

Memo

Date: January 21, 2021
File: 1410-2020
To: Regional District Central Okanagan
From: Nancy Mora, Regional Air Quality Program Coordinator
Subject: 2020 4th Quarter Report

The following information relates to the 4th quarter 2020:

Woodstove Exchange Program (WSEP)

- **4** exchanges were completed in 2020.
- We applied and received funding from the BC Lung Association to continue the program during 2021. Rebates available for 2021 are; 113 of \$250 or 71 of \$400. Total availability may vary as it will depend on the type of appliances exchanged.
- As an alternative for the Annual Workshops, a [new Burn it Smart Tool](#) was designed and launched in September 2020.
- A survey to evaluate the program was also planned by early January 2021, as part of the BC grant report requirements.

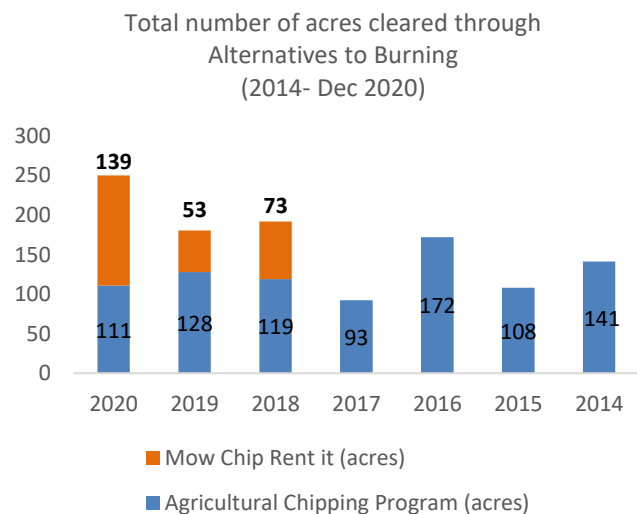
Alternatives to Burning:

• Agricultural Wood Waste-Program Update:

- A total of **3,682m³** were chipped.
- **17** orchards were completed.
- **111** acres cleared without burning.

• Mow/Chip/Rent it Rebate update:

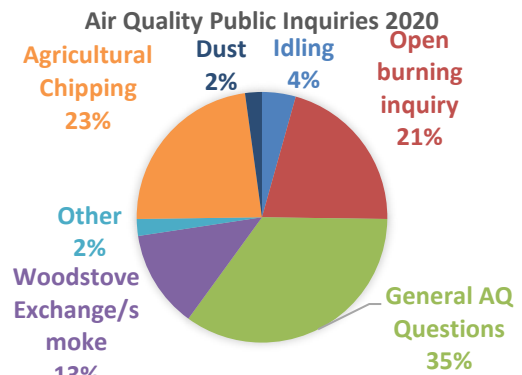
- We provided **19** rebates to residents; 37% of these were issued to City of Kelowna residents, 26% to Lake Country and 37% to RDCO residents.
- **117** wood piles were avoided to be burned - average pile size 4 m width x 2.5m height
- Estimated time residents have spent cutting, dragging and making piles-**508** hrs
- **139** acres have been treated for fuel reduction



Air Quality Public Inquiries

- Public inquiries through the tracking system were as follow:
 - 230** Air Quality inquiries were received from January to December
 - Air Quality inquiries increased **104%** when compared to 2019 data.

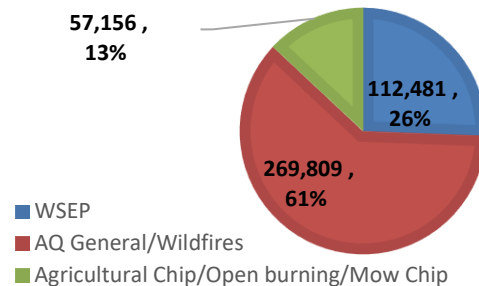
This tracking system is designed to handle questions that may not be tracked through the service request system. **Note that this does not include registration for agricultural chipping and woodstove exchange program.*



Social Media

- Through Social media we reached “accumulated” more than 435,000 residents (January to December):
- Through the Living Greener Calendar, we reached 28,000 people more

People Reached Through Social Media (January-december 2020)
(Facebook, Twitter, Newsletter, Newspaper)

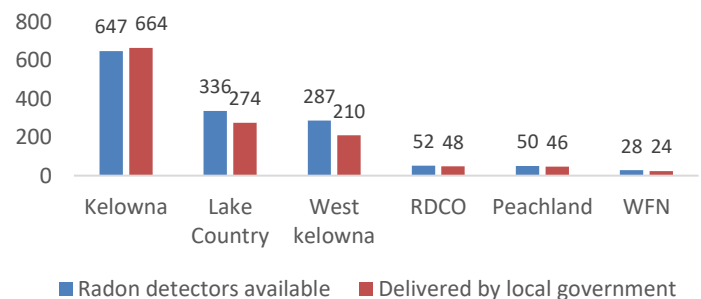


Radon Test Challenge

The Air Quality program with the support of Interior Health, Take Action on Radon, the British Columbia Lung Association, the Vancouver Foundation and all local municipalities provided 1266 FREE radon test kits and a radon awareness webinar to interested residents within the Central Okanagan. The webinar has more than 600 reproductions so far.

Through the School Radon project, we deployed 373 detectors in 23 public schools and 7 independent schools. Radon awareness reached more than 23,000 students in December 2020. The schools will receive their results by June.

Number of radon detectors available and delivered Central Okanagan 2020



Pollutant Reductions

Through all the programs and activities of the Air Quality Department and other Transportation Demand Management Programs an estimation of **246** tonnes of particulate matter (PM10 and PM_{2.5}), **723** tonnes of CO and **116** tonnes of VOC's are not released on average per year (2003-2020).

Submitted by:

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Regional Air Quality Coordinator

