



Green Infrastructure Partnership

The Topsoil Law and Policy Primer

From Rain to Resource: Managing Stormwater
in a Changing Climate
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Green Infrastructure Partnership

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIP

- Collaborating since 2004
- Building relationships
- Advancing strategies and tools

The Topsoil Primer Set

- Surrey Water Balance Model Forum, March 2009 - debrief
- The essentials defined
- How to make it easier for those that follow
- Choose a simple topic (topsoil), and put it all into one page (!)



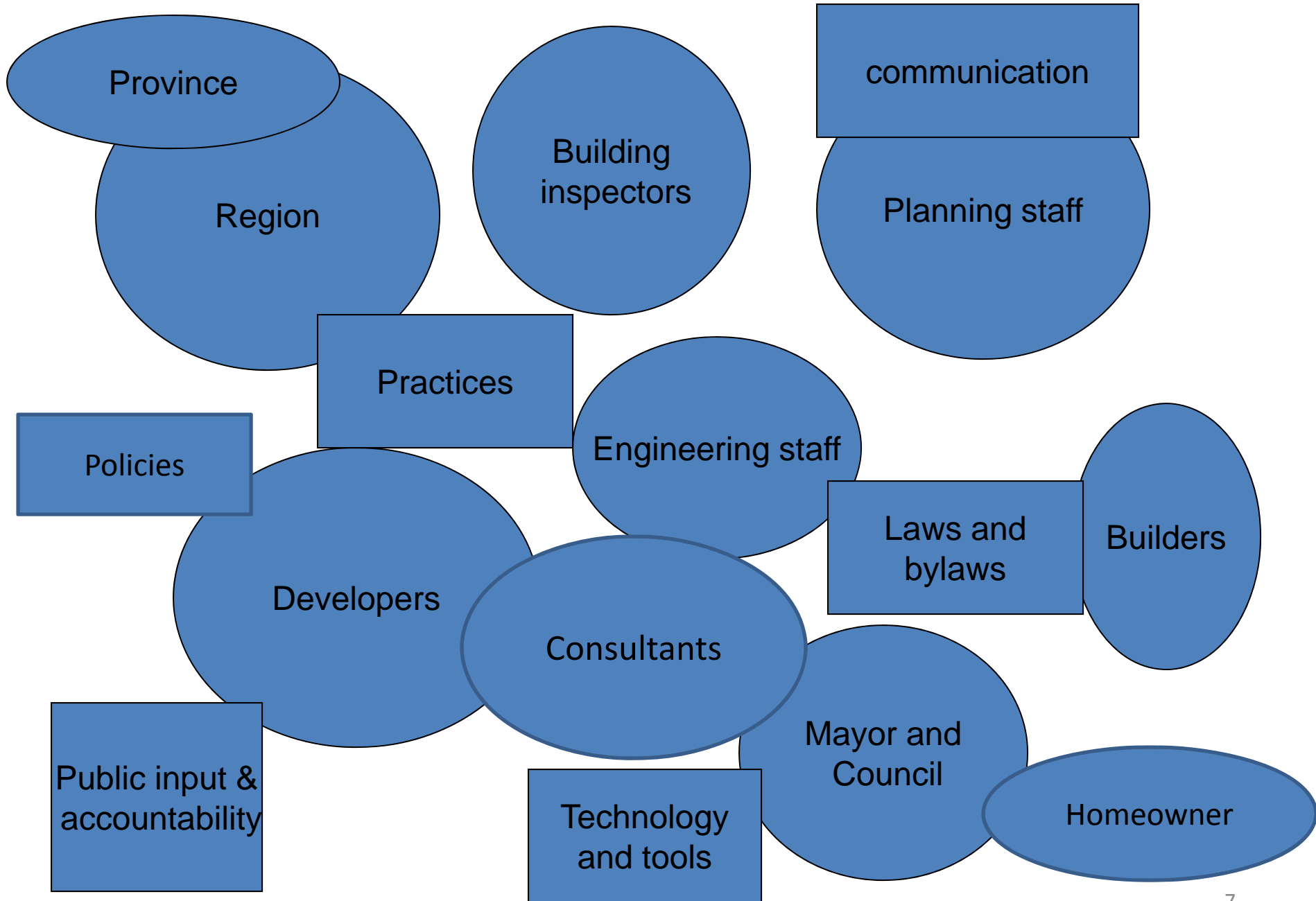




Law and Policy Primer:

What does it cover?

- How regional goals (e.g. watershed health) relate to local actions
- Understanding what the benefits are
- Internal collaboration at the local level
- Regulation ideas
- External collaboration – education and communication





Key idea:
Shared Responsibility

Shared Responsibility

Responsibility Matrix

Goal	Party	Tool
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Objectives▪ Situations▪ Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Regional staff and elected representatives▪ Municipal staff and elected representatives▪ Private actors (developers, builders, homeowners, stewardship groups, universities and colleges, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Law▪ Bylaw▪ Policy▪ Procedure▪ Incentive▪ Penalty▪ Security▪ Budget
Desired or Required Outcomes	Relevant Staff or Other Actors	Instruments for Action

Shared responsibility

Application of Responsibility Matrix

Desired Outcome	Relevant Actors	Instruments for Action
Onsite Rainwater Management	1. Regional Government	1. Living Water Smart policy direction; Regional liquid resource management plan
	2. Municipal Government	2. Regional targets translated to site level action using Water Balance Model tool and Land Use Planning, site standards; linkage made between watershed plan and development practices/neighbourhood plan; Official Community Plan direction; visible political leadership on issue
	3. Developer	3. Bylaws require a) onsite rainwater management facilities b) security for performance c) regular inspection and reporting re: maintenance (e.g. on business license renewal); departments charged and funded to inspect
	4. Builder	4. Communication, contractual provisions, occupancy permit

Internal collaboration

- Need for inter-departmental support
- Leadership required
- Emphasize benefits: cost savings
- Consult: early, often, and get the details right
- Be aware of political winds





Regulations

- To consider:
 - **Key entry points** for advancing objective
 - **Means** for securing results, enforcement
 - **Flexibility** in identifying opportunities
- Financial security and performance standards
- Is there a revenue opportunity to recover costs? (E.g. fees)
- Promote compliance through education and outreach

External collaborations



- Landowners, developers, builders
- Two-way communications
- Emphasize that outcome depends on all of the pieces coming together



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Topsoil: *Just How Do You Obtain a Performing Topsoil Layer, to Advance Rainwater Management & Water Conservation Goals?*

A *Law and Policy Primer* for Municipal Staff and Designers

Available on the West Coast
Environmental Law website:
www.wcel.org



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