

How can local government protect groundwater?

They can use their land regulatory powers to:

- ensure that rainwater is returned to aquifers and streams
- protect headwaters, riparian areas, and other vulnerable recharge areas
- prevent contamination in ground water recharge areas through zoning
- direct development to appropriate locations where sufficiency of groundwater has been assessed
- regulate the storage and application of fertilizers and compost
- obtain information about the location of existing and new wells when new development occurs



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IMPLEMENTING THE GROUNDWATER BYLAWS TOOLKIT

An appendix to the Green
Bylaws Toolkit

What tools can local government use to protect groundwater?



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The case for groundwater protection in BC

According to Environment Canada, 44% of municipalities in BC rely on groundwater.

Local governments play an important role in understanding groundwater science, protecting aquifers, and maximizing the recharge of water into watersheds.

Call to action

Develop and implement groundwater bylaws in your local government today!



The toolkit includes eight policy & bylaw tools



Groundwater data collection and mapping



Water management and well protection planning



Regional growth strategies



Official community planning



Zoning for groundwater protection



Aquifer protection development permit areas



Aquifer protection development approval information areas



Subdivision servicing bylaws

For most of these tools, a sample policy or bylaw is provided that can be customized to the specific context and requirements of your local government.