

Draft Vision

The Comox Valley has clean air that supports the health of all residents.

Currently, the Comox Valley experiences recurring periods of poor air quality that negatively affect the health of our communities. Achieving this vision is complex and will require coordinated efforts from several governments, organizations, industry, and community members. Our actions need to be effective in order to continually improve air quality, with an initial focus on reducing fine particulate matter – the air pollutant of greatest concern to the health of our Comox Valley communities.

Do you support the vision statement?

Any outstanding concerns?

Yes

yes but still unrealistic given global / climate / fire. Needs the global context referenced.

I like it!

No

add the word members after community.

test

I like "working together to ensure healthy, clean air"

were do schools fit in? should agencies be added?

yes

no

global climate context

yes

No

No

Yes, I support this vision. No outstanding concerns!

yes

climate change link to AQ

no additional comments on the draft atatement

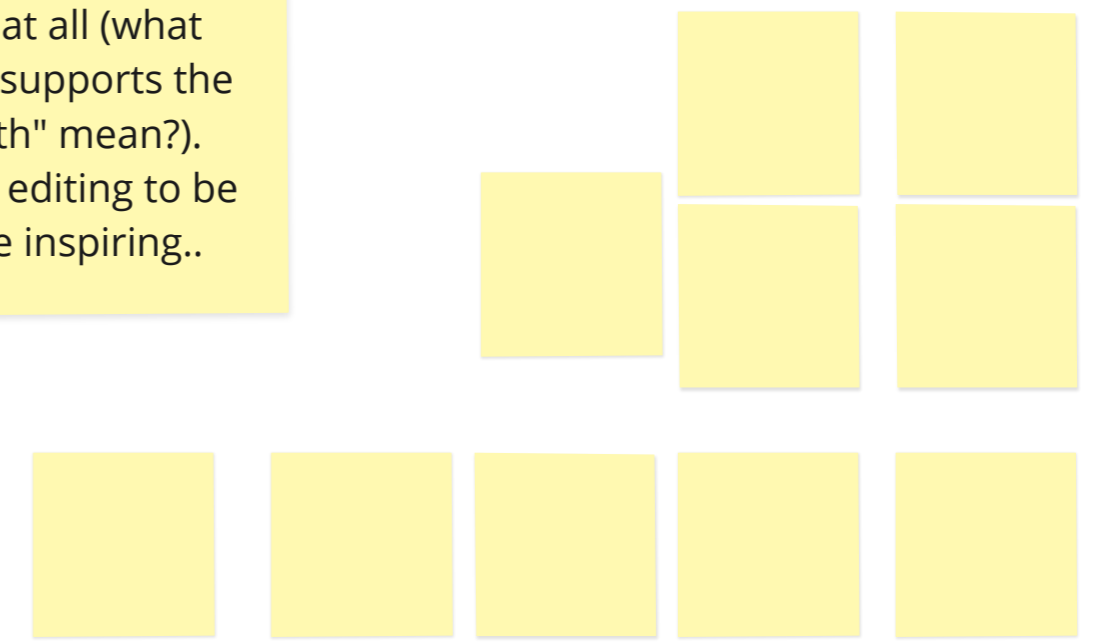
no

In the longer part, add "communities and neighbourhoods in" before "the Comox Valley". Not all parts of the Valley experience poor air equally -- we need to recognize that.

And replace "communities" at end of the sentence with "residents". And at very end, replace "communities" with "citizens." We need to be clear this is all about protecting actual people, not the more abstract "communities"

Metro vancouver has a good one. Metro "Is carbon neutral region where residents experience healthy, clean and clear air." Really unclear what "supports the health" of residents even means. Central OK is good as it highlights the timing of the vision - current "Clean and healthy air for current and future generations."

Statements should be inspiring. This isn't at all (what does "supports the health" mean?). Needs editing to be more inspiring..



Principles

Health protection: Air pollution disproportionately affects some members of our community. We will work together to ensure the best air possible for all residents in all areas of the valley, focusing on protecting the health of our most vulnerable.

Minimizing contributions to climate change: We recognize the urgency of climate change and its potential effects on the health and well-being of our residents. We also recognize that air pollution and climate change are closely linked. Therefore, our efforts to minimize air pollution will simultaneously minimize greenhouse gas emissions where applicable.

Accessible: Reducing emissions may involve actions or investments that are not accessible to everyone. We will work to identify ways to improve access to options that help clean our air.

Innovative and evidence-based approaches: Our efforts will be based on the best available science, evidence and practices, and we will build on this information to test innovative approaches to achieve our vision.

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Do you support the principles?

Any outstanding concerns?

yes this is good

Need more

They are okay except in the Accessible one get rid of "to identify ways". Should be doing more than just "identifying"!

helath protection - feel is should say Air pollution affects all residents, some more than others.

they are good

yes

yes

YEs. But stronger climate principle.

We should be more explicit about moving away from carbon based heat sources, in the "minimizing contributions to climate change" section.

Air pollution effects us all whether we realize it or not. The health protection statement, makes it appear like we cleaning up the air for the benefit of "some" people.

yes but strengthen climate principle

no further comments on draft principles

no

Need to add 2:
"Transparent and accountable: We will ensure our plans and activites are accessible to the public and we will report regularly on our progress" and
"Monitor, evaluation, learn: We will monitor and evaluate the implementation of the strategy and learn from our experiences in order to improve our approach."

Draft Goals

Goal 1
Achieve measurable reductions in fine particulate matter levels to protect public health.

Feedback on Goal 1
Great! This is essential to improving air quality



Goal 1A
1A. Reduce emissions from existing solid fuel burning domestic appliances
- OR: Reduce emissions from existing wood stoves and pellet stoves

Feedback on Goal 1A
better wording is reduce or eliminate emissions from....
I prefer a statement that specifies the appliance type, so it is clear that we are referring to wood stoves
Wood stoves and pellet is clearer to people.
I prefer the simpilar language
solid burning could be more clearly defined for public consumption
like alternate wording better- easier for public to understand
agree
simplified wording is more understandable
Need better access to quality dry seasoned wood



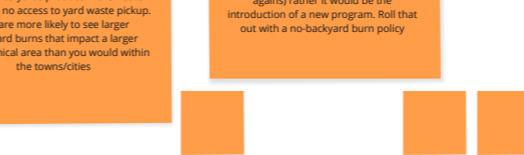
Goal 1B
1B. Transition away from using solid fuel burning domestic appliances for heating, prioritizing core settlement areas
- OR: Transition away from using wood stoves and pellet stoves, prioritizing core settlement areas

Feedback on Goal 1B
like alternate wording better
I'm concerned with the focus on "core settlement areas". The rural settlement areas are greatly impacted by wood smoke from woodstoves, as they are more common where we do not have access to natural gas.
Concerned that "core settlement areas" does not capture rural neighbourhoods on 1-2 acre properties where yard waste burning is a huge issue for neighbours and people passing through. These must be captured by the definition.
simplified wording is easier to understand



Goal 1C
1C. Eliminate burning of yard waste, prioritizing core settlement areas

Feedback on Goal 1C
I like this!
do we need to make reference to recreational burning as well?
politically, campfires might be difficult
there is no "need" to burn yard waste (like keeping your home warm) This needs to be supported by yard waste pick up programs
this can only occur in areas that have bylaws, fire response and enforcement capacity
need to provide alternatives for people to do this
Concerned that "core settlement areas" does not capture rural neighbourhoods on 1-2 acre properties where yard waste burning is a huge issue for neighbours and people passing through. These must be captured by the definition.
As rural properties currently do not have any yard waste or options for it, this might be an area where the regional district could step in with an introduction of a new service. We would not be asked whether we support a change to our yard waste pickup (like we were with the garbage/recycling pickup that was voted against) rather it would be the introduction of a new program. Roll that out with a no-backyard burn policy
providing alternative to open burning



Goal 1D
1D. Promote and advocate for alternatives to non-residential open burning

Feedback on Goal 1D
likely need to explain what this is (timber etc)
Alternatives have to be financially viable for land owners. Carrot, not the stick.
This is a much easier type of burning to reduce. If there is yard waste pick up there is no need to burn.



Goal 1E
1E. Reduce emissions from the transportation system, focusing on sources of fine particulate matter

Feedback on Goal 1E
feel like this item is very under developed
Link this into active transportation programs and initiatives
role of urban planning and green space on improved AQ



Goal 2

Effectively coordinate our efforts.

Feedback on

Specify who//which groups we are trying to coordinate

add another sub goal:
Monitor and evaluate annually and update strategy every five years.

Add sub goal
Keep public informed of activities and progress

Coordination is not enough - need accountability, monitoring and evaluation, etc. This has to be a stated goal of any strategy.

this feels like such a generalized statement, not really "goal worthy" - should be embedded in the vision



Goal 2A

2A. Build partnerships and align efforts across participating organizations

again, feels like this should be embedded in the over all vision

i like the idea of providing examples of possible partnerships

the Community Health Network has a goal of health environment

academic and government reseach



Goal 2B

2B. Continually expand our knowledge of local pollution sources and impacts to inform our efforts

Feedback on Goal 2B

Agree education is key

this could easily be part of the education statement

Use of signs like burning hazard for air quality - and update when air quality decreases. Easy start to public education. Opps - this under education Goial 3B



Goal 3

Educate and involve the community in understanding and reducing the impacts of air pollution on health

Feedback on Goal 3

The intent is good, but when it comes to implementation, it overlaps with all other goals. Education of general public is vague - it will be linked to implementation of things like eliminating yard waste, reducing wood stove use, etc.

need to connect to climate change (contributing to and resulting from)

need to do a "report card" of where we are at regular intervals

what about understanding the source? this needs to be included in this statement as it is referred to in sub goals

new knowledge and citizen science

Goal 3A

3A. Build a better understanding of the connection between air quality and health

Feedback on Goal 3A

Public billboard Air Quality Health Index

Goal 3B

3B. Engage the community with information and resources to reduce air pollution

Feedback on Goal 3B

citizen science can play a role here

opportunities for engagement

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Data / Research

Goal 1A: Reduce wood stove smoke

1A.1 Collect and maintain data on number of wood stoves operating / type of wood stoves, etc.

Feedback on Action 1A.1

- It will be important to also collect WOH people typically burn
- Yes, type and age of woodstove. Where do they get their wood?
- Do they have alternative heating in their home?
- How is baseline impacts from wood stoves determined? Need to know to show decrease.
- Find out if the stove is used as a primary heat source, or a secondary heat source.
- For all data collected / suggest all try to use accessible, simple language.

Goal 1B: Phase out wood stoves

1B.1 Conduct assessment on societal costs of woodstove smoke

1B.2 Collect, review and publish data comparing space heating and cooling options (PM2.5 emissions, climate impacts, costs)

Feedback on Action 1B.1

- Identify specific metrics to the Census table and perhaps broader from there
- get health data and hospital admissions, meds dispensations etc and report back annually

Feedback on Action 1B.2

- A focus on local social costs. Broad Canadian or global stats can result in people tuning out
- Consider data that has not been collected or is available. Is there anything we want to know about that is not typically collected?

Education (specific to goal)

1A.2 Develop targeted strategies to roll out cleaner burning education

Feedback on Action 1A.2

- get the data to demonstrate that this is a problem. If things don't immediately and directly impact a person, they may not realize that it is a problem.
- Develop targeted strategies to roll out burning education with a clear health education component. Have to include health in all outreach design. Do not use "cleaner" implies burning can be clean - it can't. Consider "safer" instead.
- Clean burning education is already provided by the CWB2 wildfire reduction program. Seems like this could be a duplication of efforts.
- Reduce education going into communities for some reasons are with high level of need. This can be done through various ways in your local communities. Consider how to best reach them.

No actions developed so far, please add your thoughts!

Suggested wording for education for 1b: "develop outreach campaign based on outcomes of 1B2. Include health education".

Programs / Incentives

No actions developed so far, please add your thoughts!

1B.3 Expand, continue and update financial support program to remove wood stoves

Act 1B.3

- Incentives for Solar panels? Rural property owners will want to hold onto woodstove for times of power outage or to reduce hydro costs. Panels could offset cost of furnace or baseboard heaters that they have already but don't use due to cost.
- Heat pumps have a limited life, 10-15 years. They are not an affordable alternative
- look into options for micro-loans or low-interest loans for lower income households to complete upgrades
- We could provide targeted advertising for this program to those with a woodstove. Perhaps we can offer coupons in addition to rebates?
- For Goal 1B: Edit what is there. Replace "update" with "increase" and add at end "including rebates and different loan options." We need to include loans and we need much larger rebates if people are going to change over. This action is too weak and doesn't provide enough direction.
- This should not be limited to just heat pumps, natural gas heating is a viable alternative as well.

Regulation / Advocacy

1A.4 Identify, evaluate and update local bylaws, including:

- Registration of all existing wood stoves
- Plume visibility limits including education
- Ban burning during poor air quality
- Complaint mechanism and enforcement

Can we assume "local bylaws" encompasses all Census Valley governments or do we need to identify this. How does this encompass and impact our Indigenous population

Add to list:

- allowable fuels (critical to local enforcement of measures of burning garbage, etc).
- end use of uncertified stoves, except in emergencies (if they are truly so much worse than certified stoves, why allow their use at all?)
- establish a maintenance bylaw requiring annual cleaning and maintenance of burning devices
- A complaint mechanism to address individual nuisance burners would be great!

1B.4 Develop local bylaws to phase out use of wood stoves in core settlement areas, consider:

- Municipal authority to trigger requirement and enforcement
- Disincentives approach (e.g. Australia)

Feedback on Action 1B.4

- Add in, after stoves "except in emergencies... This is one of the most common concerns raised so we can be upfront that people will be able to use during these times - it will help reduce opposition, better to proactively address this concern"
- Add new action: "Advocate for electrical rates that make the cleanest heat available more affordable." Affordability is seen as biggest barrier to change - so need to collectively push for reduced rates for cleanest form of heat. (e.g. get rid of 2 tier rate structure)

Partnerships

No actions developed so far, please add your thoughts!

Partner with local retailers, chimney sweeps and wood sellers to help increase target audience awareness of burning practices and relevant bylaws

No actions developed so far, please add your thoughts!

- Seek partnerships with non-wood heating companies.
- Move 3.7 here! "Align and coordinate with the provincial CleanBC program"

Goal 1c: Eliminate yard waste burning

Goal 1d: Alternatives to open burning

Data / Research

1C.1 Identify needs for debris disposal for all areas

Feedback on Action 1C.1

1D.1 Identify and assess sources and quantity of material that could be diverted to compost facilities

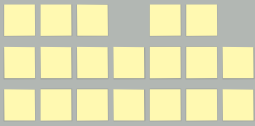
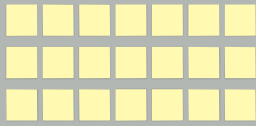
1D.2 Research fuel abatement opportunities for non-harvested lands and communicate results (e.g. parks)

Feedback on Action 1D.1

HOW to do this is another big question

Feedback on Action 1D.2

Can this action be stated in more simple language?



Education (specific to goal)

1C.2 Provide outreach on composting, chipping and other alternatives to burning

Feedback on Action 1C.2

Can we provide a different word for 'outreach' or perhaps an example to further define what outreach is or means?

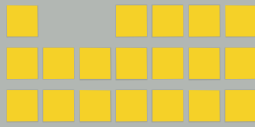
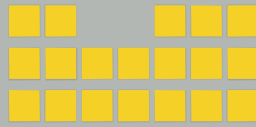
Include health component.

1D.3 Build understanding of holistic nature of issue and complexities, raise awareness of industry best practices

Feedback on Action 1D.3

Perhaps replace the word 'issue' with a couple of words such as 'good air quality' to reinforce the topic

Understanding of whom? Also, not clear what 'holistic nature of issue' means so hard to comment.



Programs / Incentives

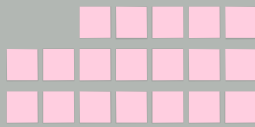
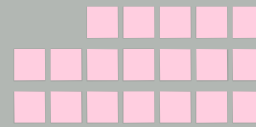
1C.3 Expand current chipping program to include smoke control mandate

Feedback on Action 1C.3

Great as it reads

Add:
- eliminate tipping fees at dump for yard waste (if they exist?)
- continue to explore pick up options

No actions developed so far, please add your thoughts!



Regulation / Advocacy

1C.4 Review local bylaws, identify opportunities to update and align across the region

Feedback on Action 1C.4

This seems very weak! If goal is to eliminate, why isn't this more clearly about developing bylaws to eliminate burning across the region?

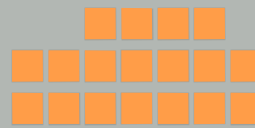
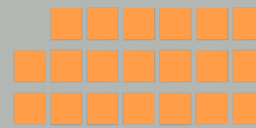
1D.4 Assess biomass market development opportunity

Feedback on Action 1D.4

for non burning market development options only

Do not support this if it includes biomass products that will be burned. That just exports the pollution to elsewhere. Not appropriate!

Is there further action and we have explored this?



Partnerships

No actions developed so far, please add your thoughts!

No actions developed so far, please add your thoughts!



Goal 2: Coordination

Goal 3: Awareness and Engagement

Data / Research

2.1 Expand air monitoring network and conduct ongoing data analysis

2.2 Establish academic partnerships, including identifying projects and providing seed funding

2.3 Conduct mobile monitoring study to fill gaps in network

Feedback on Action 2.1

Feedback on Action 2.2

Feedback on Action 2.3

Need to add action about researching impacts. That is an action related to goal 2 - but as you only have goal 2 and not a and to this is missing. Action plan need to reflect all goals/sub goals.

3.1 Develop an outreach strategy to communicate the health impacts of wood smoke, and the link between wood smoke and climate change

Feedback on Action 3.1

Consider using stories as part of communicating strategy

Add: "and actions related to the strategy"

Clarify more woodsmoke from climate change, not that woodsmoke causes climate change

How is progress reported, don't see action on developing metrics and reporting

Burning wood contributes to climate change - hugely so

Education (specific to goal)

2.4 Provide monitoring results in accessible form to public

Feedback on Action 2.4

Create a dashboard of key KPI's that can be used to demonstrate our progress. The dashboard can be available on CVID website, and other municipal websites. It can be updated at regular intervals.

Add: "Regularly report to public on progress."

3.2 Prepare key messages and ready-to-go resources; invite K'omoks First Nations input

Feedback on Action 3.2

Komoks FN involved in forestry, not sure if they like burn

Change to "implement 3.1 including development of ready to go resources". Review goal about KFN - need to have stakeholders, not as an add-on only to one action

Not clear why the part about meeting KFN is only on this action and not elsewhere? (a principle event). Seems like it should be in coordination actions. If anything, it should be in above row, when strategy is being developed.

Programs / Incentives

3.3 Prepare and deliver education to accompany programs

Feedback on Action 3.3

target schools

public workshops

focus on messages that are different than the information provided by new woodsmoke reduction program

No actions developed so far, please add your thoughts!

Regulation / Advocacy

2.5 Develop a toolkit to advocate for air quality funding and programs and coordinate advocacy efforts

2.6 Review local policies and bylaws for alignment with air quality goals

Feedback on Action 2.5

Feedback on Action 2.6

Add "strategies" to the list (e.g. RGS, Sus dev strategy)

3.4 Prepare and deliver education to accompany regulations

Feedback on Action 3.4

Example of how having this as a separate goal and action list makes it confusing - education should be part of each goal area to the left.

need resources and plan to counter industry lobby efforts by HBCA - they view this as a precedent setting initiative and will fight it aggressively

Partnerships

2.7 Partner with UBCM to support expanded monitoring network

2.8 Maintain forum for coordinated local government bylaws and policies

2.9 Participate in South Coast Air Quality Coordination Group

Feedback on Action 2.7

Feedback on Action 2.8

Feedback on Action 2.9

3.5 Coordinate with local partners to roll out education

3.6 Share education resources with K'omoks First Nation / invite participation in events

3.7 Align and coordinate with the provincial CleanBC program

Feedback on Action 3.5

3.5 - who are "partners". Does it include community groups or even provincial health org?

3.6 - add "and other outreach activities."

Could be a good opportunity for partnership with FN for Biomass facility?

Feedback on Action 3.6

Feedback on Action 3.7

MORE: 3.7 should be under goal 1b as it is related 100% to phase out wood stoves (incentives) more than general "awareness and engagement". Target audience is very specific.