



**the partnership
for water sustainability in bc**

Convening for Action in British Columbia



WHO WE ARE:

- The *Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC* is a not-for-profit society.
- We are integrators. We play a bridging role between the Province, local government and community.
- The Partnership is not government, but government is very much part of the Partnership.
- We are volunteers.

WHAT WE DO AND WHERE:

- The Partnership embraces “shared responsibility”.
- We are the hub for a “convening for action” network in the local government setting.
- We develop tools. We develop talent. We focus on outcomes.
- For the past decade, the Partnership has been delivering the *Water Sustainability Action Plan*.
- We facilitate a ‘regional team approach’ in working towards a common goal.
- We are the stewards for *Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia*; and are building on the Guidebook foundation via the “Beyond the Guidebook Primer Series”.

Water sustainability in the local government setting will be achieved by implementing green infrastructure policies and practices. How we get there relies on a change in mind-set and “land ethic”. Our role is to facilitate that change.

HOW WE ARE HELPING COMMUNITIES BE SUCCESSFUL:

- A sound policy framework is in place for achieving water sustainability through green infrastructure.
- Successful program delivery depends on collaboration, alignment and partnerships.
- We understand government at all levels; and from high-level policy to action on the ground.
- The Partnership has a track record of successful collaboration with three Ministries.
- The Partnership has a track record of facilitating inter-regional collaboration among local governments.
- We are plugged in at the staff level with those whose focus is on outcomes.
- While WATER is our passion and brought us together, we are much more than WATER.
- We bring a holistic approach to LAND and WATER. We connect dots. We make things happen.
- We raise community awareness and engagement.

WE DEVELOP TOOLS AND TALENT, AND FOCUS ON OUTCOMES:

- The next three pages illustrate how we are demonstrating leadership and making a difference in BC.

The Partnership is leading initiatives and developing tools

<p>Convening for Action in BC</p> <p>www.conveningforaction.ca</p>	<p>This is the ‘convening for action’ mantra: <i>When we gather; it is for a purpose. There must be an action item or an outcome.</i> Committed to achieving settlement in balance with ecology and economy, the grass-roots collective partnership approach is founded upon collaboration. It reaches across boundaries, brings people together and promotes a ‘regional team approach’.</p> <p>This collaborative model results in the provision of expertise and support to local governments and organizations with a focus on achieving water sustainability through the sharing of ideas and success stories based upon a common vision.</p>
<p>Georgia Basin Inter-Regional Education Initiative</p> <p>www.vancouverisland.ca</p>	<p>Launched in 2012, the <i>Inter-Regional Educational Initiative for ‘Rainwater Management in a Watershed Sustainability Context’</i> provides the framework for consistent messaging and consistent application of tools and understanding on both sides of the Georgia Basin. The program is now in Year #3.</p> <p>The Metro Vancouver region and four largest Vancouver Island regional districts are formally collaborating to develop a performance monitoring framework that can be used to adjust actions and inform land use planning that maintains healthy streams.</p>
<p>Beyond the Guidebook Primer Series</p> <p>www.rainwater-management.ca</p>	<p>With release of <i>Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia</i> in 2002, BC was the first provincial or state government in North America to adopt the Water Balance Methodology. The methodology enables local governments to establish performance targets for land use. The goal is to protect watershed and stream health.</p> <p>The “Beyond the Guidebook Primer Series” is adding depth to specific aspects of the Guidebook. The goal is to inform and educate infrastructure, land use and environmental professionals about core concepts related to implementing actions at the site scale that will achieve desired outcomes at the watershed scale.</p>
<p>Water Balance Model for BC</p> <p>www.waterbalance.ca</p>	<p>Developed in 2003 as an extension of <i>Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for BC</i>, the <i>Water Balance Model</i> is a web-based tool for doing scenario comparisons. It links the site to the watershed and stream. It helps communities establish performance targets and ‘design with nature’ so that land development mimics the water balance. The model is tailored to multiple levels of users who have a wide range of technical backgrounds, from hydrology experts to planners to stewardship groups.</p>
<p>Waterbucket Website</p> <p>www.waterbucket.ca</p>	<p>Recognizing a need for a single point of access to news, information and tools for sustainable water management in BC, the waterbucket.ca website was launched in 2005. The site supports an array of virtual “communities of interest” with features that resemble those of a real community as well as a growing library of information resources on the BC experience and it houses “Made in BC” tools and experience.</p>
<p>Water Conservation Calculator</p> <p>www.waterconservationcalculator.ca</p>	<p>Designed for use by small to mid-size communities, the <i>Water Conservation Calculator</i> is a free, web-based decision-support tool. It is used to illustrate how specific water conservation measures can yield both fiscal and physical water savings for communities. It can be used to assist communities in meeting the conditional requirements of provincial capital grant programs while meeting both local and provincial commitments to water sustainability.</p>
<p>Agricultural Water Demand Model</p>	<p>Many BC watersheds are fully allocated or will be in the next 15 to 20 years. The model helps users understand current agricultural water use and will be used to fulfil the province’s commitment under the Living Water Strategy to reserve water for agricultural lands. It provides current and future agriculture water demands, calculates water use on a property by property basis and sums each property to obtain a total for the entire basin or sub-basins. Crop, irrigation system type, soils and climate data are used to calculate the water demand.</p>

The Partnership is helping to facilitate a change in mind-set

