

Towards Water Sustainability: Convening for Action on Vancouver Island

Province of British Columbia
Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks
**VANCOUVER ISLAND
SATELLITE IMAGE MAP**

WATER IN THE CITY CONFERENCE

September 17 - 20, 2006
Victoria, British Columbia




Context is Everything!

**How will Vancouver Island
Accommodate a
Doubling of the Population &
What will the Island Look Like Then?**

Managing Expectations:

- The workshop is the first step in a process to coalesce a coalition
- The program deliverable is a voluntary framework for recognizing innovation and facilitating water-centric approvals
- By 2010, the vision is that we will be well on our way to achieving water sustainability on Vancouver Island



Context is
Everything!

■ **How We Got Here**

(Eric Bonham)

■ **Convening for Action**

(Kim Stephens)

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

Change on-the-ground is being advanced through partnerships:



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

When 'convening for action', we build capacity through a 3-step process:

1. **Vision:** What do you want this place to look like in 20 years, 50 years?
2. **Starting Point:** What are you doing to achieve this?
3. **Strategy:** What are you going to do better or differently to get from here to there?

Three Convening for Action regional pilot programs are underway:

- **South Okanagan** –
Water for Life & Livelihoods
- **Greater Vancouver** –
*Celebrating Green Infrastructure &
Showcasing Innovation*
- **Vancouver Island** –
Towards Water-Centric Sustainability

The goal is to educate stakeholders on *how to implement a 'Design with Nature' approach to community design*



- 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 receiving water protection**

'Connect the Dots'

How We Develop Land Determines:

- How Water is Used
- How Water Runs Off the Land

Roundtable Sharing:
Water-Centric Innovation –
Who is Doing What &
What has Worked (or Not)

Facilitated by
John Finnie & Cori Barraclough

Water-centric means...

- We will plan with a view to water – whether for a site, a region, or the province
- We will integrate missions, mandates and accountabilities
- We will move towards a water balance way-of-thinking and acting



Water OUT = Water IN



Celebrating Green Infrastructure:

Showcasing Innovation Series

2006 Showcasing Innovation Series

In the Greater Vancouver Region

- **MAY** – North Vancouver District used a lane, an arterial highway and the Maplewood community to illustrate the benefits of innovation.
- **JUNE** – The Surrey focus was on what can be accomplished on-the-ground, now and over the next 50 years, to restore watershed function.
- **SEPTEMBER** – UBC and Vancouver are demonstrating how to build truly ‘green’ streets

Key Messages

THE GOAL of the *Showcasing Innovation Series* is to build regional capacity through sharing of green infrastructure approaches, experiences and lessons learned as an outcome of '*designing with nature*'.

THE SERIES is a building block process --- each time the objective is to raise the bar when celebrating successes in host municipalities

WHAT is an example of
water-centric innovation
in your community?



Implementing Change: If You Can Measure It, You Can....

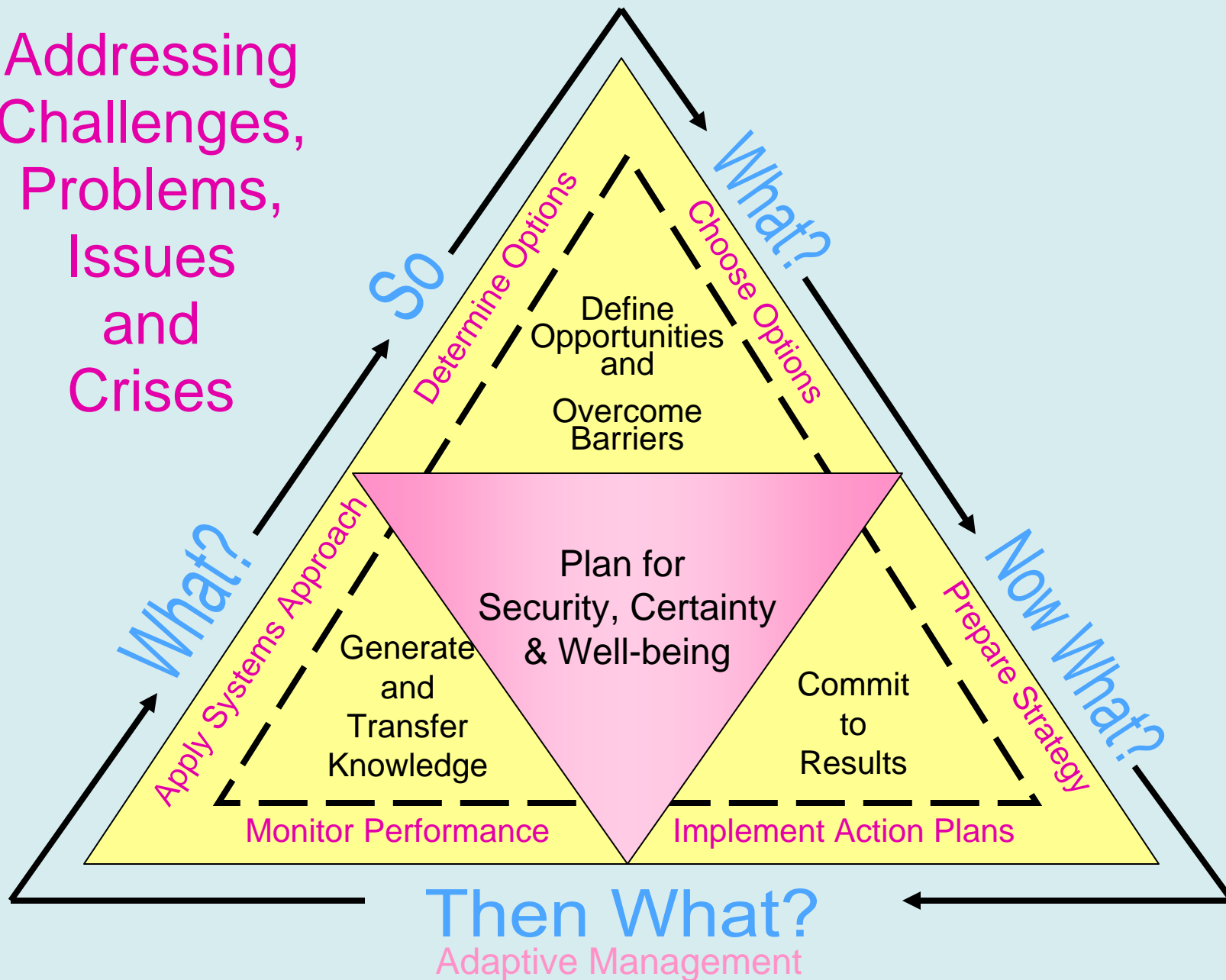
Presentation by
Erik Karlsen

*Example is not the
main thing in
influencing others.*

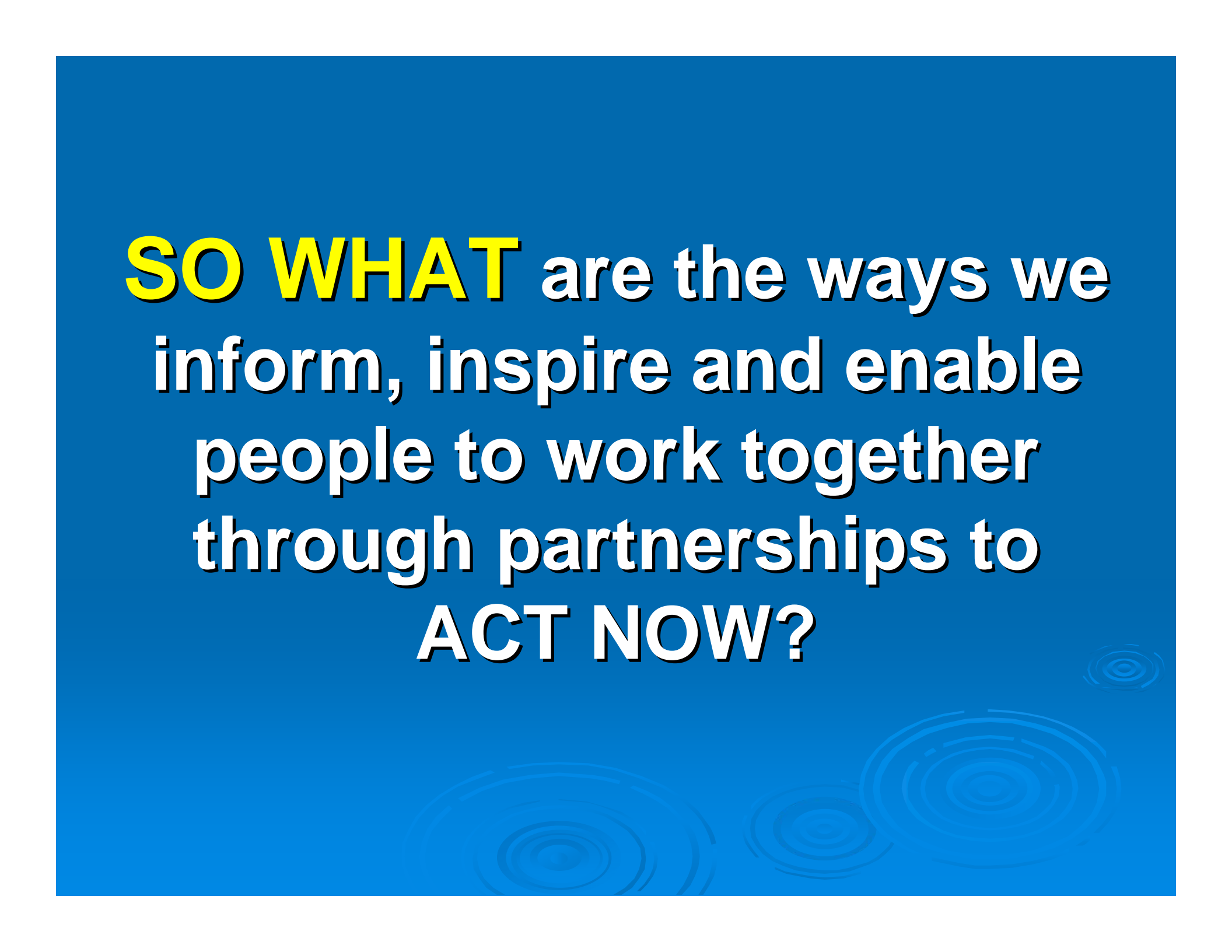
It is the only thing.

Albert Einstein

Addressing
Challenges,
Problems,
Issues
and
Crises



SO WHAT are the ways we
inform, inspire and enable
people to work together
through partnerships to
ACT NOW?



Milestones not Millstones

What are your	Millstones	Milestones
Visions?		
Goals?		
Objectives?		
Policies?		
Programs?		

Focus on Decisions

key points for consideration

Purpose		
Who Decides	On What Basis	In What Way
Individuals		
Enterprises		
Civil Society		
Governments		

Change phases

Creating Change

- ✓ Geneses
- ✓ Idea
- ✓ Invention

Leading Change

- ✓ Innovation
- ✓ Early adopters
- ✓ Fast followers
- ✓ Performance tuners

Implementing Change

- ✓ Early majority
- ✓ Late majority
- ✓ Mainstream
- ✓ Laggards

Bridging to Innovation

<i>Changing Minds</i> <i>Gardner 2004</i>	<i>Leading Change</i> <i>Kotter - 1996</i>	<i>Leading through Conflict</i> <i>Gerzon - 2006</i>
Research	Creating as sense of urgency	Integral Vision
Resonance	Creating a Guiding Coalition	Systems Thinking
Redescription	Developing a Vision and Strategy	Presence
Resources	Communicating the Change Vision	Inquiry
Rewards	Empowering Action	Conscious Conversation
Real World Events	Creating Short Term Wins	Dialogue
Resistances	Consolidating Gains and Producing More Change	Bridging
	Anchoring New Approaches in the Culture	Innovation

Answer four questions

1. **What** are the conditions that create the need for change?
2. **So what** are the options and the best choice?
3. **Now what** are the strategies and commitments?
4. **Then what** will be done to monitor performance and respond to future changes?

*We must be
the change we
expect to see
in the world.*


Mahatma Gandhi

***Breakout Groups &
Roundtable Input:***

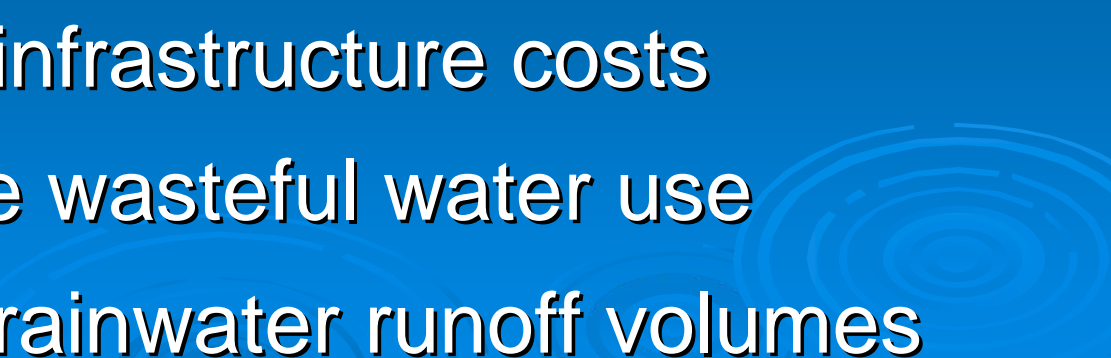
**Framework for Recognizing Innovation
& Facilitating Water-Centric
Land Development Approvals**

Facilitated by
Kim Stephens & Cori Barraclough

NOW WHAT would a
water-centric framework
look like in order to
provide certainty and
reward innovation?



Desired Outcomes in Implementing a Water-Centric Approval Framework

- Enhance community livability
 - Improve watershed and stream health
 - Build/restore aquatic habitat
 - Reduce infrastructure costs
 - Eliminate wasteful water use
 - Reduce rainwater runoff volumes
- 

What are the Elements of a Water-Centric Framework?

- Are sustainability principles in place?
- Is information available to establish performance standards?
- Are standards in place to guide development?
- Are projects meeting standards?

NOW WHAT?

1. What can Vancouver Island communities do better or differently to achieve water-centric sustainability?
2. What can new developments on Vancouver Island do to integrate and harmonize the development footprint within the watershed context and achieve water sustainability as a condition of land development approval?
3. How could local governments implement a water-centric framework to reward innovation?

Next Step: A Workshop for Local Government

Wrap-up by
John Finnie

THEN WHAT –
moving from concept to
policy to implementation



THEN WHAT?

- Implementing new practices will need clearly defined standards and regulatory models
- Willing municipalities will be invited to pool resources under a partnership framework