

# Air Quality Briefing Note

**Date:** November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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**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?

- Continued expansion and improvement of the Active Transportation Plan Network annually, which encourages a shift towards active modes of transportation;
- Continue to require sidewalks and pedestrian walkways in all new developments, and bike parking and proximity to public transit in multi-family developments to encourage alternative means of transportation;

- Fleet Services continues to phase out diesel light-duty fleet and replace with high-efficiency gasoline vehicles and/or hybrid or electric vehicles when applicable;
- Replaced natural gas Zamboni with electric Zamboni;
- Monitoring idling in fleet vehicles and working with employees to reduce idling;
- \$1,000,000 annual budget dedicated to upgrading and rehabilitating existing sidewalks, and building new sidewalks;
- Participated in Bike to Work week;
- Developing a Climate Action Strategy, which has involved consultation with many City departments on how actions can be implemented through their work plans;
- Administering Free Fare for Clean Air – Free transit on Clean Air day and for cyclists on Bike to Work Week;
- Implementing recommendations identified in Transit Future Plan to improve transit route efficiencies and encourage increased ridership;
- Updates made to enforcement timeline for mud tracking from private development, time has been reduced to 24 hours for developers to clean up mud and debris tracking from time of warning;
- Continued fine-tuning of street sweeping operations 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; 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 require sidewalks and pedestrian walkways in all new developments, and bike parking and proximity to public transit in multi-family developments to encourage alternative means of transportation;
- Continue to phase out diesel light-duty fleet and replace with high-efficiency gasoline vehicles and/or hybrid or electric vehicles when applicable;
- Continue monitoring idling in fleet vehicles and working with employees to reduce idling;
- Continue to enforce clean-up of mud and debris tracking onto City roads to reduce fugitive dust concerns on active building permits;
- Review procedures and bylaws related to mud and debris tracking and consider adding wording that would require steps to be taken prior to permit issuance to prevent the tracking of mud and debris onto City roads;
- Continue to expand cycling infrastructure and improve connections;
- Collaboration with Charge North and Community Energy Association to install 10 EV chargers at City facilities;
- Participate in PGAIR Strategic Planning Committee for next 5-year plan;
- Finalize Climate Action Strategy that has air quality implications;
- Release results of Updated Air Quality Emissions Inventory and identify opportunities for implementation into City operations;
- Replace 3 gasoline fleet vehicles with hybrid vehicles;

- Continue improving passenger amenities (benches, shelters, accessibility of stops, route efficiencies) to make passenger experiences better and attract more users;
- Invest dedicated \$1,000,000 annual budget to upgrading and rehabilitating existing sidewalks, and building new sidewalks;
- Prepare for the Provincial implementation of the BC Energy Step Code; and,
- Remove wildfire fuel from priority areas to reduce wildfire and wildfire smoke risk.

**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: Mitigate dust in paved areas and causes of fugitive dust in unpaved areas.
- **Goal:** Transportation: Encourage alternative transportation, reduce vehicle idling, and continue to transition fleet vehicles to more fuel efficient options as applicable.
- **Goal:** Reduce Wood Smoke: Encourage clean-burning practices for backyard recreational fires and indoor wood-burning appliances, reduce incidences of illegal burning through education and enforcement, and reduce overall wood 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

**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 City Operations (Transportation, Fleet, Civic Facilities, etc) to maximize energy efficiency and pursue funding opportunities to achieve this goal;
- Continue research, education and awareness in community by working with PGAir on educational events and information sharing;
- Continue dust suppression on gravel roads;
- Regulate open burning, fugitive dust and parking lot sweeping under the Clean Air Bylaw as applicable;
- Implement recommendations from the Wildfire Mitigation Action Plan; and,
- Implement recommendations from the Climate Action Strategy.