

# AIR QUALITY

## Improving air quality

### WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

Air pollution is a concern because of its effects on health, odours, and visibility. A variety of contaminants and sources affect air quality, as do geography and weather that hinder pollutant dispersion.

### WHY IS THIS ACTION IMPORTANT?

Many strategies to control air pollution dovetail with climate protection strategies, for example reducing vehicle emissions reduces GHGs and particulate matter that is bad for health.

Prince George's air quality has ranked among the worst of BC municipalities for many years, and has on occasion exceeded Federal and Provincial standards. The geography of the 'Bowl' combined with atmospheric thermal inversions can trap pollutants. Industrial sources, residential burning and transportation are major contributors to air pollution, as are some natural sources.

The perception of air quality has significant effects on where people choose to live, the attraction of business and the vibrancy of Prince George's downtown.

### WHAT MYPG GOALS ARE WE MEETING?

- **Green city, green practices**, helping Prince George be a city with healthy habitat and a strong environmental consciousness.
- Enabling citizens to enjoy **clean air**.
- **Reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change**

### HOW CAN THE CITY IMPLEMENT THIS ACTION?

The management of air quality in our City is shared by the municipality, Provincial Government and Federal Government. Each level of government has its own area that it can regulate, therefore a collaborative approach by all parties including those that contribute to air pollution has a stronger position to bring changes.

The City was an early member of the air management committee now known as the Prince George Air Improvement Roundtable Society (PGAIR). PGAIR is comprised of members from various industry, government, UNBC, public and NGOs that works towards improving air quality in our community. PGAIR is a consensus-based group that coordinates management actions through its plan to make positive reductions to air pollution. It also has research, air quality monitoring, and education and awareness programs to help inform and implement the plan.



OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

September 2010 – Priority Directions

## CITY IMPLEMENTATION CONT'D...

Policies that can be enacted through our OCP include:

- working with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George to identify new industrial lands outside of the Bowl area, and promote the use of best available technology in all new and existing industry.
- encouraging alternative modes of transportation by providing safe cycling and walking routes, public transit and car pooling.
- continuing to promote the exchange of older woodburning appliances to those meeting CSA/EPA standards for emissions.
- continuing to play an active role in PGAIR's education, monitoring and research programs.
- supporting PGAIR in the implementation of their Phase 3 air quality plan
- continuing to research the possibility of implementing a zero-net cost Air Care program.
- continuing to review and update the Clean Air Bylaw as technology improves.
- continuing to promote programs that achieve net benefits to air quality and climate change.
- implementing new strategies to reduce road dust impacts on air quality

## HOW WILL THIS AFFECT ME?

You will have better opportunities to use active transportation modes, enabling you to leave the car at home. Even if that's only a few days a month it will help.

You will also be supported in switching to EPA/CSA approved appliances which can greatly reduce the particulate levels emitted from burning.

In order to see real change in our community, every "source owner" including each individual will need to make reductions to see an overall impact.

### Share your thoughts and ideas.

Well developed policy directions will help Prince George meet its goals for a healthy future for all citizens.

- Would you add anything to this policy direction?
- Would you change or remove anything?

Contact us at [mypg@city.pg.bc.ca](mailto:mypg@city.pg.bc.ca)



*The City of Prince George is an active member of the Fraser Basin Council's E3 Fleet program, promoting an idle-free Prince George.*

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