

Things we can do to improve our air quality

City of Kelowna
City of West Kelowna
District of Lake Country
District of Peachland
Westbank First Nation
Regional District of Central Okanagan



Everyone can help make our air cleaner!

* Break the automobile addiction and use the bus, carpool, ride your bike and walk!

* Create a walking school bus; a group of children walking to school with one or more adults

* Retire old vehicles with the BC Scrap-It Program

* Looking for a new vehicle? Consider a smaller, fuel-efficient one with low emissions

* Keep your vehicle in top condition with regular tune-ups and inflate your tires to recommended levels and you'll save 10% on fuel consumption

* Combine errands to save on gas and reduce exhaust

* Slow down when you drive. You'll use less gas and produce less pollution



Actions children can take

Simple steps - walk or roll to school! It's great exercise and can reduce air pollution.

Use public transport.

Discuss air quality issues with your parents and friends.

Stop idling - tell your parents not to leave the engine on while they wait for you. This is called "idling" and it creates air pollution around schools. Turning off the engine reduces air pollution and could save your parents some gas money.

Ask your parents to consider trying carpooling to go to and from school with friends.



Actions parents can take at home

Insulate your home effectively and make sure to install a vapour barrier

Seal air leaks to prevent heat escaping (and money from your wallet)

Have your furnace serviced regularly to ensure it's working efficiently

Set your thermostat to 20 C during the day and turn it down when you are out or asleep

Put on a sweater if it gets cool inside

Keep your water heater at 50 C and use cold water whenever possible

Weatherstrip and caulk cracks and holes windows and doors

Close heating vents and doors to rooms you are not using

Consider solar energy options

Install windows that are efficient at preventing heat loss. Plastic insulating sheets that can be attached to window frames are also effective heat savers

Plant a deciduous tree on the south side of your home to keep out the sun in summer and let in the warmth during winter.

Reduce emissions Switch off your ignition

If you're going to be stopped for more than 60 seconds
-except in traffic -
turn your engine off.

Save fuel and money!



See over...



Consider a “Green” Lifestyle to improve air quality

Push a hand mower and use a rake instead of a leaf blower.

Compost your garden leftovers.

Choose *EnergyStar* when buying lights or appliances like washers and dryers. Wash your clothes in cold water and hang them out to dry instead of using a dryer, when you can.



Buy local products. The average meal travels 2,500 km to our plate. When we buy local we cut down travel time which helps decrease air pollution.

Plant a tree or garden at home or school and compost your garden leftovers.

Buy an efficient, EPA certified wood stove that’s just the right size for your home. Obtain a building permit to install legally and operate it correctly.

The wood should be properly seasoned in a dry place for at least 8 months. The moisture content of the wood should be 20% or less. Check Wood Heating Best Practices.

Consider alternatives before burning. Open burning within the Regional District requires a valid permit from the local fire department; is allowed between October 1 and April 30, and only permitted when the venting Index is 65 or greater and the air quality is good.

Paint with water-based (latex) and close paint cans tightly.

Turn off the lights, TV and computer when you don’t need them. Program your computer and smart phones to power down into sleep mode when you are not using them.

Recycle waste and building materials whenever possible.



The City of Kelowna, the City of West Kelowna, the District of Lake Country, the District of Peachland, the Westbank First Nation and the Regional District of the Central Okanagan worked in partnership to develop a **Central Okanagan Clean Air Strategy** with the vision of clean and healthy air for current and future generations.

If you want to know more about the region's air quality programs, please visit:

www.rdco.com/airquality

Contact:
airquality@kelowna.ca

