



bulkley valley - lakes district  
airshed management society

Official newsletter for  
BVLD air quality  
June 2007  
[www.cleanairplan.ca](http://www.cleanairplan.ca)

## WELCOME TO THE SECOND ISSUE!

**30-below** is the official newsletter of the BVLD airshed management society. The name 30 below is a reference to the Canada-wide standard for PM<sub>2.5</sub> (24-hour average concentrations of particulate matter). Our goal is to stay well below this standard, and the *Community Action Plan for Clean Air* presents strategies for meeting this goal, based on managing and reducing emissions from all sources of particulate matter in our airshed.

I invite you to ask more questions and to show you care about the air your neighbours, friends and family breathe. Contact us at 250.847. 1672 or [info@cleanairplan.ca](mailto:info@cleanairplan.ca)



**Laurie Gallant, Facilitator**

### 30-below dictionary

**Airshed** - A geographic area that, because of emissions, topography and meteorology, typically experiences similar air quality.

**PM - Particulate matter.** Tiny solid or liquid particles that come in many shapes and sizes and from many sources, both natural and human-caused. PM<sub>10</sub> refers to particles 10 micrometer or less in diameter, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> refers to those with diameters less than 2.5 micrometers. PM<sub>2.5</sub> are also referred to as 'fine particles'.

**Woodstove exchange** - A program in which education and financial incentives are available to people wanting to trade in a non-emission certified appliance in exchange for a new one that emits less PM

**Clean Air Tip:** This tip is brought to you by Ashlee Robinson, 11 & Tianna Adzick, 11

***"Never burn plastic, treated wood, newspaper, junkmail or tires."***

See all 58 tips collected from the Fall Fair at [cleanairplan.ca](http://cleanairplan.ca)

## Top 10 Milestones for 2006/07

1. Clean Air Bylaw Workshop – April 2006, Smithers (sponsored by Town of Smithers)
2. District of Houston adopts Wood burning appliance smoke control bylaw, July 2006
3. Town of Smithers adopts Wood burning appliance smoke control bylaw, August 2006
4. Burn Operators Forum held in Burns Lake, September 2006
5. AMS Woodstove Demonstration Trailer makes 7 appearances throughout the airshed (August 2006 – May 2007)
6. Release of NEWPRO Emissions Characterization Engineering Report, March 2007.
7. Village of Burns Lake adopts Wood burning appliance smoke control bylaw, April 2007
8. CANFOR Houston closes down beehive burner May 2007.
9. 115 non-emission certified wood burning appliances have been decommissioned as part of the BVLD-Skeena Woodstove Exchange Program. (February – June 2007)
10. Annual Clean Air Day green commuter challenge and free pancake breakfast in partnership with One Sky (June 6, 2007)

## Woodstove Exchange Program: Smoke and mirrors?

In 2004, AMS estimated that there are 4,200 old technology stoves operating in the BVLD. Many people questioned why we would focus on woodstoves with so many other "bigger" contributors. The fact is, the Clean Air Plan targets all emission sources, and smoke from wood burning appliances has proven to be a problem in neighborhoods throughout the Bulkley Valley – Lakes District region.

To help residents upgrade their stoves, the Airshed Management Society is giving out vouchers worth \$250. We have enough grant money for 400 exchanges and we plan to keep the program running until all this money is spent. It gets better. Retailers offer in-store discounts off any emission certified appliance March through April, and additional rebates are offered by some local governments. So far this year, 115 stoves have been upgraded.

An evaluation project is currently underway to confirm what factors have the most influence on a resident's decision to replace their old stove. As well, researchers from UNBC will be conducting a long term study on air quality in specific neighbourhoods. Stay tuned for more results!

### Burn It Smart Tips

Simple changes to woodburning fireplaces and wood stoves can reduce the amount of smoke produced by approximately two-thirds. They can also reduce the amount of fuel burned and result in significant savings. These changes make a difference in fire safety as well!

- Use seasoned firewood.
- Use small amounts of kindling to start the fire, give it plenty of air, and burn small hot fires.
- Never "damper down" a stove so that it smolders.
- Never burn garbage, especially plastics.
- Have chimneys inspected annually and cleaned as necessary by a certified professional.
- Clean and repair your wood stove annually.
- Upgrade to a natural gas, propane, pellet, or EPA-certified woodburning stove. (*Your stove is certified if it has a plate with a U.S. EPA or CSA 415B label on the back of the stove*)

**Go outside and check your chimney frequently.** If you see thick or dark smoke coming out, you're wasting wood by not burning hot enough. Give the fire more air and check the chimney again.



### Stay Healthy, Prevent Exhaustion

Idling for over 10 seconds uses more fuel than restarting your engine.

[www.idlefreebc.ca](http://www.idlefreebc.ca)



### Clean Air Awards



Starting at this year's Annual General Meeting, we are giving out Clean Air Awards to acknowledge contributions made by individuals and organizations to advancing the goals of the Clean Air Plan. The nominations for this year's awards are:

- Ken Thomson, District of Houston
- Town of Smithers
- Jim McBride, Village of Burns Lake
- Pacific Inland Resources
- Leroy Reitsma, CANFOR Houston
- North Central Plumbing and Heating
- Iqbal Kalsi, Northern Health
- Skeena Region, Ministry of Environment
- Doug Bysouth, Babine Forest Products

### Projects and events planned for 2007/08 include:

- Continuation of Wood Stove Exchange Program
- Annual Burn Operators Forum
- Strategies for reducing emissions from transportation sources
- Work with elected officials and developers to manage new sources of pollutants
- Sharing information and new research from around the province and North America
- Community education
- Clean Air Awards

### Become a member!

BVLDAMS is a non-profit, multi-stakeholder organization with charitable status. We're always on the look out for fresh ideas, specialized knowledge, and community support. If you can contribute time, make a financial contribution to our work, or would like to receive this newsletter by e-mail get in touch!

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