

APPENDIX A - Category Specific Supplement

DRINKING WATER

I. Objective

To invest in water infrastructure that contributes to economic growth, a clean environment and stronger communities.

II. Subcategories

- Drinking water treatment infrastructure.
- Drinking water distribution systems (may include metering as part of a larger project).

III. Outcomes and Benefits

The project must demonstrate how it provides benefits to British Columbians in support of one or more of the following outcomes:

- Improving the quality of drinking water, and where possible, alignment with the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality;
- Increasing the number of households, industries, commercial establishments, and institutions provided with access to safe drinking water;
- Improving the efficiency and service reliability of water treatment facilities and/or distribution systems, as demonstrated by a reduction in water leakage or loss, use of treatment chemicals, energy use and/or number of boil water advisories;
- Improving water conservation (i.e. increased number of households equipped with residential metering, and decreased daily per capita water use);
- Improving the protection and/or management of drinking water sources.

IV. Project Specific Criteria

- Must demonstrate the economic advantages and the broader public benefits of the project.
- Where the project involves the new construction of or material rehabilitation of a drinking water treatment plant, the drinking water quality following completion of the project must meet or exceed provincial/territorial standards.
- A multi-barrier approach to safe drinking water including, where possible, source water protection.
- For non-commercial ventures, the proponent must indicate whether full cost pricing supported by universal metering for water is in place, and if not, how cost recovery will be pursued and how capital and operating and maintenance shortfalls will be addressed.

V. Sources for Best Practices

- British Columbia Water and Waste Association (BCWWA): This non-profit association is dedicated to the safeguarding of public health and the environment through the sharing of skills, knowledge and experience in the water and wastewater industries. BCWWA's website provides several resources including best management practices. <http://www.bcwwa.org/>
- Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation Healthy Housing – Water Conservation: Provides highlights of recent Canadian and international research and efforts in the field of water conservation. <http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/inpr/su/waho/index.cfm>
- Greater Vancouver Regional District Water Conservation Initiatives: Provides information on a range of water conservation initiatives such as conducting water use audits for businesses. <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/water/conservation/Pages/default.aspx>
- InfraGuide Best Practices for Potable Water: Provides technical solutions to challenges municipalities commonly face with potable water. <http://www.fcm.ca/home/programs/past-programs/infraguide.htm>
- Living Water Smart: B.C.'s Water Plan: Living Water Smart is the provincial government's vision and plan to keep our water healthy and secure for the future. Through this plan, the Province commits to new actions and targets, and builds on existing efforts to protect and keep our water safe. <http://www.livingwatersmart.ca/>
- Ministry of Health Services – Drinking Water Program: This program works to ensure safe, reliable and accessible drinking water for all British Columbians. http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/protect/dw_index.html
- Water Conservation Strategy for BC: The Strategy promotes water as a highly valuable resource and provides a framework to guide and encourage efficient and cost-effective water use throughout the province. http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/plan_protect_sustain/water_conservation/wtr_cons_strategy/toc.html
- Water Conservation Plan Guidelines – US Environmental Protection Agency: These guidelines are intended to supplement federal, provincial or local policies and programs in the area of water conservation. <http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/pubs/guide.html>
- Water Use Efficiency Catalogue for B.C.: Written as a companion piece to the Water Conservation Strategy for B.C., the Catalogue encourages cooperation and information sharing, and promotes a proactive approach to water conservation. http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/plan_protect_sustain/water_conservation/wtr_use_eff_cat_bc/toc.html