

Comox Valley Regional District Airshed Roundtable

Roundtable Meeting #3

March 4, 2021, 1:00pm
Zoom online platform



Agenda

- 1:00 Welcome and introductions
- 1:10 Steering Committee update
- 1:20 Related initiatives update: Community resiliency investment and FireSmart
- 1:30 Roundtable survey findings
- 1:45 Developing the strategy: draft vision and goals overview
- 2:00 Break-out: Vision discussion
- 2:30 Break
- 2:45 Break-out: Goals discussion
- 3:45 Reconvene and wrap-up
- 4:00 Meeting end



Community resiliency investment and FireSmart

James Bast, Manager of Fire Services, Comox Valley Regional District

Survey input

- Responses:
 - Roundtable members: 14 – good cross-section of members
 - Steering committee: 6
- Outcomes:
 - Ideas for vision & goals
 - Offers to support with education; communicate out through networks; provide expertise
 - Requests for areas to obtain more information:
 - Examples of best practices from other communities
 - More information about current bylaws and regulations in place
 - Suggestions for the process



Survey results: pollutants to focus on

- Clear priority should be on PM2.5
- Other air pollutants and GHGs are also important to the Roundtable, but are lower priority than PM2.5
- → We will continue to focus on PM2.5 for the strategy
- → We will highlight co-benefits for other pollutants and GHG emissions and emphasize the links between air quality & climate change



Survey results: areas of more information in the Roundtable

- More information on a few topics
 - Regulations related to burning (see Daphne's regulation summary)
 - Connection to climate change
 - Health outcomes
 - Meeting etiquette
 - All members have space to speak
 - Other community stories
 - Learn from other communities
-
- → We will highlight related initiatives and provide resources for topics under discussion
 - → Meeting formats will focus on hearing all voices
 - → We will highlight examples from other communities



Survey results: What is your organization/you hoping to achieve?

- Contribute to a healthy environment
- Be a voice for the vulnerable populations
- Improve air quality in the Comox Valley through:
 - Collaborative solutions / cross-jurisdictional strategies
 - Fair measures based on solid evidence
 - Raising awareness on health outcomes
 - Education about burning practices



Developing the airshed protection strategy

Overview of the draft vision and goals

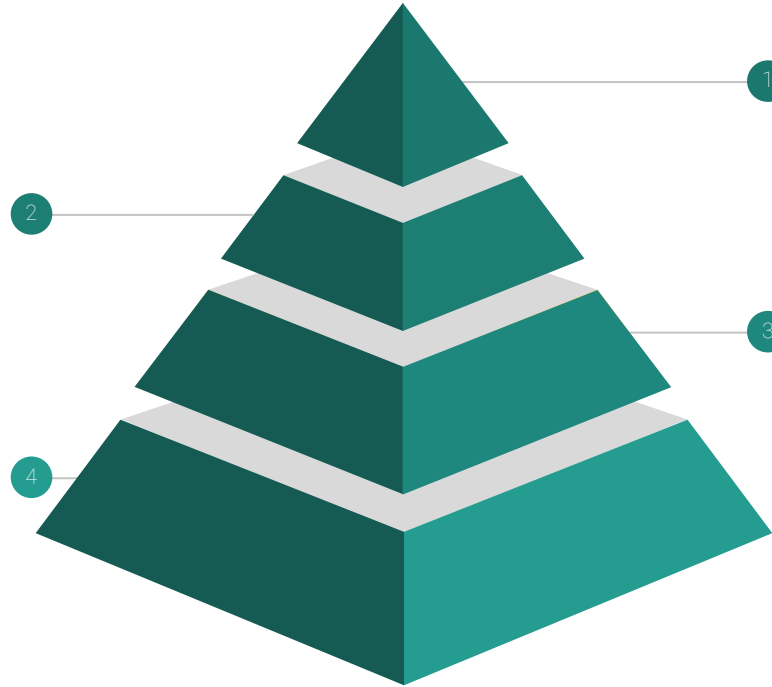
What is a strategic plan?

Goals and strategies

- The "How"
- What you are going to achieve
- The strategies to pursue goals

Implementation and reporting

- How we will track progress
- What we will do to stay on / get back on track



Vision

- The "Why"
- Key changes you want to see
- Values most important to you

Action plan

- The "What"
- Specific actions
- Identifies champions and timeframes



Comox Valley Airshed Strategy: method for drafting vision and goals

Roundtable meetings

September, November
2020

- > Local strengths, barriers, opportunities
- > Initial goal discussions and ideas

Roundtable survey

January
2021

- > Priorities
- > Goals for the process
- > Ideas for a vision
- > Ideas for goals
- > Action ideas

⇒ Summary of ideas

Review of other BC
plans

January, February
2021

- > Review other airshed plans for approach and potential gaps

⇒ 1st Draft Vision, Goals

Steering committee
input

February
2021

- > Reviewed and discussed Roundtable ideas
- > Recommendations to update

⇒ 2nd Draft Vision, Goals



Preliminary vision ideas

- Health / Healthy / Long-term health
- Breathable / Clean air / Protect the air
- Education / Educated
- Evidence-based / Measurable
- Sustainability / Climate change
- Community / Comox Valley
- Inclusive / All / Everybody
- Basic human right, social justice
- Vulnerable
- Indigenous practices and people
- Actionable
- Working together



Draft vision

The Comox Valley has the best air possible, supporting healthy communities now and in the future.

Currently, the Comox Valley experiences recurring periods of poor air quality that negatively affect the health of our communities. Achieving this vision will require **coordinated efforts** from several governments, organizations, businesses, and community members. Our actions need to be effective in order to **notably improve air quality**, with an initial focus on reducing **fine particulate matter** – the air pollutant of greatest concern to the health of our Comox Valley communities.

Air pollution can disproportionately affect some members of our community. Through this vision, we will work together to ensure the best air possible for **all residents**, focusing on protecting the health of our **most vulnerable**, and supporting access to **clean and affordable energy sources**. Our efforts will be based on the best available **science and evidence**, and we will share this evidence with the community.

Climate change is also a key issue that affects the health and well-being of our communities. Air pollution can also contribute to climate change, and therefore this vision and strategy will ensure efforts to minimize air pollution while simultaneously minimizing greenhouse gas emissions.



Draft goals: overarching

01

Achieve measurable reductions in PM2.5 levels

02

Collaborate, learn and engage to improve air quality

03

Continually reduce air pollutant emissions linked to climate change and/or health impacts



Draft goals: with sub-goals

01

Achieve measurable reductions in PM_{2.5} levels

- Reduce emissions from wood-burning appliances
- Transition to low- or zero-emission primary home heating systems
- Limit or eliminate burning of backyard waste in residential neighbourhoods
- Promote alternatives to all types of open burning
- Reduce emissions from transportation, focusing on PM_{2.5}

02

Collaborate, learn and engage to improve air quality

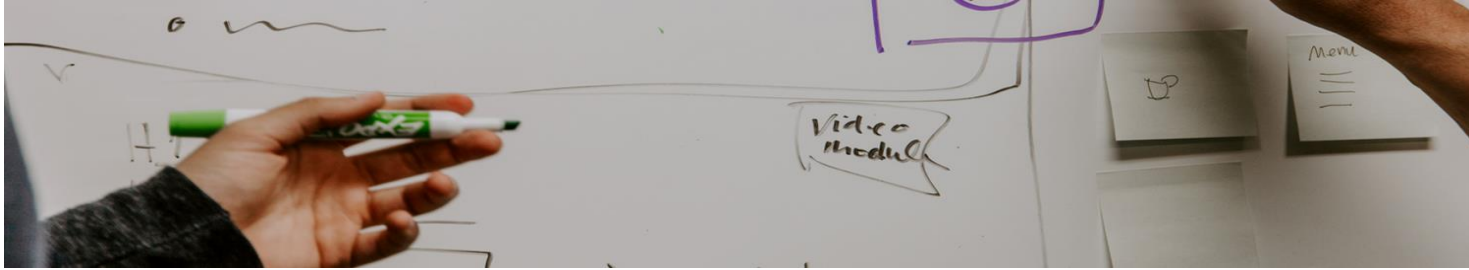
- Build partnerships and align efforts across participating organizations
- Improve understanding of local pollution sources and impacts
- Engage and involve the community in understanding air pollution, and the links to climate change

03

Continually reduce air pollutant emissions linked to climate change and/or health impacts



Activity 1: Your input on the Draft Airshed Vision

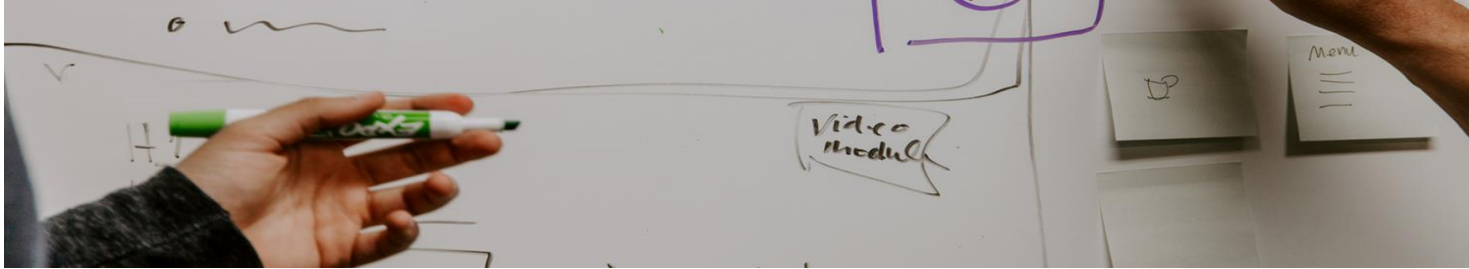


Instructions:

- Open the JamBoard in your browser (Facilitator will paste link into the chat)
- Create 3 sticky notes:
 - What aspects do you like?; What aspects would you change?; Anything that needs clarification?
- Facilitator will go around to each participant to share their input
- Group discussion on suggested changes and additions



Activity 2: Your input on the Draft Airshed Goals



Instructions:

- Goal 1:
 - Create sticky notes using the same colours as the vision (Like, Change, Clarify)
 - Paste them either next to the main goal, or the sub-goals as relevant
 - Facilitator will go around to each participant to share their input
 - Group discussion on suggested changes and additions
- Repeat process for Goal 2
- Group discussion on Goal 3



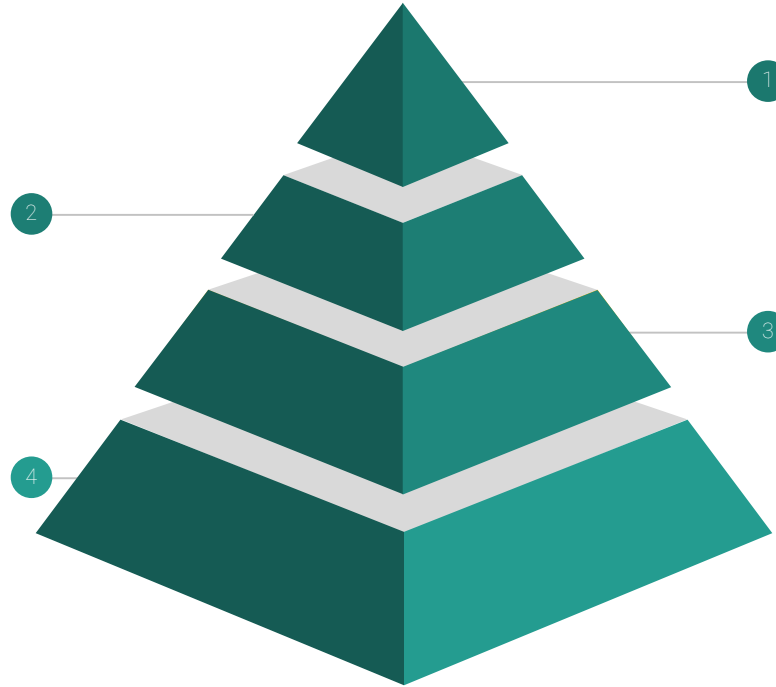
Next steps

Goals and strategies

- The "How"
- What you are going to achieve
- The strategies to pursue goals

Implementation and reporting

- How we will track progress
- What we will do to stay on / get back on track



Vision

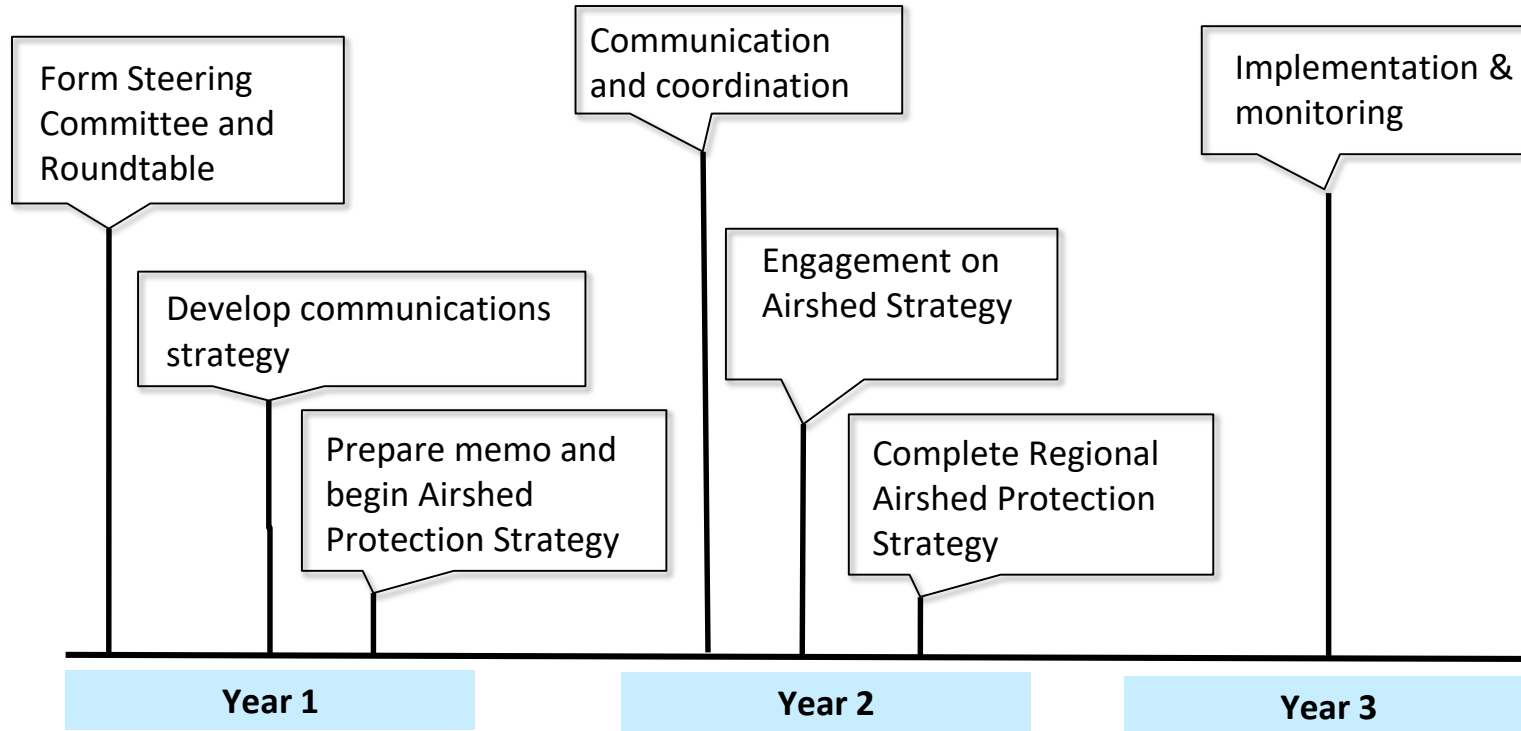
- The "Why"
- Key changes you want to see
- Values most important to you

Action plan

- The "What"
- Specific actions
- Identifies champions and timeframes



Project process



Survey results:

How do you see your organization supporting the implementation of the Airshed Protection Strategy?

- Provide information to inform the Strategy
- Promotion of the Strategy
 - Through communication tools
 - Through customer/residents education campaigns
- Engage the public on the Strategy
- Individual representation and champions!

→ Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to this process



Thank you!

