



Port Alberni Air Quality Council

September 2015 Progress Report

Review of spring and summer initiatives 2015.

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Objective of the Council

The goal of the Port Alberni Air Quality Council is to promote health by working to ensure the cleanest possible air for the Alberni Basin and its inhabitants. This is achieved through a multi-stakeholder roundtable where members can learn from each other and work for collective action on air quality. The Air Quality Council is facilitated by a 'Chair' who convenes meetings, spearheads research, education, and public outreach, and helps support individual agencies to further action on air quality initiatives.

Highlights and Achievements

There is a lot to celebrate this year with the Air Quality Council (AQC) in full swing with active participation from six different agencies and eleven regular members plus a new Chair. This past spring and summer saw heightened awareness of the need for air quality protection in Port Alberni among the new city council and saw significant discussion at City Hall about the impacts of backyard burning on air quality and health. Conversation eventually led to a city motion to implement a complete ban on backyard burning within the city of Port Alberni effective April 2016. Further to this, the Fire Protection Bylaw was updated to enable the Fire Department to leverage fines for people who are burning illegally.

In conjunction with the education at City Hall in the past several months, the Air Quality Council actively supported the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District in promotion of the Woodstove Exchange Program resulting in 22 stoves being replaced for new, low emission stoves. The AQC has a good working relationship with the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District where ideas are exchanged and collaboration a regular occurrence.

Further to this, the AQC provided input on two different industrial projects that have been under consideration and came to the public in this past year: the District Energy System and the proposed Biochar Facility.

Future Directions/Next Steps

Following up from the work of the past quarter, the planned directions for the upcoming Fall and Winter include continued promotion of the Woodstove Exchange program, education around backyard burning, and structural organization around reporting out air quality advisories.

To kick off the fall and launch the re-instated Woodstove Exchange Program the AQC will coordinate public education of the program at the Fall Fair in conjunction with the ACRD. Further to that the AQC will continue to engage the public in education and awareness building and will provide support for the

application, by the ACRD, for additional funds to continue the program for another year.

Throughout the winter work will continue with the Firehall and agencies within the City of Port Alberni to better communicate air advisories and days of poor air quality for the sake of awareness and for the health of valley residents, in particular the elderly, children, and those with compromised immune systems.

Finally, in the lead up to the 2016 ban on backyard burning in the City of Port Alberni the AQC will undertake public education around backyard burning, promote the City of Port Alberni's upcoming ban, and work to extend regulation into the wider regional district.

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

In order to provide a means of quantitatively tracking progress on objectives the following monitoring and evaluation table has been established. The table is based on the 6 core goals of the Air Quality Council and tracks ten core indicators which will hopefully be tracked as time progresses.

Port Alberni Air Quality Council					
Manager or Staff Responsible: Council Chair					
Mission: To promote health by working to ensure the cleanest possible air for the Alberni Basin and its inhabitants					
Project Objective	Performance measure	Baseline measure (May – August 2015)	period 1 (Sept-dec)	period 2 (Jan - April)	Period 3 (May-August)
Increase stakeholder engagement in air quality protection	number of agencies represented on (and actively participating with) the council.	6			
	number of citizens who attended at least one meeting or event (if applicable) of the AQC in the given period.	14			
Public Education	number of news articles (paper and tv) in the given period.	5			
	Number of public events where Air Quality was actively promoted.	0			
Encourage clean air lifestyles and business practices	number of times the AQC was consulted or had a meeting to discuss mitigating air quality impacts.	3			
Integrate air quality policies into local government policies	number of local government policies pertaining to air quality.	3			
	Number of amendments made to strengthen air quality bylaws.	1			
Ensure comprehensive monitoring	number of monitoring projects/sites	1			
Improved Air Quality	number of air advisory days	4			
	Annual average PM2.5 as recorded at Alberni Elementary School	8.1 µg/m ³			
Data Source	Chair AQC (1,2,3), City of Port Alberni and ACRD (4), Ministry of Environment (5,6)				
Data Collection Frequency	3 times per year				
Data Collection methods	Survey				
Parties Involved					
Documentation format	Data will be collected and input into the above table. A one page document will highlight particular points of interest, successes, and challenges and be made available to the AQC and AQC funders.				
Results: Storage location, communication plan, access	Data will be posted in the AQC meeting minutes on the ACRD website and stored on the computer of the Chair of the AQC.				
* Over the 4 month period					
Where numbers have fluctuated over the 4 months an average will be taken.					

Income and Expenditures

Income 2015	
<i>January – April 2015 (2014 fiscal funds)</i>	
Ministry of Environment	\$5,000.00
<i>2015</i>	
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District	\$5,000.00
<i>Anticipated 2015 fiscal funds</i>	
Ministry of Environment	\$5,000.00
Expenses	
Chair (Jan-Apr 2015)	\$2,500.00
Chair (May-Aug 2015)	\$500.00
Chair (Sept 2015 – April 2016)	\$12,000.00