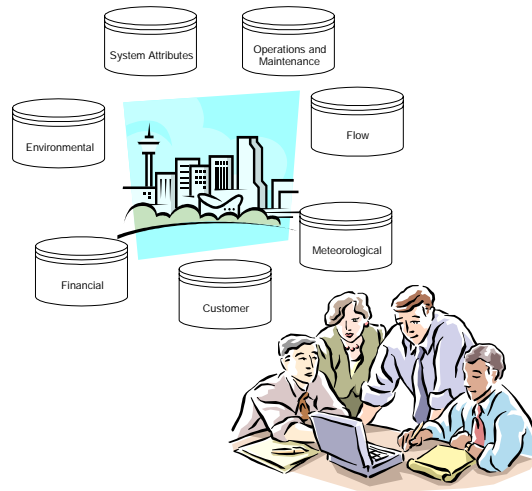


Development of Infraguide Best Practices for Utility Based Data



The National Guide to Sustainable Municipal Infrastructure: Innovations and Best Practices was a project funded under the Infrastructure Canada Program and implemented by a partnership of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the National Research Council (NRC) and a community of participants and Professional Associations. The aim of the Guide is to assist municipalities with decisions regarding the long term planning and prioritizing of funding allocations for municipal infrastructure and in the selection of the best technical solutions to the infrastructure challenges that municipalities face.

Earth Tech facilitated the development and documentation of "Best Practices for Managing Utility Data". With the guidance of 12 municipal practitioners (Working Group) in a multi-day workshop, and a series of teleconferences, the initial draft created from Earth Tech's experience and literature review, was refined through a series of iterations until a consensus that the draft was useful and applicable to any Canadian municipality was reached. The Working Group formed a world-class repository of expertise and "hands-on" experience in managing utility data. Success in this initiative required insurance that all members of the Working Group had an equal opportunity to contribute content and critique draft results in an open and creative manner.

The "Best Practice" recognized that all utilities have a need for similar data around a common group of utility-based subject areas. Based upon these common subject areas, a framework outlining required information and data was suggested. The actual Best Practice can be found at: <http://www.infraguide.ca>.

PROJECT DETAILS

CLIENT: National Guide for Sustainable Municipal Infrastructure (InfraGuide)

REFERENCE INFORMATION

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PROBLEM

No acknowledged standard or generally accepted "best practice" on how to manage utility data to guide Canadian municipalities.

CHALLENGES

To determine and document a Best Practice for managing utility data that is applicable to Canadian municipalities of all sizes and various state of automation.

SOLUTION

Facilitated workshop sessions involving a group of municipal practitioners as Subject Matter Experts to critique a series of draft Best Practices advanced by Project Team. Final draft accepted by all Working Group members.

BENEFITS

Adoption of a standardized guide to assist Canadian municipalities to organize and managed water and wastewater utility data to support all continuous improve-ment activities.