

Air Quality Improvement Plan

HPBAC's Three Pillar Plan, Supported by Local Industry

(Presented to council in 2021)

1. Sustainable, dry and seasoned wood supply for clean burning
2. General and targeted residential exchange program
3. Comprehensive public education program

Courtenay Proposals for Nuisance Bylaws Related to Wood Burning

(Implementation proposed / 1st, 2nd, 3rd reading of bylaws on Sep 26/2022)

1. Status Quo: no additional staffing costs, current bylaw officers respond in priority sequence and investigate based on resources
2. Hire 1 PT Seasonal Bylaw Enforcement Officer
Annual Cost: \$121,250 Total for 1st Year (includes one-time fees): \$145,975
3. Hire 2 FT Year-Round Bylaw Enforcement Officers (with second vehicle)
Annual Cost: \$191,000 Total for 1st Year (includes one-time fees): \$215,725

Issue	Residents Using Uncertified Stoves	Residents Who Don't Burn Properly	Improving Local Air Quality	Limited Access to Proper Fuel
Goal	Transition those households to certified, cleaner-burning appliances	Educate and encourage residents to follow safe burning practices.	Measurable improvement in local air quality and emissions levels.	Support residents who rely on wood heat by providing better access to proper fuel.
Courtenay Nuisance Bylaws	Bylaw officer will issue tickets (leniency for designated low income residents). Likely to prolong issue; residents who can't afford a certified stove without assistance will be left behind.	No mention of education or training in current proposal, only considers enforcement. Offers nothing in terms of advising residents on how to burn better so they don't continue to receive tickets.	Assumes ticketing and enforcement will translate into better AQ without changes to appliances or burning behaviour.	No mention of addressing access to proper fuel.
Industry's Three Pillar Plan	Targeted Wood Stove Exchange Program: the CVRD's current exchange program only offers heat pumps as a replacement for wood stoves. By working with industry to identify which households are using uncertified stoves, and allowing residents to replace those stoves with certified ones, we will have a better opportunity to replace uncertified appliances while ensuring residents aren't forced to sacrifice their access to affordable heating and emergency heat source.	Industry experts are the best educators when it comes to teaching safe burning. Councillors have previously acknowledged effectiveness of proper burning workshops hosted by local industry members. Events are typically sponsored by local businesses and brought together thanks to significant in-kind contributions. NO additional cost to City of Courtenay or RD. Providing better access to properly seasoned fuel will also support and encourage proper burning practices.	Other communities in the Georgia Strait Air Zone and across BC have implemented wood stove exchange programs as a key feature in their air quality improvement strategy, including areas who's AQ was worse than that documented in Courtenay (e.g. Port Alberni, 2019 Georgia Strait Air Zone Report). Equipping residents with the right appliances, proper fuel, and safe burning know-how has been shown to improve air quality throughout the province, and across the country.	Local industry proposed a dry, seasoned wood lot so that residents would have access to proper fuel, at no additional cost to City of Courtenay or RD. Better access to proper fuel will decrease the likelihood that residents will burn wet wood/garbage.