

Partnerships and Cooperation

B. 'Soft' Conservation Measures

I. Federal and Provincial Initiatives

5. Partnerships and Cooperation

"Soft" conservation measures are less harsh or onerous than hard measures. Their approach to water use efficiency reflects more negotiation, conciliation, voluntarism and teaching. Soft measures include planning tools, voluntary restrictions, educational and information sharing initiatives (targeting residential, commercial/industrial and school audiences), government "lead by example" initiatives, and partnership and cooperation initiatives.

"Partnerships and Cooperation Initiatives" presented in this and the following two sections includes: partnerships with the British Columbia Water and Waste Association (BCWWA), membership on the Water Use Efficiency Committee, government - industry partnerships/public - private partnerships, federal government - local government partnerships, government - other utilities partnerships, landscape related activities with landscape/irrigation experts, tourism related activities, cooperative associations with special interest groups, partnerships with science/educational enterprises, and cooperation with major users and businesses.

Water, Land and Air Protection, Ministry of

Water Management Branch

Cooperation / Partnership

- **The B.C. Water and Waste Association (BCWWA)**
 - The BCWWA is the umbrella organization for all those working in the water and wastewater industry in B.C. The BCWWA is dedicated to the stewardship of the environment and public health by advancing the technology and science of the water and wastewater fields.
 - Given the current Federal/Provincial initiative regarding a National Action Plan to encourage water-use efficiency, a goal of BCWWA is to represent the interests of B.C. municipalities in evolving a best fit with the national perspective represented by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME).
- **Water Use Efficiency Committee (WUEC)**
 - The BCWWA Water Conservation Committee formed in April, 1992. The name was changed to Water Use Efficiency Committee in February, 1995 for consistency with the National Task Force. The B.C. Provincial Committee of the

National Task Force was formed in fall, 1994. In Fall 1995, this committee merged with the BCWWA Water Use Efficiency Committee.

- The committee has worked to achieve Province-wide representation, organize technology transfer and other seminars, and develop an Action Plan for a Province-wide Partnership Agreement.

- **WUEC Membership Expansion**

- WUEC expanded its membership to encompass all four levels of Government, including the complete size range of Municipalities, and achieve Province-wide representation. Committee membership includes:

Environment Canada	City of Kelowna
Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection	City of Kamloops
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries	City of Rossland
Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services	City of Vernon
Greater Vancouver Water District	City of Port Alberni
Greater Victoria Water District	District of Campbell River
Nanaimo Regional District	BC Hydro
City of Surrey	Simon Fraser University

- **Government — Industry Partnerships**

- **Know H₂O!**

The Know H₂O! eco-education project was developed by the Ministry in partnership with Alliance Professional Services and the B.C. Water and Waste Association (BCWWA). The project is being designed to inform local government administrators and elected officials about water-related issues; regulatory and non-regulatory management tools; and opportunities to maintain and enhance water management efforts at the local level. It is envisioned that the Know H₂O! project will evolve into a series of week long seminars to be presented to local government decision makers and administrators throughout B.C.

- **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

Drafted by the BCWWA, the MOU defines the roles of the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks and the BCWWA in relation to the development of a Water Conservation Strategy for B.C.

- The MOU designates that the BCWWA will act initially as an advisor and resource to the Province, providing input regarding policy development and implementation.

- Subsequent to the development of the strategy, the Association will assume the role of 'facilitator' during the implementation component.

The BCWWA is in the process of developing a framework for aligning the efforts of B.C.'s water suppliers, the Provincial Government, and public advocacy groups in working towards common goals for Province-wide water-use efficiency.

Federal Government

Partnerships and Cooperation with Local Government

- Federal projects aimed at stimulating action by municipalities, industries, institutions and households. They included both analyses of project economics, funding of pilot projects, and provision of technical and public information. Many of these projects were conceptually well advanced before the beginning of the Fraser River Action Plan (FRAP) and lacked only the funding to proceed. By providing a source of funds for these activities, FRAP was able to build partnerships, provide momentum for specific water conservation projects and assist in building a general planning framework for municipalities in B.C.

II. Regional and Municipal Initiatives

5. Partnerships and Cooperation

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Chilliwack, District of

Public — Private Partnership (P3)

- The District in an endeavor to keep costs down, while maintaining a high level of customer support, is pro-active in the P3 field.
- The District looked at a P3 project involving the following:
 1. installing and maintaining all water meters,
 2. maintaining existing meters and meter boxes,
 3. reading all meters,
 4. invoicing of all bills, and
 5. currently pursuing a P3 initiative for the entire Utility system (both water and sewer).
 - The outside proponents as well as the District's current staff were evaluated by a financial team from K.P.M.G. It was found that the District offered the best value for these services.
 - The District has a job cost system that allows the breakdown of every service that the District provides, and these are constantly being reviewed to see if the private sector can offer these services in a more cost-effective manner.

Coldstream, District of

Partnership with Government and Other Utilities

- The Water Stewardship Committee, under the jurisdiction of the North Okanagan Regional District, involves the City of Vernon, the District of Coldstream, and the North Okanagan Water Authority. The committee has evolved into a "community-based" organization. The members consist of political representatives from the local service areas, technical representatives from the utility members, and local citizens. The committee has had major successes in implementing many water conservation initiatives.

Greater Vancouver Regional District — Water District

Partnerships and Cooperation with Other Utilities

- Home\$mart, as described in section A. 3. - Low-flow Fixture or Retrofit Programs, was completed in cooperation with BC Hydro, BC Gas, City of Vancouver, City of North Vancouver and District of West Vancouver.

- BC Gas Apartment Water Savers, as described in section A. 3. - Low-flow Fixture or Retrofit Programs, was completed in partnership with BC Gas.
- Pilot Automatic Meter Reading Project was completed in cooperation with BC Hydro, BC Gas, Rogers Cable Systems and Canadian Cable Labs.

Landscape-related Activities

- A workshop series for local landscape and irrigation professionals (described in section B.3ii-Commercial, Industrial, and Agricultural) was developed in cooperation with B.C. Landscape and Nursery Association, Irrigation Industry Association of B.C., Western Canada Turfgrass Association and B.C. Society of Landscape Architects.
- B.C. Home and Garden Show - garden information area is presented in cooperation with the B.C. Landscape and Nursery Association, and includes information on Waterwise Gardening.

Tourism-related Activities

- Hotel and restaurant pilot projects (described in section B.3ii-Commercial, Industrial, and Agricultural Users) were developed in consultation with the Oceans Blue Foundation.

Other

- Drinking Water Week promotion is being done in partnership with Science World and the B.C. Water and Waste Association.
- In conjunction with Science World, a CD-ROM game for schools was developed.

Kamloops, City of

Partnerships and Cooperation with Other Utilities

- BC 21 PowerSmart

Cooperation with Major Users

- The City was able to identify major users from its meter records. They include the School District, University College of the Cariboo, government agencies, the hospital, and others. Meetings were held with several major users to discuss the WaterSmart program and to make general suggestions with respect to more efficient water use.
- Plans are underway to purchase an auditing meter and use it as part of free water audits which will be offered to local hotels and motels.

Cooperation with Local Businesses

- The City is working with local nurseries and garden suppliers to promote the use of low water use plant material.
- The City and local malls work together to run a series of staffed information booths.

Kelowna, City of

Public — Private Partnership (P3)

- In 1996 the city entered into a partnership agreement with Schlumberger Canada Ltd. to facilitate residential metering.

Partnerships and Cooperation with Other Water Utilities

- In 1992 the five major water suppliers located within the City of Kelowna boundaries formed the Kelowna Joint Water Committee (KJWC). The KJWC is comprised of elected and technical representatives from Black Mountain Irrigation District, City of Kelowna Water Utility, Glenmore Ellison Improvement District, Rutland Water Works, and Southeast Kelowna Irrigation District, who all supply water to City residents.
- The KJWC has the following primary objectives:
 1. developing cooperative water management strategies; and
 2. promoting efficient water use.

The Committee has two arms:

1. a political arm, and
2. a technical arm which prepares budgets, proposes policies, and manages programs endorsed by the political arm.

The technical arm of the Committee has:

1. Established a standardized set of design criteria, product selection and product installation methods for the construction of water mains within City boundaries. The criteria has since evolved into an "Approved Product List" and a city by-law. The criteria is now perceived as the "rule book" for utilities and contractors installing water mains in any of the supply areas.
2. Embarked on various educational initiatives.
 - Cartoon characters Wally and Wanda were created as the spokespeople for efficient water use.

- Promoted moisture monitoring devices, such as irrometers, for improved agricultural irrigation scheduling.

Partnerships with Local Businesses

- Through the Kelowna Joint Water Committee, partnerships were established with local water-related businesses to produce "Get to the Source", an informative handout for residents. The handout details the geographic extent of the various water districts, the applicable rate structure and the demographics of each.
- The Kelowna Joint Water Committee partnered with local artists and businesses to create an educational watershed stewardship mural. The colourful mural was displayed in Mission Creek Regional Park.

Keremeos, Village of

Partnerships and Cooperation with Other Water Utilities

- Implementation Costs: \$1,000
- We purchase our water from the Keremeos Irrigation District and control only 20% of the water connections and mains within the Village of Keremeos boundaries.

North Okanagan Regional District

Partnerships with Governments and Other Utilities

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Other

- In 1997, two Environmental Youth Team members conducted work for the North Okanagan Water Authority. For more information on these projects, see section B.3iii - Publications for Distribution to Schools and section B.4 - Education Opportunities for Elected Officials.

Revelstoke, City of

Public — Private Partnership (P3)

- The possibility of a P3 is being examined.

Vancouver, City of**Cooperation with Businesses**

- The City promotes native species landscaping through the Greenways and other City projects. In the fall of 1996, questionnaires were sent to all the nurseries in B.C.; most responded and from this information resource lists of plants and their availability was compiled. These lists were distributed to landscape architects and nursery owners. They are available to the public through garden shows and at the two demonstration gardens.
- A partnership is underway with Sunset Nurseries to have plants propagated for use in City projects.

Other

- Identified Park areas where City water is being used for ornamental means, or situations where non-recycled water is being used (e.g., for cooling). A British Columbia Institute of Technology student project was undertaken in early 1996, to produce a report that assessed flows, cost, and possible alternatives to these uses. This report was used for school credit and sent to Park Board Operations.

Vernon , City of**Partnerships with Governments and Other Utilities**

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Other

- During the summer of 1997 Environmental Youth Team members reviewed commercial and industrial accounts, and conducted water audits. For more information on this program, see section A.3 - Water Audits.

White Rock , City of

Other

- White Rock Utilities Ltd. maintains involvement with B.C. Small Water Systems Committee, BCWWA, and B.C. Safety Council .

III. Irrigation and Improvement Districts' Initiatives

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Black Mountain Irrigation District

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Other

- Member of the Water Supply Association of B.C.

Rutland Waterworks District

Partnerships and Cooperation with Other Water Utilities

- Rutland Waterworks is one of five KJWC members. (see above - Black Mountain Irrigation District, *Partnerships and Cooperation with Other Water Utilities*)

Partnering with Major Users

- Partnering with the school district

Partnerships with Local Businesses

- Rutland Waterworks is one of five KJWC members. (See above - Black Mountain Irrigation District, *Partnerships with Local Businesses*)

Other

- Partnering for the Crypto Conferences
- Partnering/cooperation with the Water Supply Association of B.C.
- Partnering/cooperation with the BCWWA

Southeast Kelowna Irrigation District

Partnerships and Cooperation with Other Utilities

- Southeast Kelowna Irrigation District is one of five KJWC members. (See above - Black Mountain Irrigation District, *Partnerships and Cooperation with Other Water Utilities*)

Partnerships with Local Businesses

- Southeast Kelowna Irrigation District is one of five KJWC members. (See above - Black Mountain Irrigation District, *Partnerships with Local businesses*)