

Best Management Practices

Made-in-BC BMPs

Developed by



BCWWA

for



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of Health Services

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Why Best Management Practices?

Best management practices (or best practices) are proactive and often voluntary practical methods applied to business and operational processes or programs to help achieve management objectives. While best practice methodologies are used by vastly different organizations for a variety of purposes, they have one thing in common—they emphasize “practice” rather than “theory.” Ironically, recommended best practices may not actually be the “best”, but rather “proven” or “working.” And best practices are always changing as new and better ways of doing things are introduced.

Best management practices (BMPs), as they apply to municipal infrastructure, are defined in the *National Guide to Sustainable Infrastructure* as “best methods and technologies for infrastructure planning, design, construction, management, assessment, maintenance, and rehabilitation that consider local economic, environmental and social factors.” The guide—a collaborative effort between the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the National Research Council—provides decision-making and investment-planning tools and a compendium of technical best practices. (Visit www.infraguide.gc.ca)

What the experts say about best management practices...

“Quite simply, best practices are the best ways to perform a process. They are means by which world-class organizations have achieved top performance. They are also a goal for other organizations.”

— Arthur Anderson, *Global Best Practices*

“A high performance way of achieving business objectives, which solves problems, creates opportunities, and improves business results.”

— Benchmark Communication

“The way in which an enterprise creates a process which leverages skills and resources with appropriate procedures and control to command leadership in a given marketplace.”

— Gartner Group

Rationale for BC BMPs...

Best management practices (BMPs) were prepared by the British Columbia Water & Waste Association for the provincial Ministry of Health. With amendments to B.C.’s *Drinking Water Protection Act* in 2003 came a promise from the province for “the most effective drinking water protection in Canada.” Drinking water officers in the province’s five health regions are responsible for ensuring this source-to-tap protection.

The resulting made-in-BC-for-BC best management practices are intended to help health officials and water suppliers alike meet provincial goals while encouraging innovation to support sustainable municipal infrastructure decisions and actions. To that end, the BMPs include general information that, wherever possible, is supported by more detailed teachings and specific examples (See Information Links). These links will be continually updated to reflect industry advances and utility successes.

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