

# Air Quality Briefing Note

**Date:** November 12th, 2019

**Issued by:** Sydney Raison, Environmental Technician

**Agency:** City of Prince George



## Description

Each member of PGAIR is requested to provide an annual update on implementation activities related to the 5-Year Strategic. City of Prince George's activities (existing and planned) pertaining to the 5-Year Strategic Plan in Prince George are provided below.

### 2016 - 2021 PM 2.5 Goal

- Strive towards meeting long-term annual fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) targets of 8 ug/m<sup>3</sup> (BC's Annual Air Quality Objective) and 5 ug/m<sup>3</sup>.

## Questions

### What have you done in the last 12 months?

- Participated in Emotive events to encourage EV growth in Prince George. These events included the Farmers market in June, Summerfest in July and Fallfest in September;
- Continued expansion and improvement of the Active Transportation Plan Network annually, which encourages a shift towards active modes of transportation;
- Fleet management by right sizing of vehicles; helps to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint – a council priority identified in COPG 2016-2018

Corporate plan; including assessment done by Fleet Carma to identify fleet vehicles that may be replaced by an electric option;

- \$600,000 spent on upgrading and rehabilitating existing sidewalks, and \$400,000 spent on building new sidewalks;
- Participate in Bike to Work week;
- EV Infrastructure project support with Community Energy Association;
- Free Fare for Clean Air – Free transit on Clean Air day and for cyclists on Bike to Work Week;
- Added a bike lane on North Nechako;
- Continue street sweeping to improve air quality;
  - Approximately one million dollars spent on winter traction clean up.
  - Send out reminder letters to contractors and large parking lot owners in town to educate on proper sweeping procedures to maintain air quality.
- Tree planting at TD - Tree Day; and,
- Changed out approximately 500 streetlights to LED throughout the City.

### **What are you planning to do in the next 12 months?**

- Continue to implement the Active Transportation Plan, including repairs and upgrades to existing trails to ensure their continued viability as part of the Active Transportation Network;
- Continue to partner with Emotive;
- Continue to implement policies on climate adaptation/ mitigation outlined in the City's Official Community Plan;
- Finalize Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plans that have air quality implications;
- Finalize Air Quality emissions inventory;
- Begin Stakeholder consultation for implementation of the BC Energy Step Code;
- City staff continues to use myPG Goals and OCP to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to climate change;
- City staff continues to identify opportunities for improvements to energy efficiency and are reviewing Energy + GHG Reduction and City Fleet Idling Policies;
- Transit program to continue improving passenger amenities (benches, shelters, accessibility of stops) to make passenger experiences better and attract more users;
- Formalize the designation of arterial bike lanes and deliver bike lane maps;
- Develop public education programs relating to air quality including road dust and traction materials;
- TD Tree Day tree-planting event in September.
- Invest approximately \$650,000 on upgrading and rehabilitating existing sidewalks, and \$175,000 on building new sidewalks
- Review relationship between Clean Air Bylaw and new provincial open burning regulations; and,
- Restructuring the Environmental Division and strategically planning work plans to preserve the environment and improve the community of today and into the future.

Does the action address a goal and/or strategy from the Strategic Plan 2016-2021?

- YES

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

- Goal: Reduce Dust – Strategy: Mitigate dust in paved areas and mitigate causes of dust in unpaved 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, reduce vehicle idling and encourage use of electric vehicles.
- 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 -2021 goal?**

- Continue to increase kilometers of bike lanes added as per Active Transportation Plan;
- Continue to review and analyze our Operations (Transportation, Fleet (Fleet Champions), Civic Facilities, etc) to maximize energy efficiency;
- Continue research, education & awareness in community by working with PGAir on educational events and information sharing;
- Interdepartmental meetings with air quality focus concerning development referrals;
- Continue dust suppression on gravel roads;
- Regulate open burning, wood stoves and sweeping under the Clean Air Bylaw;
- Implement recommendations in the wildfire mitigation action plan; and,
- Implement recommendations in the climate change mitigation and adaption action plans.

Does the action address a goal and/or strategy from the Strategic Plan 2016-2021?

- 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 12 months:**

Low

Medium

High