



SMALL WATER USERS ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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INTERNET RESOURCES FOR SMALL WATER SYSTEMS

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INTRODUCTION:

There is an enormous amount of technical, managerial and operational information on the Internet that can be of assistance to the owners, managers and operators of small water systems. However locating and keeping track of all of this information can be a challenging and time-consuming task. This guide is intended to direct you to some of the best and most informative of these Internet sites. For each such site, the Internet address (URL) is given, followed by a brief summary of what the site contains. (Please note that URLs may change or be discontinued – if you are unable to access a site try searching by the indicated topic on Google). It is our intention to improve and expand the guide. We welcome any comments or suggestions you may have for future additions or improvements.

Disclaimer: The Small Water Users Association of BC does not take responsibility for the accuracy of any information provided by the suggested Internet sites, nor do we mean to imply that these are the only sites offering relevant information for small water systems.

1. B.C. GOVERNMENT SOURCES

1.1 B.C. MINISTRY OF HEALTH

www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/protect/dwpublications.html

This is a key site to access information on the regulatory requirements and other useful information applicable to small water systems, e.g.:

- The Drinking Water Protection Act
- The revised Drinking Water Protection Regulation
- The Drinking Water Source-to-Tap Screening Tool
- The Drinking Water Officers Guide
- Safe Water Supply Vital For Your Health
- Emergency Response Planning for Small Waterworks Systems
- Well Protection Toolkit
- Construction and Maintenance of Private Wells

www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/pho/water.html

The Health Files contain a number of brief brochures relevant to drinking water including:

- Waterborne Diseases in BC
- Should I Get My Well Water Tested?
- Nitrate Contamination in Well Water
- Cryptosporidiosis
- Giardiasis (“Beaver Fever”)



- Safe Water Supply Vital to Your Health
- How to Disinfect Drinking Water
- Weakened Immune Systems and Water-borne Infections
- Blue-green Algae Blooms
- Campylobacter Infection
- Toxoplasmosis

1.2. B.C. MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/plan_protect_sustain/groundwater/index.html

Here you will find information on all aspects of groundwater, e.g.:

- The Groundwater Protection Regulation
- A list of qualified well drillers
- A list of qualified pump installers and well drillers
- A list of groundwater consultants

www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/a-z_index.html

This a to z index links to quite a lot of useful information on subjects including:

- Aquifers
- Drought information
- Water conservation strategy
- Water Users' Communities
- Water utilities
- Wells

www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/plan_protect_sustain/groundwater/

A wide-ranging amount of useful information related to groundwater.

www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/water_rights/water_utilities/cabinet/design.pdf

This site contains the "Design Guidelines for Rural Residential Water Systems". Although intended for regulated water utilities, it offers a lot of useful information applicable to all small water systems.

1.3. B.C. MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

www.cserv.gov.bc.ca/lgd/pathfinder-id.htm

The main page for information of particular interest to Improvement and Irrigation Districts.

www.cserv.gov.bc.ca/lgd/infra/library/infra_planning_grants_program_guide.pdf

This site contains information on the Local Government Grants Program – Infrastructure Planning Study Grants. Many small water systems may be able to obtain a grant of up to \$10,000 for an engineering study specific to their water system.

1.4. B.C. GOVERNMENT DIRECTORY

www.dir.gov.bc.ca/

If you know the name of a BC government employee you can use this directory to obtain his or her telephone number, address and email. All BC government employees can be telephoned toll-free by dialing:

- 387-6121 in Victoria
- 604-660-2421 in Vancouver
- 1-800-663-7867 in the rest of the province



1.5. B.C. HEALTH AUTHORITIES

www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/socsec/contacts.html

This site will direct you to the sites for each of the five provincial Health Authorities as well as to a map showing the geographic boundaries of each Health Authority.

2. CANADIAN GOVERNMENT SOURCES

2.1 HEALTH CANADA

www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/water-eau/index_e.html

Although somewhat broad in scope, a number of relevant documents can be accessed from this site, including:

- Guidelines For Canadian Drinking Water Quality
- Guidelines For providing Safe Drinking Water in Areas of Federal Jurisdiction (2005)
- From Source to Tap – The Multi-Barrier Approach to Safe Drinking Water (2004)

2.2 ENVIRONMENT CANADA

www.ec.gc.ca/water/en/manage/effic/e_weff.htm

and

www.ec.gc.ca/water/en/info/pubs/brochure/e_broch.htm

These two sites provide information on water conservation, including:

- Water Use in the Home
- Use Water Wisely
- Water Audit
- Water-wise Tips for the Summer Season
- Water-wise Tips for Bathrooms
- Water-wise Tips for Kitchen and Laundry

3. OPERATOR TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

3.1 OPERATOR TRAINING COURSES

www.bcwwa.org/op_ed/index.php

A calendar of small water system and other courses offered by the British Columbia Water & Waste Association.

www.watersafebc.ca/default.aspx

The “Watersafe” course offered online by Thompson Rivers University.

www.owp.csus.edu

Home study courses for small water systems offered by the California State University, Sacramento.

<http://watercenter.montana.edu/training/ob2005/default.htm>

Montana State University offers a number of operator training programs and other information on various topics related to water treatment.



3.2 SYSTEM CLASSIFICATION AND OPERATOR CERTIFICATION

www.eocp.org

The Environmental Operators Certification Program (EOCP) is responsible for the classification of B.C. water systems as well as the certification of operators. This site also explains the process whereby certified operators can obtain required continuing education units (CEUs).

4. WATER ASSOCIATIONS

4.1 BRITISH COLUMBIA WATER & WASTE ASSOCIATION

www.bcwwa.org

In addition to offering operator training courses (see 3.1), the British Columbia Water & Waste Association (BCWWA) offers a lot of useful information for small water systems. Their annual spring conference and tradeshow now includes a special 1½ day program at a special reduced rate for small water systems.

www.smallwatersystems.com

This is the BCWWA small water systems committee webpage. It provides direct links to a variety of useful information for small systems.

www.bcwwa.org/BMP/index.php

The BCWWA has developed a series of Best Management Practices (BMPs). While primarily intended for large water systems, each BMP contains a section written specifically for small systems. The BMPs include:

- Cross Connection Control
- Chlorine Disinfection & Monitoring
- Water System Distribution Renewal Planning
- Turbidity Monitoring & Reporting
- Distribution System Cleaning/Unidirectional Flushing

4.2 THE SMALL WATER USERS ASSOCIATION OF BC

www.smallwatersystems.com

The only water association in B.C. that specifically serves the interests of small water systems. The suppliers/consultants page provides information on over 70 equipment suppliers, consulting engineering firms and water test laboratories.

4.3 WATER SUPPLY ASSOCIATION OF BC

www.wsabc.com

Although this association primarily represents larger Improvement and Irrigation Districts in the Okanagan, their annual conference and trade show may be of interest to some smaller systems.



4.4 BRITISH COLUMBIA GROUNDWATER ASSOCIATION

www.bcgwa.org

Small water systems on groundwater sources should find BCGWA a useful site for information. The members of BCGWA are primarily well drillers, pump installers, hydrogeologists and equipment suppliers.

4.5 COASTAL WATER SUPPLIERS ASSOCIATION

www.cwsa.net

The members of this association are mostly Improvement Districts on Vancouver Island or the Gulf Islands. CWSA sponsors an annual conference each spring.

4.6 AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

www.awwa.org/science/sun/links/

The AWWA is the premier water association in the United States. The Small Systems Resource Center provides links to a variety of useful information. The AWWA bookstore offers (for sale) books and other information on all aspects of water management.

5. AMERICAN SITES

5.1 THE NATIONAL DRINKING WATER CLEARING HOUSE

www.nesc.wvu.edu/ndwc/ndwc_tb_available.htm

The National Drinking Water Clearing House provides numerous publications on water treatment such as:

- Chlorination
- Corrosion Control
- Cross-Connection and Backflow Prevention
- Disinfection
- Filter Backwashing
- Filtration
- Iron and Manganese Removal
- Leak Detection and Water Loss Control
- Membrane Filtration

5.2 THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

www.epa.gov/safewater/smallsys/ssinfo.htm#one

The EPA offers several comprehensive booklets on water system planning such as:

- Taking Stock of Your Water System: A Simple Asset Inventory for Very Small Drinking Water Systems
- Strategic Planning: A Handbook for Small Water Systems

www.epa.gov/owm/water-efficiency/index.htm

The EPA also offers publications on water conservation and other topics, for example:

- Using Water Efficiently Fact Sheets
- Using Water Wisely in the Home
- Water Efficient Landscaping



5.3 WATTS WATER TECHNOLOGIES

www.wattsind.com/support/educationalbrochures.htm

Although a commercial site, Watts Water Technologies offers informative brochures on the following topics:

- 50 Cross-Connection Questions, Answers & Illustrations
- 23 Questions & Answers About Water Pressure Reducing Valves
- Backflow Disaster Lurks
- Residential Backflow Prevention
- EPA Cross Connection Manual

5.4 NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/watersup/capacity/Self-AssessmentForm.pdf

The NRWA offers a simple checklist that a small water system can use to determine its technical, operational and managerial expertise:

- Rural and Small Water System Self-Assessment for Capacity Development

5.4 WATER INFORMATION PROGRAM

www.waterinfo.org/indcnsrv.html

and

www.waterinfo.org/outcnsrv.html

These two sites offer the following water conservation brochures:

- Saving Water Indoors
- Saving Water Outdoors

6. MISCELLANEOUS SITES

6.1 SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE SOCIETY

www.sustainis.org

The Sustainable Infrastructure Society can assist water systems to build managerial, financial and operational capacity. Their website offers a number of tools for small systems, plus an application form for a liability insurance program specific to water systems.

6.2 THE WATERBUCKET

www.waterbucket.ca/waterbucket/index.asp

The Waterbucket was initiated by the Irrigation Industry Association of B.C. to address water sustainability issues. Various topics are discussed, and the site links to the following publication:

- Standards for Landscape Irrigation Systems

<http://bc.smallcommunityinfrastructure.ca/>

This is a BC government sponsored site hosted within the Waterbucket. It is dedicated to small community infrastructure and information on a variety of topics may be found by clicking on the 'drinking water' link.

