



## Village of Salmo, BC



Population: 1,141  
Project duration:  
2015–2017

## ASSET MANAGEMENT: SUSTAINABLE SALMO

*This guide is designed to help municipal staff and decision makers understand how excellent sustainability projects are developed, and help them adopt best practices in their community. Read the guide to learn more about award-winning strategies, then use the guiding questions to kick-start your sustainability initiative.*

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

- The Village of Salmo developed and implemented an innovative, triple bottom-line asset management plan to address the pressing community challenges of a funding shortage, staff changes and lack of information management.
- The municipality received funding through asset management funding programs, which helped them get started.

#### How does this initiative benefit the environment?

- **The Official Community Plan**, which incorporates asset management principles, commits to delivering sustainable services and protecting community assets in the long term. This will help the community adapt to future impacts of climate change.
- Asset management is key to sustainability, regardless of population size. Having an asset management plan allows municipal staff to both access and analyze data about municipal assets to help **guide decisions and operations concerning the environment**.
- Studies done for the asset management plan revealed that the Village's aquifer is highly vulnerable. In response, Salmo has implemented **measures to protect the aquifer**, reduce flooding and slope hazards, and implement fire-smart principles for urban-wildlife interface border areas.

#### How does this initiative benefit the community?

- Citizens, the media, and Council have **learned about** the importance of asset management through the communications campaign and well-attended community engagement exercises that accompanied the development of the plan.
- Council now uses the Official Community Plan to **guide decisions**. Specifically, referring to the community vision and principles of asset management and sustainable service delivery improves transparency and supports a common understanding of service delivery.

#### How does this initiative benefit the local economy?

- **Municipal staff is better able to mitigate infrastructure risks and optimize municipal services** to save money over the long term.

## What are some of the successes of this project?

- A community-wide survey highlighted **community assets and priorities for sustainable development** (e.g., clean water, clean air, peace and quiet). The municipality has been able to use this information to prioritize its focus on assets that are important to the community.
- **All front-line staff have been trained in asset management** through the National Asset Management Training Initiative. Salmo turned a disadvantage into an advantage: because they did not have sufficient funds to send senior staff for training, they brought a trainer to their municipality instead, allowing all staff to be trained.

### Want to implement asset management principles in your community? To get started, answer these questions:

What is your municipality already doing to manage its assets?

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Which assets do you think are integral to the well-being of your community? What do you predict would be major community priorities? Why?

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What would be the benefits of asset management for your community?

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Name two or three departments that could potentially be engaged with asset management in your municipality. How would they benefit from an asset management approach?

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How could you align asset management activities with other municipal plans and strategies?

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All municipalities practise some form of asset management. What are the next steps or areas of focus for your community's asset management process?

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Sustainable asset management requires buy-in from Council. Shaping your message to meet Council's needs and priorities can be key to achieving common asset management objectives. Brainstorm how you could shape your message, and define some easy next steps.

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Do you know of communities near you that are working on asset management that you could contact for advice?

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