



Clear Skies Ahead? Regulating Air Quality in the CVRD

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Many sources
of air
pollution...



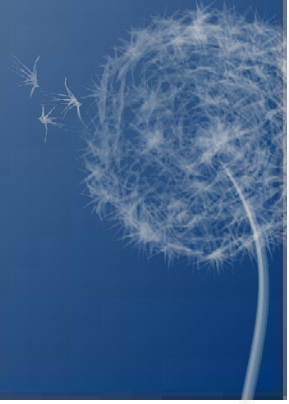
How to discourage
open burning?



Wasted
resource...



How to
encourage
recycling?





Lots of burning going on...
Question: What can we do
about it?

Answer: Protect air quality
by regulating disposal...



Benefits: Separates fire safety from
air quality; better regulatory fit.

Two-part process...

Step 1...

- Adopt new service
(air pollution control)



Step 2...

- Adopt regulatory bylaw
(Bylaw No. 2020)

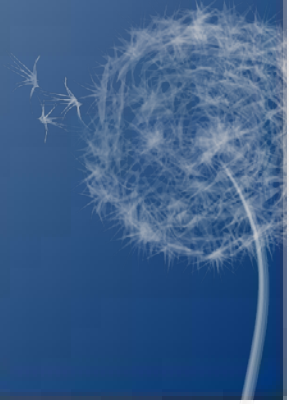


About Bylaw No. 2020...

- KISS!
- Targets developments only (“low-hanging fruit”)
- Does one thing only – bans open burning of land clearing debris!
- Lets existing regulations take care of everything else (don’t reinvent the wheel)

Benefits:

- Things are already complicated, let’s keep it simple
- Better understanding = better compliance
- Limited resources in CVRD, can’t take on too much



How it works...

- Two triggers – targets large burns (e.g. developments)
- Relies on air curtain technology
- Alternatives to burning are encouraged (cheaper)



How well are we doing?...

- Bylaw adopted August 2009, rolled out fall 2009
- Lots of awareness raising – but few infractions registered
- Few burns registered
- Plan to track increases in chipping and grinding over coming months – indicator of success



Some issues we are facing...

- Very little lead-time
- Consultation done so long ago it's no longer meaningful
- No education / warning = compliance difficult to achieve
- Limited resources (no evening/weekend enforcement)
- Small property owners are captured
- Industry can't accommodate in short-term
- Hampered by provincial regulations

Lessons learned...

- Ensure that provincial regulations will support efforts
- More targeted enforcement needed
- Provide time for public education!
- Good communication with other agencies essential
- Make sure industry can accommodate requirements
- Go for it! We've got to start somewhere...

