Biannual Briefing Note

Date: September 2, 2016

Issued by: **Andrea Byrne, Environmental Assistant**

Agency: **City of Prince George**

Description

Each member of PGAIR is requested to provide a biannual update on implementation activities related to the Phase III Plan. Please identify your agency's relevant activities (existing and planned) in the template provided. The information from these reports will be posted on the PGAIR website.

2016 PM 2.5 Goal

- A 40% reduction from all significant sources;
- A daily average not to exceed 25 micrograms per cubic meter of air; and
- An annual average of 5 micrograms per cubic meter of air.

Questions

What have you done in the last 6 months?

- Provide a spring clean-up event that includes a yard waste bin for the public to discourage burning of yard waste.
- Use of new asphalt reclaimer plant which uses hot mix, and will reduce the need to refill potholes and reduce vehicle and plant emissions.
- Submitted Report to Council about electric car.
- Early street sweeping in downtown and arterials.
- GPS introduced in all City Fleet to allow for trip efficiencies and driver awareness.
- Free fare for Clean Air – Free Transit on Air Advisory days.
- In process of remarking 100 kms of Bike Lanes in the City boundaries.
- Bike laning one leg of North Nechako Rd, and a section of Foothills Boulevard (Implementation of Active Transportation Plan)
- Securement of funding from BikeBC as part of Capital Plan for the implementation of bike racks and routes.
- Environmental Assistant works closely with PGAir on dust and wood smoke issues.
- Hired new Transit Planner who is working on Active Transportation Plan.
- Replacement of City fleet at shorter intervals which provides for new technology and energy efficiency.

- Continued Memorandum of Understanding for another 4 years for use of electric car, Nissan Leaf, with City of PG, UNBC, Northern Health and Fraser-Fort George Regional District.
- Media Release and mailed letters to remind parking lot owners to practice dust mitigation when sweeping and to use proper dust suppression methods in early March 2016.
- Capital Projects – Air Quality monitoring and pollution controls at Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Shared PGAIRs dust video through City's social media page.
- Hooked up Law Courts and Plaza 400 building to the City's District Energy System – this eliminates the need for fossil fuels for domestic hot water and heating in these buildings.

Does the action address a goal and/or strategy from the Phase III Plan?

- YES

If yes, please list the goal and/or strategy.

- Goal: Reduce Dust – Strategy: Mitigate dust in paved areas.
- 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.
- Goal: Transportation - Encourage alternative transportation

What are you planning to do in the next 6 months?

- Work in partnership with DBIA and the Downtown Clean Team to align downtown cleaning efforts and timing with street sweepers in the Downtown.
- Continue to specify in Fleet tenders that engines must meet the newest tier 4 emission rating.
- Formalize the designation of arterial bike lanes and produce bike lanes maps.
- Develop public education programs about air quality.
- Prepare Report to Council on Air Quality Updates.
- Planting trees throughout the Prince George bowl area.
- Solid Waste study investigating 4 day/4 zone rather than 5 day/5 zone garbage pickup.
- $500,000 will be spent on upgrading and building new sidewalks to improve and encourage walking as part of the Active Transportation Plan.
- Asphalt millings on portions of several gravel roads in the outlying areas of City limits.

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- Goal: Reduce Dust – Strategy: Mitigate dust in paved areas.
- 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.
- Goal: Transportation: Encourage alternative transportation

- Goal: Reduce Wood Smoke – Strategies: Encourage clean-burning practices for backyard recreational fires, reduce incidences of illegal burning, and reduce open-burning emissions within the Prince George airshed.

What is your long-term plan to meet the 2016 goal?

- Continue to increase kms of bike lanes added as per Active Transportation Plan and Capital Budget approvals.
- Continue to Review and analyze our Operations (Transportation, Fleet (E3), Civic Facilities, etc.)
- Continue research, education & awareness in community. Work with PGAir on education events and information sharing.
- Continue to specify in Fleet tenders that engines must meet the newest tier 4 emissions rating.
- Encourage carpooling networks.
- Interdepartmental meetings with air quality focus with regards to development referrals.
- Continue dust suppression on gravel roads.
- Regulate open burning, wood stoves and sweeping under the Clean Air Bylaw.

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- YES

If yes, please list the goal and/or strategy.

- Goal: Transportation: Encourage alternative transportation, reduce vehicle idling, encourage vehicle efficiency program such as E3 fleet,
- Goal: Reduce Dust – Strategy: Mitigate dust in paved areas and mitigate causes of dust in unpaved areas.
- Goal: Reduce Wood Smoke – Strategies: Encourage clean-burning practices for backyard recreational fires, reduce incidences of illegal burning, and reduce open-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.

Please indicate your self-assessed progress during the past 6 months:

Low **Medium** High