

Capital Regional District, BC

Overview

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is the regional government for the 13 municipalities (including Victoria) and three electoral areas that are located on the southern tip of Vancouver Island (Capital Regional District, 2007a). CRD Water Services is the bulk (wholesale) water supplier (including treatment) to the 320,000 consumers in the Greater Victoria Drinking Water System and the retail water supplier in the Western Communities (Capital Regional District, 2007b). Additionally, CRD Water Services provides system wide water conservation, water quality, and cross connection control services (Capital Regional District, 2007b). The Sooke Reservoir, formed by the dam on the Sooke River, is the CRD's main water source (Capital Regional District, 2007e). In 2006, the population of the CRD was 345,164 (Statistics Canada, 2006). According to the BC Ministry of Environment, "customer metering has been in place for decades" in the CRD and in 1994 a retail meter replacement program began to reduce unaccounted water (Ministry of Environment, 2007).

Residential

The CRD promotes water conservation through education (both in schools and through community workshops), financial incentives, and bylaws for both residents and businesses (Capital Regional District, 2007c). CRD Water Services has several water efficiency fact sheets available at its website including information on Landscape Care During Water Use Restrictions, Watering Restrictions and Water Saving Around the Home (Capital Regional District, 2007f). The CRD urges customers to be vigilant about leaks in toilets, pipes and water systems and provides instructions for checking for leaks (Capital Regional District 2007i).

More than seventy percent of the CRD's water supply is used for residential purposes. CRD residential water use is about 300 litres of water per day per capita (Capital Regional District, 2007d). Homeowners in the CRD can earn rebates for installing efficient toilets, showerheads, washing machines, irrigation controllers and rain sensors (rebates are conditional upon the deposit of the old appliances at an approved facility for recycling) (Capital Regional District, 2007d). Since January 1, 2005, all new construction and renovation projects in the CRD must use 6 litre toilets (Corporate Knights, 2005).

The CRD Water Conservation Bylaw has three stages of progressively restrictive lawn watering: 2 days per week, once per week (acute), no lawn watering (severe). Bylaw stage 1 (Summer Watering) aims for a 10% reduction in water use and is implemented every year from May 1 through September 30 (Capital Regional District, 2007e).

As of January 1, 2007, the Retail Water Rate for customers living in the West Shore Communities was \$1.2041 per cubic metre (Capital Regional District, 2007h). Residential Water Charges in Greater Victoria are updated annually.

ICI, Metering, Pricing

Nearly thirty percent of the CRD's water supply, about 15 billion litres per year, is used by the ICI sector. Combined residential and ICI water use was 545 litres per day per capita in 2004 (Capital Regional District, 2004). CRD Water Services offers businesses in Greater Victoria free water use and efficiency audits as well as assistance with cost-benefit analysis of conservation measures (Capital Regional District, 2007d). The CRD provides grants to Greater Victoria schools for water conservation retrofits and a rebate for eliminating once-through cooling systems. In 2007, the CRD is running a pilot toilet rebate program for the ICI sectors.

References

Capital Regional District. 2004. Water Services. Demand Management Water Presentation Accessed online 28 October 2007 at [HYPERLINK "http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/conservation/educationalresources.htm"](http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/conservation/educationalresources.htm)
<http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/conservation/educationalresources.htm>

Capital Regional District. 2007a. About the CRD. Accessed online 28 October 2007 at [HYPERLINK "http://www.crd.bc.ca/about/index.htm"](http://www.crd.bc.ca/about/index.htm)
<http://www.crd.bc.ca/about/index.htm>

Capital Regional District. 2007b. Welcome to Water Services. CRD, Water Services. Accessed online 28 October 2007 at [HYPERLINK "http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/"](http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/)
<http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/>

Capital Regional District. 2007c. Water Services. Conservation. Accessed online 28 October 2007 at [HYPERLINK "http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/conservation/index.htm"](http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/conservation/index.htm)
<http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/conservation/index.htm>

Capital Regional District. 2007d. Water Conservation Fact Sheets. Overview of CRD Water Conservation Programs. Accessed online 28 October 2007 at [HYPERLINK "http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/conservation/education/factsheets/index.htm"](http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/conservation/education/factsheets/index.htm)
<http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/conservation/education/factsheets/index.htm>

Capital Regional District. 2007e. Water Conservation Fact Sheets. Water Use Restrictions - Stage 1 Bylaw. Accessed online 28 October 2007 at [HYPERLINK "http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/conservation/education/factsheets/index.htm"](http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/conservation/education/factsheets/index.htm)
<http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/conservation/education/factsheets/index.htm>

Capital Regional District. 2007f. Water Conservation Fact Sheets. Accessed online 28 October 2007 at [HYPERLINK "http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/conservation/education/factsheets/index.htm"](http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/conservation/education/factsheets/index.htm)
<http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/conservation/education/factsheets/index.htm>

Capital Regional District. 2007g. Water Rate Comparison. Accessed online 28 October 2007 at HYPERLINK "<http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/waterbilling/ratecomparison.htm>"
<http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/waterbilling/ratecomparison.htm>

Capital Regional District. 2007h. Water Billing. Accessed online 28 October 2007 at HYPERLINK "<http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/waterbilling/residentialrates.htm>"
<http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/waterbilling/residentialrates.htm>

Capital Regional District. 2007i. Water Billing. Detecting Water Leaks. Accessed online 28 October 2007 at HYPERLINK "<http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/waterbilling/detectingwaterleaks.htm>"
<http://www.crd.bc.ca/water/waterbilling/detectingwaterleaks.htm>

Corporate Knights. 2005. Waterlution – Water Issue. Toronto.

Ministry of Environment, British Columbia. 2007. Water Stewardship Division. Water Use Efficiency Catalogue for BC. Accessed online 28 October 2007 at HYPERLINK "http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/plan_protect_sustain/water_conservation/wtr_use_eff_cat_bc/op_mgt_tools.html"
http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/plan_protect_sustain/water_conservation/wtr_use_eff_cat_bc/op_mgt_tools.html

Statistics Canada. 2006. 2006 Community Profiles. Accessed online 28 October 2007 at HYPERLINK "<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/profiles/community/Details/Page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CD&Code1=5917&Geo2=PR&Code2=59&Data=Count&SearchText=victoria&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All>"
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/profiles/community/Details/Page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CD&Code1=5917&Geo2=PR&Code2=59&Data=Count&SearchText=victoria&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All>