PEng, Program Coordinator, Water Sustainability Action Plan for BC sustainabilitycoordinator@shaw.ca OR www.conveningforaction.ca						

Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation On Vancouver Island: The 2007 Series

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 daylighting at the Greater Nanaimo treatment plant.

Showcasing Innovation in the Cowichan Basin: 'Partnerships and Collaboration – Moving from Concept to Reality'

The Cowichan Valley Regional District, District of North Cowichan and City of Duncan will showcase the role of partnerships – first, in developing a shared vision of what the 'valley future' can look like; and next, in implementing actions that will bring the vision to fruition. The unifying theme is: *to make things happen, local governments need to partner and pool resources*.

The *Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan* has been developed through a uniquely inclusive consultation process; and provides the umbrella for aligning community development policies with emerging best practices. Featured projects will cascade down in scale from the basin....to a neighbourhood and subdivision.... to an industrial park....and to the site/house.

The setting for an interactive experience will be *O.U.R. Ecovillage*, located near Shawnigan Lake. The theme is *blending urban with rural to achieve quality of life*. Participants will be challenged to brainstorm what aspects of the Ecovillage experience can local governments transfer to an urban development setting?

Showcasing Innovation in the Comox Valley: 'Connecting to Sustainability'

The Regional District of Comox-Strathcona and the City of Courtenay will showcase on-the-ground benefits that result when local governments collaborate to integrate their efforts, and are guided by an holistic way-of-thinking and acting. Case studies will demonstrate how to 'connect the dots' to achieve integrated and sustainable outcomes.

Featured projects will range from the *Comox Lake Watershed Assessment*, the first to be completed pursuant to the Province's new 'Comprehensive Drinking Water Source to Tap Assessment Guideline' ...to servicing of the Home Depot site and surrounding commercial development area. Home Depot is the first application of deep-well injection in BC for returning rainwater runoff to the ground. Also, the innovative design of the water supply system serving the surrounding area is saving everyone money while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

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
Friday, September 28, 2007
Friday, October 12, 2007

Regional District of Nanaimo
Cowichan Valley Regional District
Regional District of Comox-Strathcona

Each event comprises presentations in the morning and a tour of project sites in the afternoon

WHO:

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 28** program

TO REGISTER ON SEPT 28:

Contact Kate Miller at the Cowichan Valley Regional District at kmiller@cvrd.bc.ca

There is a Registration Fee of \$25 to cover venue, bus transportation and lunch costs. Please make cheques payable to Cowichan Valley Regional District. 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 20, 2007**

Showcasing Innovation in the Cowichan Basin: 'Partnerships and Collaboration – Moving from Concept to Reality'

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Showcasing Green Infrastructure Innovation On Vancouver Island: The 2007 Series

Showcasing Innovation in the Cowichan Basin: 'Partnerships and Collaboration – Moving from Concept to Reality'

Time	Program for Friday, September 28, 2007	Speakers
0830	Meet & Greet at the Freshwater Eco-Centre at 1080 Wharncliffe Road in Duncan	
CONTEXT PRESENTATIONS (Kim Stephens, Moderator)		
0900	Context & Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opening Remarks – “Learning outcomes for today” ▪ Water for BC – Safe, Sustainable and Valued by All ▪ Convening for Action on Vancouver Island: Leadership in Water Sustainability 	Mayor Jon Lefebure Zita Botelho, MOE John Finnie, CAVI
0920	Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan: from Awareness to Action Moving ‘green infrastructure’ and ‘water sustainability’ from awareness to action requires equipping local governments and the development community with new tools and the capabilities to use those tools.	Tom Anderson, CVRD
	City of Duncan – Vision for a Livable Small Town Consistent with the direction provided by the Water Plan, the City has adopted a new <i>Official Community Plan</i> that establishes expectations for implementation of green infrastructure standards in conjunction with redevelopment and densification	Cheryl Wirsz, City of Duncan
1010	Blending Urban with Rural in the District of North Cowichan Two projects will be profiled: the Echo Heights neighbourhood in Chemainus and Stonegate subdivision. This will be an interactive session as the District wishes to tap the expertise and commonsense of participants. Feedback on Vancouver Island examples that show how to implement green infrastructure effectively will become input to the District’s planning framework for Echo Heights. This segment will also frame the desired learning outcomes for the Ecovillage segment.	Facilitated by Brigid Reynolds & Peter Nilsen, District of North Cowichan
	Koksilah Industrial Park - Adding Value through Green Design Multi-stakeholder collaboration and property redevelopment combine to create an opportunity for development and implementation of a Master Plan that will produce ‘green value’ by retrofitting green infrastructure and stream habitat restoration	Kate Miller, CVRD
1145	Depart by bus for O.U.R. Ecovillage near Shawnigan Lake where lunch will be served	
1230	O.U.R. Ecovillage – What Can Local Governments Learn? Ecovillages are full featured settlements in which human activities are harmlessly integrated into the natural world in a way that is supportive of healthy human development and can be successfully continued into the indefinite future.	Guided tour and presentation by Brandy Gallagher
	Roundtable Forum – How transferable is the Ecovillage experience to a small town urban setting?	Facilitated by Brigid Reynolds
	Closing Remarks - “What we learned today”	Sharon Jackson, Duncan Councillor
1530	Return by bus to Freshwater Eco-Centre in Duncan	

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](#).

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 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*

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?

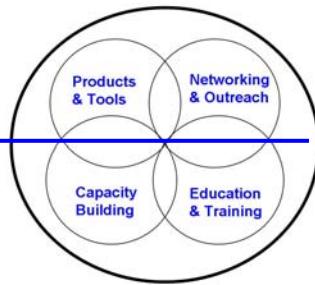
Where and how land is developed determines how water is used => *sustainability of supply*, and how water runs off the land => *sustainability of terrestrial & aquatic habitat*

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 Action Plan for British Columbia



Beyond the Guidebook: Water Balance Model powered by QUALHYMO



One of the tools developed under the umbrella of the Water Sustainability Action Plan is the **Water Balance Model for British Columbia**.

Developed by an Inter-Governmental Partnership (IGP) as an extension of **Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia**, the Water Balance Model enables users to visualize how to implement green infrastructure solutions that achieve rainwater runoff source control at the site scale.

The Guidebook's premise that **land development and watershed protection can be compatible** represented a radical shift in thinking in 2002. The Guidebook recognized that water volume is something over which local government has control through its infrastructure policies, practices and standards.

Beyond the Guidebook is an initiative that builds on this foundation by advancing a runoff-based approach and tool – the '**Water Balance Model powered by QUALHYMO**' – to help local governments achieve desired urban stream health and environmental protection outcomes at a watershed scale.



Inter-Governmental Partnership Launches Plan to Expand the Capabilities of Online Tool for Green Design

To sustain the early success of the Water Balance Model for British Columbia, and to advance ‘sustainable drainage’ initiatives across Canada, the Inter-Governmental Partnership (IGP) is expanding the capabilities of this web-accessible decision support and scenario modelling tool.

At present, the main focus is on the use of source controls for runoff volume reduction to protect property, habitat and water quality. According to Kim Stephens, Project Coordinator, “Less volume means less flooding of agricultural and/or suburban lowlands. This is one reason why the WBM has

emerged as the rainwater management tool of choice in making sustainable land development decisions - it demonstrates how to achieve a light hydrologic footprint. Drainage engineers, however, want to simulate what happens to overflows once source controls have reached capacity during sustained wet weather periods. To provide the engineering community with ‘one-stop shopping’, we decided to enhance the WBM calculation capabilities plus add water quality. This means engineers will be able to hydraulically model the storage and routing of outflows from a subdivision and/or neighbourhood through a detention pond or down a stream channel.”

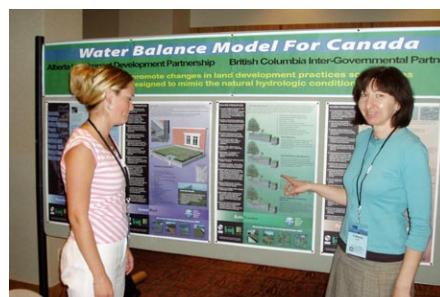
“...the WBM has emerged as the rainwater management tool of choice in making sustainable land development decisions...”



A TOOL THAT ENGINEERS WILL USE

The challenge is to provide expanded functionality for engineers yet at the same time avoid self-defeating complexity that would make the WBM unattractive to other target audiences. The concept of enhancing only the calculation engine rather than altering the user interface is key to maintaining the user friendly WBM while providing added capabilities. Merging the WBM calculation engine with QUALHYMO (QUALity HYdrologic Model) has been determined to be the most appropriate next step because:

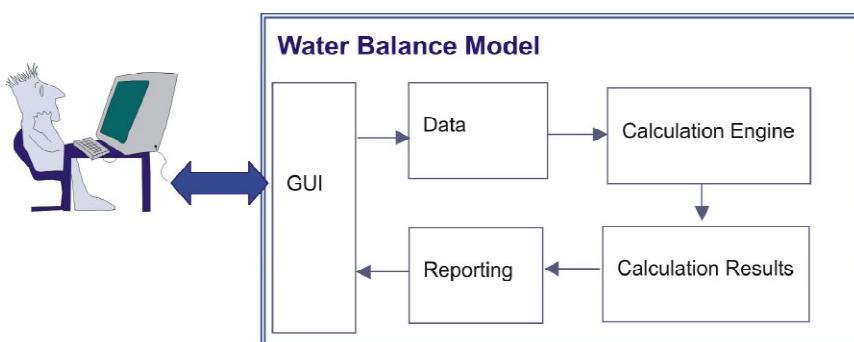
- Both are Canadian.
- Both are based on a philosophy of ‘keeping it simple’.
- Both are non-proprietary.
- Both bring complementary strengths.
- QUALHYMO contains routines that incorporate many features requested by current WBM users.
- QUALHYMO has gone through numerous verification and testing processes, and the model is a proven piece of software.
- The resulting synergies create an opportunity to more effectively promote use of the WBM throughout Canada, and within the engineering community.



IMPROVE THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT, PROTECT THE NATURAL

In 2002, the Province of British Columbia published *Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia*. The Guidebook formalized a science-based understanding to set performance targets for reducing rainwater runoff volumes and rates. At the heart of the Guidebook is the Water Balance Methodology. Recognizing that practitioners and others needed a tool so that they could readily apply the Methodology, the Inter-Governmental Partnership then developed the Water Balance Model for British Columbia.

The WBM quantifies the effectiveness of site designs that incorporate rainwater source controls such as rain gardens, tree canopy, green roofs, absorbent soil, and infiltration facilities. It does a continuous simulation over one or more years to test facility performance under different combinations of land use, soil and rainfall. The modeling process is illustrated by the graphic below. The key point to note is that the merging of tools will take place in the box labelled Calculation Engine.



"The IGP believe that use of the WBM will promote integration of perspectives through a collegial and interdisciplinary approach that enables planning and design professionals to collaborate to achieve community liveability objectives", commented Kim Stephens.

National Portal and Inter-Provincial Partnerships

The success of the Water Balance Model in British Columbia, particularly in promoting an understanding of how to improve the built environment and protect the natural environment, generated interest in expanding the focus of the tool to reach a national audience. This led to the decision in 2004 by Environment Canada, Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation, and the Province of British Columbia to create the national portal at www.waterbalance.ca and foster the formation of inter-provincial partnerships as a means to pool sources of funding for model enhancement.

An inter-provincial dialogue with Alberta began in August 2004 and provided the catalyst for formation of the Alberta Low Impact Development Partnership (ALIDP), co-chaired by the Cities of Calgary and Edmonton. "The purpose in forming an inter-provincial partnership is to collaborate and share resources in order to facilitate improvements in land development practices in both provinces," according to Liliana Bozic, ALIDP Co-Chair.

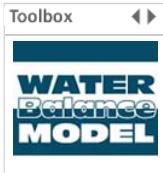
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Water Sustainability Action Plan evolves into a comprehensive program
BCWWA Water Sustainability Committee provides program delivery



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 &...

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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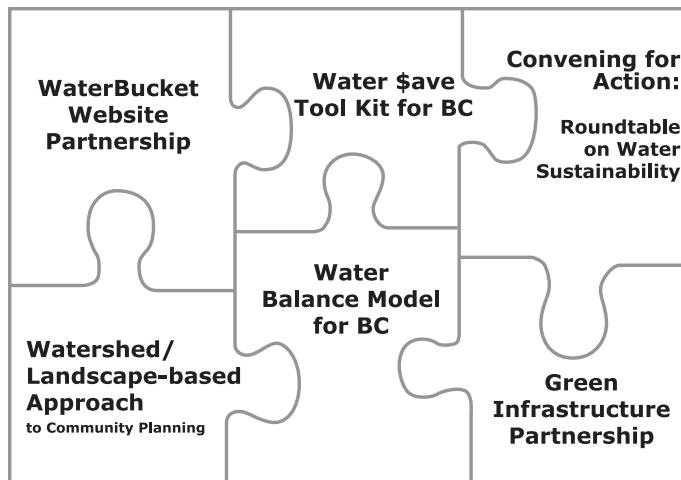
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by Environment Canada, Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation, and the Province of British Columbia to join forces to create a truly national Water Balance Model for Canada at www.waterbalance.ca and foster the formation of inter-provincial partnerships 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**

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