

**Okanagan Similkameen Airshed Coalition
Conference Notes
October 29, 2009**

Speaker #1

Glen Okrainetz, Director of Air Quality
Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport
Health Protection Branch

Discussed:

- Why we do Airshed Management planning
- The affects on all of us and the value of working together
- Ministries roles
 - 2008 Air Action Plan (28 million over 3 years)
 - Small grants, idle free youth ambassadors and Scrap It program successes
- Industry:
 - 2016 Bee Hive burners will not be able to operate
 - Regional Growth Strategies to address Air Quality issues
- Private Sector:
 - Many are going above and beyond – Need to recognize and reward them

Speaker #2

Ralph Adams, Air Quality Meteorologist, MoE
Air Quality: Particulate Matter & Ground Level Ozone

Discussed:

- Two most important particulates (smoke & dust)
- Smoke the most serious pollutant of the two
- Where they have monitored for smoke and dust
- What are the causes and why there is more dust in certain areas
- What management practices need to change.

Speaker #3

Dr. Paul Hasselback, Medical Health Officer
B.C. Interior Health Authority
Effect of Air Quality on Human Health & Air Quality Health Index

Discussed:

- Exposure of pollutants (i.e. diesel)
- Mean level of concentration –long and short term impacts

Speaker #4

Ingrid Liepa BES, LLB
Climate Change & Air Quality Consultant
Air Quality Management with Climate Change Synergies

Discussed:

- Regional Growth Strategies need to be addressed and set up
- Need to reduce energy demand (efficiency)
- Air Quality & Climate Change co-benefits
- Toolkits on Climate Action for local government
- Carbon Offsets (market & partnerships)

Speaker #5

Alison Campbell-Urness

Thompson Okanagan Citizens' Conservation Council on Climate Action

Discussed:

One of seven regional councils: , includes the following communities; Armstrong, Ashcroft, Cache Creek, Golden, Kamloops, Kelowna, Keremeos, Lake Country, Lillooet, Lytton, Merritt, Oliver, Osoyoos, Penticton, Princeton, Revelstoke, Salmon Arm, Vernon

Citizens' Conservation Council on Climate Action Mandate

- To engage in regional and community dialogues with local citizens that will identify challenges and opportunities for personal actions to reduce GHGs;
- To undertake regionally relevant and community-based outreach initiatives that will educate and inform citizens to understand more about the challenges of global warming presents and steps they can take to reduce their own carbon footprints;
- To partner with local organizations including businesses, government, non-profits, educational institutions to coordinate efforts that will leverage and enhance regional efforts to reduce GHGs;
- To provide advice to the Cabinet Committee on Climate Action on provincial programs and policies that encourage regionally – relevant individual behaviour change to reduce GHGs;

Actions: Social Marketing; Using traditional marketing strategies to educate and bring about behaviour changes.

Speaker #6

Kim Flick, Manager of Planning and Building Services

City of Vernon

Planning and Air Quality

Discussed:

- Official Community Plan process within the community
- Challenges (transportation, parking, development).
- Sticking to the vision, utilizing best practices from other communities
- Identification of nodes to address transportation and other service requirements
- Utilization of Smart Growth checklist

Speaker #7

Regional Air Quality Presentations

RDNO, RDCO, RDOS

Each discussed:

- What they have done in their communities, (programs, education etc.).
- What they have done regionally, (MoU, Scrap it program etc.)
- What the benefits are in implementing alternatives to status quo, (burning orchards, cycle lanes etc.)

Speaker #8

Ingrid Liepa BES, LLB

Okanagan Similkameen Valley Wide Plan:

Climate Change & Air Quality Consultant

Discussion:

- Vision for a Valley-Wide Plan
 - Ensuring all individuals have access to similar air quality
 - Adopting the highest standards currently in place
 - 71 actions, initiatives identified in current regional district AQMPs
 - 54 are already being implemented by one or more regional districts
- Highest standards/best practices has been identified in VWP

Speaker #9

Ralph Adams, Air Quality Meteorologist, MoE

Air Emission Inventories & Regulations

Discussion:

- What are Emission Inventories?
 - A process that combines a variety of information from numerous sources
 - Data is put into the emission inventory
 - Data is extracted
- Process takes a lot of time, need more accurate data

Questions

What is the provincial government's role Air Care-Regulations-Enforcement?

Answer:

Current AC scheduled for review in 2009. Chair of review committee has broken it into two phases.

1. Examine extending AC from the current boundaries, voluntary testing. Should it continue?
2. AC Inspection Maintenance program has local support. Self-funding program.

Volume testing still a concern – No enforcement

Smoking car hotline is still available.

Does the largest amount of smoke come from industry?

Answer:

Largest amount of smoke does not come from industry. Smaller communities' wood stove, out door burners, open air burning contributes more.

Why is there more road dust from road traction materials? (Vernon-Merritt)

Answer:

One reason can be magnesium chloride; however, one would have to look at the management of the materials.

Ozone measuring – What about diesel? – Carbon dioxide? Is that measure not included?

Answer:

Carbon is 79% of the air. Carbon is a waste product something each of us generates.

What do you feel about prescription burning?

Answer: It is a better solution than a forest fire, however still needs to be discussion.

Statement: That is was difficult to get materials to support the Green Building Code.

What air impacts are there with container burners?

Answer: Need proper operator, there is an impact on soil as heat sterilizes the soil for a period of time. There has to be enough wood waste to support it and some feel that it is dangerous because of the amount of sparks

What about forestry burns?

Answer: There are issues for the Valley bottom, smoke lingering in some areas.

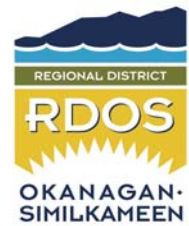
What can be done regarding roads/dust?

Answer: There are best management practices for road dust available. Utilize these best practices when contracting for road management as source of material can increase dust.

We have a wood boiler problem, what can we do?

Answer: Regional District and Municipal Bylaws can suggest not installing wood boilers except CSA415 or its equivalent.

SEE EVALUATION NEXT PAGE



Okanagan Similkameen Airshed Coalition (OSAC) Conference
Capri Hotel, Kelowna, B.C.
October 29, 2009
Summary

There were 50 people in attendance and 24 completed an evaluation sheet.

SPEAKERS

Agency	Name	Topic	1	2	3	4
Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport	Glen Okrainetz, Director of Air Quality, Health Protection Branch	Action on Air Quality – Provincial Policies & Initiatives	75%			
Ministry of Environment	Ralph Adams, Air Quality Meteorologist,	Air Quality: Particulate Matter & ground level Ozone	100%			
B.C. Interior Health Authority	Dr. Paul Hasselback, Medical Health Officer	Effect of Air Quality on Human Health & Air Quality	100%			
Climate Change & Air Quality Consultant	Ingrid Liepa, BES, LLB	Air Quality Management with Climate Change Synergies	100%			
Thompson Okanagan Citizens' Conservation Council	Alison Campbell-Urness	Climate Action	75%			
Manager of Planning & Building Services, City of Vernon	Kim Flick	Planning and Air Quality	87%			
Regional Air Quality Presentation	Nicole Marzinzik	Air Quality Coordinator RDNO	100%			
	Jerry Dombowsky	City of Kelowna, Regional Programs Manager RDCO				
	Janice Johnson	Air Quality Coordinator RDOS				
Climate Change & Air Quality Consultant	Ingrid Liepa, BES, LLB	Okanagan-Similkameen Valley Wide Plan	100%			
Ministry of Environment	Ralph Adams, Air Quality Meteorologist,	Air Emission Inventories & Regulations	100%			
CONFERENCE EVALUATION			1	2	3	4
The conference met expectations			100%			
Adequate time for discussion			87%			
Adequate time for each session			87%			

Future Topics:

Next page

Highest Air Quality Priorities:

Further Comments:

Future Topics:

How to incorporate all this information into our OCP's
Incentives for implementing G.B.C. Making green affordable/less repetitive topics
Asphalt plants: reducing emissions
More about how to encourage compact growth and density development in rural municipalities
Send out info ahead of time (to learn basics)
Deliver topics in parts for groups (more interaction on each topic)
Explain fully all the problem emissions and their effects
Dedicated to solutions for communities to deal with those problem emissions
Valleywide Transportation
A session on social marketing specifically
Land use planning/RGS/OCP's etc.

Highest Air Quality Priorities:

Reducing smoke in Keremeos
Incorporating long-term environmental planning into long-term OCP
Particulate matter
Require forest and Ag. burning to adhere to Air Quality and Venting Index
Continue chipping program
More research on emission inventory
Health and economic impacts
Reduce reliance on cars – provide alternatives
Research on ozone generators in our area to determine what action can be taken

Further Comments:

Suggest ½-day workshop as OBWB did
Excellent time keeping
More comfortable chairs with armrests
Serve Okanagan apples and pears for snack time
Great Workshop
Would be interesting to meet in a year to see what has transpired
Don't expect leadership...(Glen O.)
Please ask those that want to talk at table to take conversation outside of room
Why do we feel seminars have to cram every minute with presenters and allow so little time for exchange of thoughts and initiatives between the participants.
There is a lot to be gained by good ideas being discussed between the participants and the presenters
More time for discussion.
More time required after each speaker to allow for questions
Panel session was good.
It would be helpful to have a method of communicating your info to residents.
It is always good to inform this public about successes/failures/goals and objectives.
Stop bbq's from smoking and tail pipe emissions
Excellent facilitation by Alan
Too many talking heads and powerpoints
More interaction e.g. small group visioning or brainstorming
Each topic could be so much more in depth.
Education is key to moving people's awareness of problems with open burning and using old style wood burners.