

# Memo

**Date:** April 15, 2021  
**File:** 1410-2020  
**To:** Regional District Central Okanagan  
**From:** Nancy Mora, Regional Air Quality Program Coordinator  
**Subject:** 2021 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report

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The following information relates to the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2021:

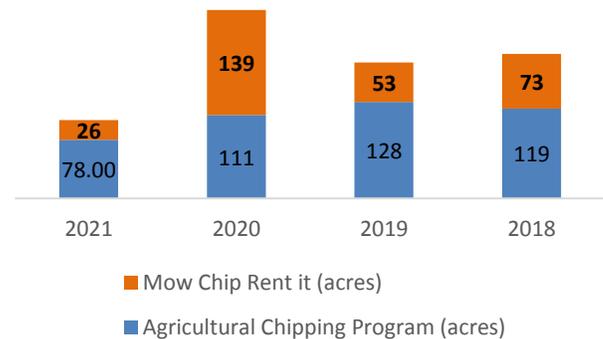
## Woodstove Exchange Program (WSEP)

- 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.
- 4 exchanges were completed in 2021.
- On March 5<sup>th</sup>, a presentation of the WSEP program was delivered to other local BC governments interested in running a similar program. Documents, templates, lessons learned and latest survey reports were shared.

## Alternatives to Burning:

- **Agricultural Wood Waste-Program Update:**
  - The RDCO approved an additional budget of \$40,000 for 2021 to catch up on pending jobs.
  - A total of **5,424m<sup>3</sup>** were chipped.
  - **13** orchards were completed.
  - **78** acres cleared without burning.
- **Mow/Chip/Rent it Rebate update:**
  - We provided **5** rebates to residents
  - **30** wood piles were avoided to be burned - average pile size 14 m width x 3.5m height
  - Estimated time residents have spent cutting, dragging and making piles-**350** hrs
  - **26** acres have been treated for fuel reduction

Total number of acres cleared through Alternatives to Burning (2018- March 2021)

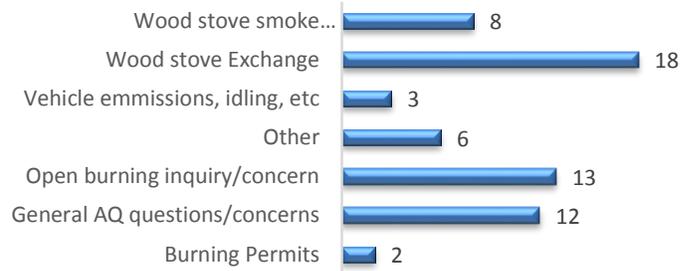


### Air Quality Public Inquiries

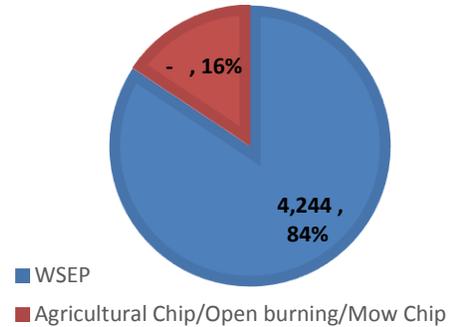
- Public inquiries through the tracking system were as follow:
  - 75 Air Quality inquiries were received from January to March

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.*

Air Quality Public Inquiries Q1-2021



People Reached Through Social Media Q1-2021 (Facebook, Twitter, Newsletter, Newspaper)



### Social Media

- Through Social media we reached more than 5,300 residents (January to March 2021):
- Through the Living Greener Calendar (Feb Month), we reached 28,000 people more.

### Radon Test Challenge

With the support of all local governments, we collected 1,029 foil bags with one or two detectors and were sent to the laboratory for analysis. Residents in the region will receive their radon results levels in April. Through the School Radon Screening project, we have collected 336 detectors in 23 public schools and 4 independent schools. Collection will continue during April. The schools will receive their results by May.

### Small Low-Cost Air Quality PM Sensor Pilot Project (2021-2023)

The Regional District of Central Okanagan in collaboration with local governments and SD23, is participating on a Small Low-Cost Air Quality PM Sensor Pilot Project. This is a 3-year pilot conducted by the Meteorological Services of Canada (MSC), a branch within Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), to investigate the benefit of using emerging low-cost sensor technologies to measure Particulate Matter (PM) and to partner with governments, institutions and interested stakeholders to augment current air quality (AQ) monitoring networks. ECCC will provide eight (8) low-cost Air Quality Particulate Matter Sensors to the Central Okanagan; 3 already have been installed; in Peachland and Fire Stations 101 and 51. Real-time PM<sub>2.5</sub> data will be available to the community via a map product: <https://cyclone.unbc.ca/aqmap>. The RDCO website will be updated once the other 5 sensors are installed by SD23 staff.

### Pollutant Reductions

Through all the programs and activities of the Air Quality Department and other Transportation Demand Management Programs an estimation of **170** tonnes of particulate matter (PM10 and PM<sub>2.5</sub>), **345** tonnes of CO and **29** tonnes of VOC's are not released this first quarter.

Submitted by:

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