

Biannual Briefing Note

Date: September 5, 2017

Issued by: Andrea Byrne, Environmental Assistant

Agency: City of Prince George



2016 PM 2.5 Goal

- A 40% reduction from all significant sources;
- A daily average not to exceed 25 micrograms per cubic meter of air; and
- An annual average of 5 micrograms per cubic meter of air.

Questions

What have you done in the last 6 months?

- Clean Air Day event in June to celebrate those that continued to utilize low-carbon methods of transportation. Prizes of bus day passes. Additional funding to PGAIR for prizes.

- Participated in Emotive event in collaboration with Fraser Basin Council to encourage EV growth in Prince George.
- Met with MOE to discuss the implications of Smoky Skies Bulletins on City's Clean Air Bylaw.
- Provided space on District Energy building for mobile MOE air quality monitoring station during Plaza 400 roof rehabilitation.
- Letter of support to PGAIR + financial contribution for Environmental Damages Fund grant application for Online Woodsmoke Education Portal.
- Provided a spring clean-up event in April that includes a yard waste bin for the public to discourage burning of yard waste.
- Took the West Coast Electric Vehicle Pledge to further evaluate Zero Emissions Vehicles for City fleet, including piloting ZEVs.
- BikeBC grant included the painting of 12km of new dedicated bike lanes along arterial roadways and installed over 650 cycling signs on eleven arterial roadways + 100 kms of Bike Lanes remarked in the City boundaries. New bike lane on North Nechako Rd.
- Use of new asphalt reclaimer plant which uses hot mix, and will reduce the need to refill potholes and reduce vehicle and plant emissions.
- Early street sweeping in downtown and arterials – currently reviewing street sweeping practices.
- GPS introduced in all City Fleet to allow for trip efficiencies and driver awareness.
- Free fare for Clean Air – during Bike to Work Week.
- Environmental Assistant works closely with PGAir on dust and wood smoke issues.
- Updated Free Transit Fares Policy to include National Seniors Day, Food for Fare promotions, general voting days, SD57 field trips and Clean Air Day.
- Replacement of City fleet at shorter intervals which provides for new technology and energy efficiency.
- Media Release and mailed letters to remind parking lot owners to practice dust mitigation when sweeping and to use proper dust suppression methods in early March 2017.
- Capital Projects – Air Quality monitoring and pollution controls at Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Hooked up new buildings to the City's District Energy System – this eliminates the need for fossil fuels for domestic hot water and heating in these buildings.

Does the action address a goal and/or strategy from the Phase III Plan?

- YES

If yes, please list the goal and/or strategy.

- Goal: Reduce Dust – Strategy: Mitigate dust in paved areas.
- Goal: Research, Education & Coordination – Strategies: Improve awareness of air quality issues and potential solutions, and Focus research on improving source and distribution of emissions within the airshed.
- Goal: Transportation - Encourage alternative transportation

What are you planning to do in the next 6 months?

- Work in partnership with DBIA and the Downtown Clean Team to align downtown cleaning efforts and timing with street sweepers in the Downtown.
- Transit program to continue to improve passenger amenities (benches, shelters, accessibility of stops) to make the passenger experience better and attract more users.
- Evaluate business case from FleetCarma and suitability of EVs as replacement fleet vehicles.
- Continue to specify in Fleet tenders that engines must meet the newest tier 4 emission rating.
- Formalize the designation of arterial bike lanes and produce bike lanes maps.
- Develop public education programs about air quality.
- Prepare Report to Council on Air Quality Updates following Phase 3 goals.
- Tree Day tree-planting event in September.
- Solid Waste study investigating 4 day/4 zone rather than 5 day/5 zone garbage pickup.
- Staff training for Claxton landfill air curtain methane detection.
- \$600,000 to be spent on upgrading and rehabilitation existing sidewalks, and \$400,000 to be spent on building new sidewalks to improve and encourage walking as part of the Active Transportation Plan.
- Asphalt millings on portions of several gravel roads in the outlying areas of City limits.
- Development of internal corporate “Green Team” and reporting out as part of “Blue Dot” for the City.

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- Goal: Reduce Dust – Strategy: Mitigate dust in paved areas.
- Goal: Research, Education & Coordination – Strategies: Improve awareness of air quality issues and potential solutions, and Focus research on improving source and distribution of emissions within the airshed.
- Goal: Transportation: Encourage alternative transportation
- Goal: Reduce Wood Smoke – Strategies: Encourage clean-burning practices for backyard recreational fires, reduce incidences of illegal burning, and reduce open-burning emissions within the Prince George airshed.

What is your long-term plan to meet the 2016 goal?

- Continue to increase kms of bike lanes added as per Active Transportation Plan and Capital Budget approvals.
- Continue to Review and analyze our Operations (Transportation, Fleet (Fleet Champions), Civic Facilities, etc.)
- Continue research, education & awareness in community. Work with PGAir on education events and information sharing.
- Continue to specify in Fleet tenders that engines must meet the newest tier 4 emissions rating.
- Encourage carpooling networks.

- Interdepartmental meetings with air quality focus with regards to development referrals.
- Continue dust suppression on gravel roads.
- Regulate open burning, wood stoves and sweeping under the Clean Air Bylaw.

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- YES

If yes, please list the goal and/or strategy.

- Goal: Transportation: Encourage alternative transportation, reduce vehicle idling, encourage vehicle efficiency program such as E3 fleet,
- Goal: Reduce Dust – Strategy: Mitigate dust in paved areas and mitigate causes of dust in unpaved areas.
- Goal: Reduce Wood Smoke – Strategies: Encourage clean-burning practices for backyard recreational fires, reduce incidences of illegal burning, and reduce open-burning emissions within the Prince George airshed.
- Goal: Research, Education & Coordination – Strategies: Improve awareness of air quality issues and potential solutions, and Focus research on improving source and distribution of emissions within the airshed.

Please indicate your self-assessed progress during the past 6 months:

Low

Medium

High