



bulkley valley - lakes district  
airshed management society

# COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN *for* CLEAN AIR

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*A five-year strategy*

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## INTRODUCTION

LAST UPDATE: JUNE 1, 2006

## Introduction

**T**he recommended goals, indicators and strategies in this plan represent a consensus of the membership of the BVL D Airshed Management Society. The plan is reviewed annually and updated to reflect emerging concerns and research, as well as successful completion of initiatives in the preceding year.

The original Plan published in 2004 as based on consensus by over 50 members of the **BVL D** Airshed Management Planning process. For a period of 12 months beginning in March 2003, members of the Morice, Bulkley (with Kispiox) and Lakes Community Working Groups (**CWG**) have been learning about what influences local air quality and emissions can be better managed to reduce their potential for impacts. From listening to presentations on local weather patterns and the operation of beehive burners, to reading health reports, to attending workshops on how to correctly operate a woodstove, the learning methods and subject matter has been wide ranging. The result of this hard work is that each CWG is a self-taught collective of knowledge and experience related to air quality and its management.

### *What are the scope and overall goals of this Plan?*

The BVL D Airshed Management Plan (**AMP**) is a 5 year strategy (2004 to 2009) to improve air quality in the corridor that stretches from Kitwanga to Endako (see Figure 1-1 and Appendix C) and covers 35,000 square kilometers. This area has a population of approximately 30,000 people.<sup>1</sup>

The overall goal of this plan is to continuously improve air quality in the BVL D airshed and the quality of life for area residents. In developing the goals and strategies listed in this plan, consideration was given to factors such as economics, feasibility, and practicality among others. The Plan was developed by the people who will use it, to help ensure all such factors were considered throughout.

Since smoke and road dust have the largest impacts on local air quality, this plan targets a pollutant known as **fine particulates**. Fine particulates are tiny solid or liquid particles that come in many shapes and sizes and from many sources, both natural and human-caused. Fine particulates are classified in terms of particle size. Those that are 10 micrometers or less in diameter are called **PM10**, (where PM stands for **particulate matter**, a subset of which is fine particulate). Fine particulates that are 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter are called **PM2.5**. Note that PM2.5 is a subset of PM10, which means that PM10 includes PM2.5. PM2.5 is largely associated with combustion sources (smoke), while the larger particles in PM10 (those greater than 2.5 micrometers) are associated more with crustal sources such as dust. Furthermore, smaller particles are more closely related to adverse health effects. To put these sizes into perspective, one micrometer is a millionth of a metre, so PM10 is roughly the same size as bacteria - and like bacteria, PM10 is invisible to the naked eye and small enough to be breathed into our lungs. In this

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<sup>1</sup> Canadian Census Data 2001: [www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca](http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca)

plan, we are addressing human-caused sources of fine particulates that contribute to episodes of poor air quality.

*Who is this Plan written for?*

This plan is written by and for citizens who live in the BVL D, from Kitwanga to Endako. Bad air quality affects our health, as well as our overall quality of life and the economic well being of our communities. The emission source specific chapters will be a valuable resource for those people directly involved with controlling emissions of fine particulates including:

- Local governments
- First Nations
- Energy and heating system specialists
- Forest harvesting and processing personnel
- Industry managers
- Forestry contractors
- Wood burning appliance owners and operators
- Farmers and Ranchers
- Rural residents who burn garbage
- Concerned citizens

In addition, those whose address quality of life as part of their work will also want to act on this plan, including those involved in:

- Economic development
- Health Environmental education
- Environmental regulators and researchers
- Land developers and realtors

*How to use this Plan*

The Plan is divided into stand-alone chapters on each of the emission source categories: Beehive Burners; Other Regulated Industrial Sources; Forest Harvest Debris Burning; Agriculture, Land Development and

Small Sawmill Debris Burning; Residential and Commercial Space Heating, Backyard Burning, and Road Dust.

This format will make it easy for anyone to find the information they need to make a positive contribution to clean air. Each chapter contains a set of goals, indicators, and strategies for reducing **emissions** from that source. In addition, where community-specific recommendations or variances from the regional strategies were identified, these were included at the end of each chapter,

Additional chapters provide an overview of the science used to develop goals and strategies, the relationship with air quality to other community planning and environmental issues, and the impacts of fine particulates on human health.

BVLD AIRSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN



**Figure 1-1 BVLD location in the province of BC.**

*Who oversees the Plan?*

The BVL D Airshed Management Society is comprised of 8 directors and a hired facilitator. A budget and workplan is developed annually to implement the Plan. Through annual presentations to local governments, displays in the community and at regional events, and a website, the Society ensures that residents of the BVL D are aware of the Clean Air Plan and the opportunity to be part of the team that refines the Plan each year at our AGM and Community Forum.

In addition, project teams are often formed to carry out strategies for specific emission sources and meet as needed. See Chapter 11 on Working the Plan for details on funding, monitoring, and how to get involved.