

Issued on behalf of the British Columbia Water and Waste Association, Canadian Water Resources Association (B.C. Branch) and Air and Waste Management Association (B.C. and Yukon Chapter)



Coping with Climate Change: BC Professional Organizations Step Up

April 4, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For BC's engineers, planners and environmental scientists, the need to adapt plans and projects to account for climate change has become critical. But make no mistake: while there may be general consensus on climate change predictions at the global scale, real discussion of climate change impacts in our own "backyard" – be it a city, a watershed, or a particular project site – is just getting started. In most cases, the emergence of "best practices" – or even "standard practices" – is still on the horizon.

In response to this challenge, three of BC's leading professional organizations, the Air and Waste Management Association (AWMA), the BC Water and Waste Association (BCWWA), and the Canadian Water Resources Association (CWRA) have been working together to provide leadership on this issue. The result is two complementary symposia scheduled for late April 2008.

Changing Climate, Uncertain Future and Evolving Practices SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue Vancouver, April 21-23, 2008

The first symposium titled "Changing Climate, Uncertain Futures, and Evolving Practices" will be co-hosted by the AWMA BC and Yukon Chapter and the BC Branch of CWRA. The symposium will use presentations from acknowledged climate change experts and collaborative panel discussions to promote consensus-based understanding of:

- ◆ What local climate scientists are predicting for BC and the Pacific Northwest;
- ◆ Which tools and approaches are best suited for assessing various climate change impacts; and
- ◆ How we move toward best-practice approaches for incorporating climate change into

our day-to-day work.

In addition, the symposium offers two optional workshops focusing on tools for wind energy modeling and for downscaling of climate change scenarios from global to regional scales. A full symposium agenda and information on registration are available at <http://www.climatesymposium.com> or from dhrebenyk@senses.ca Reduced registration rates are available until April 11, 2008.

Our Climate is Changing...Now What?
BCWWA Seminar
Whistler Conference Centre
April 30, 2008

This one day symposium will focus upon the practitioner and the anticipated impacts of climate change upon *water and wastewater infrastructure* throughout British Columbia. The challenges that face the decision makers, scientists, engineers and administrators managing this infrastructure in the face of climate change will require a level of cooperation throughout all levels of government, as well as partnerships with the business, academic sector and the general public, which has not been demonstrated to date.

Presentations from practitioners in Seattle and Olympia, responsible for the administration of public works, will identify how these two communities are preparing themselves for climate change impacts and a presentation on wastewater infrastructure will provide a Lower Mainland perspective. The symposium will include a recently released documentary that identifies the need to re-think our land use planning strategies in view of sea level rise in the Metro Vancouver area. A range of panel experts will discuss and identify the core issues arising from the seminar to guide future direction.

Details of the one day symposium agenda and registration information are available at http://www.bcwwa.org/annual_conference/AC08TechnicalProgram.php or from ebonham@shaw.ca.

For more information on these symposia, please contact:

Dan Hrebenyk
AWMA-BC & YK
(604) 685-1612 ext 200
dhrebenyk@senses.ca

Eric Bonham
BCWWA
(250) 474-5252
ebonham@shaw.ca

Brian Fast
CWRA-BC Branch
(604) 525-5317
b_fast@shaw.ca