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Summer update from the SC Clean Air Society

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President's Message

Louis Legal

2020. More changes are happening. Although our goals and aspirations remain the same, the Society under the direction of our Executive Director has undertaken a strategic planning exercise and developed an action plan for the coming year. This will include recruiting new board members; refreshing our campaign materials & efforts; developing new campaign communication strategies; building a new website; and pursuing new grant funding.



As well we are excited about the possibility of amalgamating with the [Sea to Sky Clean Air Society](#). This will mean a name change and an update to our bylaws and mission statement. Our restrictive policy on wood burning and incineration will remain unchanged, as will our focus on clean air and climate change issues.

We've delayed our AGM until November because of COVID-19 restrictions. A virtual

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Valerie Thorsteinson has indicated that she wishes to retire soon. She plans to sell her house on the Sunshine Coast and move to the Lower Mainland. Joe Harrison has recently resigned from the Board. Both will be missed for their many contributions and service over the years. We wish them well.

2 Degrees Institute Update

Ryan Logtenberg

We thought we'd share a small shortlist of articles from our [Facebook page](#) regarding climate change and COVID pandemic.



1. [A Pandemic That Cleared Skies and Halted Cities Isn't Slowing Global Warming](#)

A really interesting article with visuals. Well worth the read. It's important to note that serious lifestyle changes that reduce your emissions are needed by you! Visit our website to find what you can do to be part of the solution. 2degreesinstitute.org

2. [Coal-free first for electricity in Great Britain](#)

Some encouraging news.

3. [Germany requires all gas stations to provide EV charging](#)

Here's one way that Germany is addressing the future of zero emission electric cars.

4. [Air pollution in China back to pre-Covid levels and Europe may follow](#)

Seemed too good to last ... but now we know what's possible.

5. [Coronavirus lockdown: Pollution decrease makes honey bees healthy; honey yield doubles during lockdown](#)

In this report, we see how the big drop in pollution levels due to the lock-down

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cleaner world.

6. [Why you should go animal-free: 18 arguments for eating meat debunked](#)

We don't need animals in our diet. For the sake of our species' survival, we do need to cut out animal products. Check out these 19 debunked arguments for eating meat.

7. [The Great Realisation](#)

If you haven't seen it yet, here's a really interesting viral video that's been circulating. Definitely worth a watch.

Enjoy the good reads and videos, and if you feel motivated to help advance climate actions including encouraging the switch to electric vehicles, consider supporting our efforts as a volunteer, donor or member! Find out more at [2 Degrees Institute](#).

Another UBC Community Partnership Project

Elizabeth Lytviak

The 2 Degrees Institute develops and supports strategies that empower people to take action to reduce their carbon footprint by lowering their GHG emissions from travelling, home heating, electricity, and consumption. We collect, create and disseminate useful, interactive data and educational materials, including real-time climate graphs and the findings of research projects into low-carbon solutions. We are entering our third year partnering with the University of British Columbia (UBC), offering environmental science students opportunities to bridge education and experience. Last year we presented a case study co-developed with BC Transit, asking students to perform a feasibility study on immediately replacing its old diesel buses with electric vehicles, rather than waiting until 2023 to begin the transition. Though our mission focuses on encouraging individual action, we acknowledge that government action is part of the picture as they can provide incentives and deliver sustainable options so that individuals can



[make low-carbon choices](#)
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The students were asked to:

- determine the capital costs of replacing the fleet and the annual emissions savings
- determine charging locations and scheduled charging times
- assess whether existing ridership fares would cover the costs over time
- conduct a trend analysis for population growth and public transportation ridership to 2040, and
- include policy recommendations to increase ridership on the Sunshine Coast.

The students performed and compared Life-Cycle Analyses for three technologies: a diesel bus (the current type used on the Sunshine Coast), an overnight charging bus with a plug-in charger, and a fast charging bus with an overhead charger. They discovered that the fast charging bus would provide significant savings over the lifetime of the bus (see table 6 of report), indicating that immediately replacing decommissioned diesel buses with fast-charging electric buses was not only a better option environmentally, but economically. The [full report can be reviewed here](#).

We are thrilled to be invited to participate again and receive valuable information from the diligent work of these students while providing them with the opportunity to work in the community and gain meaningful and practical experience. Our proposed project for this year is a feasibility study and network model for an on-demand transit system for under-served areas of the Sunshine Coast, using the findings from a [pilot project recently completed on Bowen Island](#). We're crossing our fingers that one of the student groups picks our project again this year!

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WEBINAR COVID-19 AND WILDFIRE SMOKE



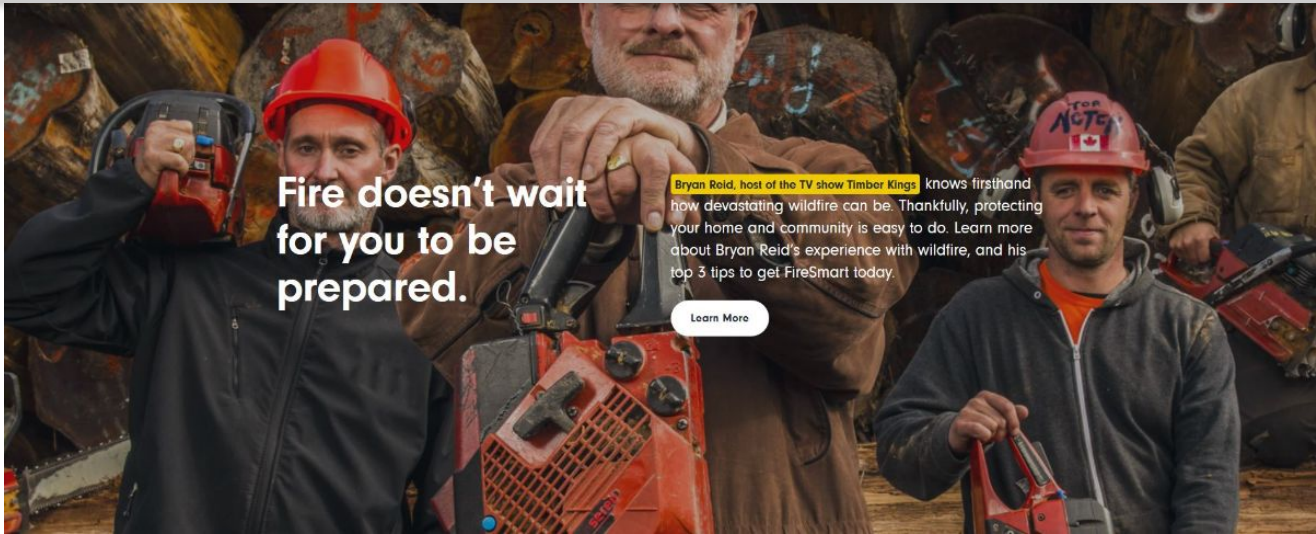
Wednesday, June 3, 2020
10:00am - 11:00am PDT



The BC Lung Association regularly hosts educational webinars on current issues related to air quality and public health. Click above to view their latest:

COVID-19 and Wildfire Smoke: A Potentially Bad Combination.

"Exposure to air pollution can irritate the lungs, cause inflammation, and alter immune function, making it more difficult to fight respiratory infections such as COVID-19. When conditions are smoky, more people who are exposed to the novel coronavirus may develop COVID-19 and some cases of COVID-19 might be more severe."

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Fire doesn't wait
for you to be
prepared.

Bryan Reid, host of the TV show *Timber Kings* knows firsthand how devastating wildfire can be. Thankfully, protecting your home and community is easy to do. Learn more about Bryan Reid's experience with wildfire, and his top 3 tips to get FireSmart today.

[Learn More](#)

FireSmart BC offers practical information on how to keep your home, neighbourhood and community prepared for wildfires, including how to *FireSmart* your home.

Click above to check out their many resources.

As of July 24th, all open burns are banned within the Coastal Fire Centre jurisdiction including the Sunshine Coast. Campfires are allowed unless already banned in your area.

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[Here's a handy summary of our local burning bylaws. Click image to view and download!](#)

Summary of Burning Bylaws & Restrictions on the Sunshine Coast

Jurisdiction	Open Burning	Backyard burning	Backyard Burning Exception if Venting-good	Campfires Year Around	Beach Fires Year Around	Summer Fire Ban
Town of Gibsons	No	No	No	No	No	Apr 15 to Oct 15
District of Sechelt	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Apr 15 to Oct 15
SCRD Areas						
A Egmont/Pender Harbour	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Apr 15 to Oct 15
B Halfmoon Bay	Yes	No	Apr 1 to Apr 15 Oct 15 to Nov 15	Yes	Yes	Apr 15 to Oct 15
D Roberts Creek	Yes	No	Apr 1 to Apr 15 Oct 15 to Nov 15	Yes	Yes	Apr 15 to Oct 15
E Elphinstone	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Apr 15 to Oct 15
F West Howe Sound	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Apr 15 to Oct 15

Notes & Definitions

- Open Burns/Fire
 - Includes Campfires, Class B/Backyard Burns, Class A/Permitted (requires permit) Burns
- Class C/Campfires
 - Burn piles no larger than 0.5m in height & 0.5m in diameter *in some jurisdictions*.
 - Farther than 3-5 metres from logs, tress and any wooden structures.
 - Beach fires are those built below the high tide mark.
- Class B/Backyard Burns
 - Burn piles no larger than 1m in height & 2m in diameter *in some jurisdictions*.
 - The BC Open Burning Smoke Control Regulations (OBSCR) exemptions are used *in some jurisdictions*.
 - Garden waste & small debris branches less than 3cm in diameter are exempt from OBSCR.
- Class A/Permitted Burns
 - Sometimes referred to as machine piled burns. Permits are needed for all these burns.
 - Subject to all OBSCR rules for High Smoke Sensitivity Smoke (HSS) zones.
 - Most of the populated communities along the SC are within a HSS zone

Resources

- Sechelt Indian Gov't District [Burning and Smoke Law](#)
- District of Sechelt [Open Burning FAQ](#)
- SCRD & Gibsons Fire Halls [Fire Department and Burning information](#)
- Province of BC [Fire Bans and Restrictions](#)
- [Interactive Ventilation Index Map](#)



[Click below to view BC's Open Fire Regulations Infographic:](#)

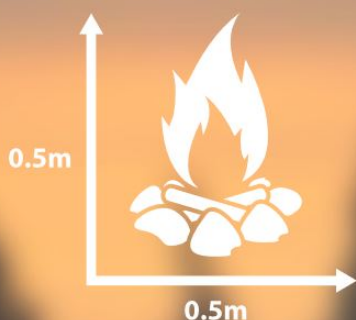
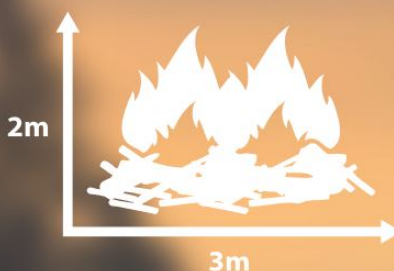
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OPEN FIRE REGULATIONS

40%

40% of B.C. wildfires are human-caused and therefore preventable

CAMPFIRES, CATEGORY 2 FIRES AND CATEGORY 3 FIRES: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

**CAMPFIRE:****CATEGORY 2 FIRE:****CATEGORY 3 FIRE:**

To report a wildfire or fire violation, call 1.800.663.5555 toll-free, or *5555 on a cell.

Air Quality Monitoring Network on the Sunshine Coast

Our monitoring network has operational for over two years now, and includes 9 monitors distributed between Langdale and Madeira Park. We have four new monitors available and are seeking hosts in Egmont and Sandy Hook or Tuwanek - see below for details. We are also seeking a new location for our Halfmoon Bay monitor as the host has discontinued their wifi. Our Garden Bay sensor has failed and needs replacing, so we're not receiving information from there for the time being.

**Purple Air AQ Monitor**

We are pleased to be working with a student on our map display and archive system. The map will look similar to the [University of Northern BC map](#), and will display all Purple Air monitors in British Columbia. A unique feature of the map is

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(AQHI) will not be used to display the data as it is well recognized that the AQHI does not deal with PM2.5 particulate data very well.

It will also contain a guide and appropriate health messaging associated with the current values, and its archives will store average values of PM2.5 concentrations for all of BC monitors with a retrieval system to enable future research studies.

You can visit scairquality.ca to follow the progress of the display.

We're grateful for support from the SCRD to develop this air quality display website.



You can help track local air quality!

The Sunshine Coast Clean Air Society's AQ network still has a few holes. We need a monitor in Sandy Hook or Tuwanek and we need one in Egmont. If you live in one of these communities, have year-round WiFi, and would like to contribute to understanding of local air quality conditions and trends, we are interested in hearing from you.

We also will subsidize other citizens interested in having a monitor in their backyard. Our cost for each monitor is \$300, though we are willing to provide you with one for the subsidized rate of \$150. Contact us: info@cleanaironthecoast.ca

Did you know you can now sign-up to receive local Air quality advisory alerts sent to your phone or email? [Visit the BC Air Quality page to subscribe.](#)

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WOOD STOVE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

REBATES AVAILABLE



Act now to save on home heating this fall

Though we're finally enjoying some warmer weather, it's a good time to start thinking about your options for home heating this winter. Summer is a perfect time to take on home renovations to increase your energy efficiency and lower your carbon footprint. You can save money AND protect air quality by swapping out your old wood-stove for a cleaner and healthier home heating appliance.

Thanks to funding from the Provincial Wood Stove Exchange Program, we have a few more rebates of **\$400 each** available to those of you who want to exchange your old wood-stove for an electric appliance including heat pumps! In combination with BC Hydro* (up to \$1000) and District of Sechelt (\$250) rebates, you can save a lot while also doing your part for the environment and community health!

For more information contact
your vendor or email
info@cleanairsociety.ca

NOTE: To qualify for the Clean Air rebate your
old wood stove must be decommissioned



CLEANAIRSOCIETY.CA

*BC Hydro rebate requires use of electric baseboards as a winter heat source to qualify.

Though not burning wood at all is best, if do have to burn, please **BURN SMART!**
Check out these [Burn Smart tips from the BC Lung Association](#).

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Our AGM is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 25th, and will likely be held via online video conference. We will be sure to give you ample notice so that you can attend, and we invite you to consider joining our team as a Board member or volunteer! Interested? Contact: info@cleanaironthecoast.com.

Click on the images to read these relevant articles:



▲ Air pollution over London. Minority groups are known to generally experience higher levels of air pollution. Photograph: Nick Ansell/PA

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The Guardian: *Omission of air pollution from report on Covid-19 and race 'astonishing'.*



WILDFIRES & COVID-19

West Coast Environmental Law: *What happens when climate change-fueled wildfires meet COVID?*

Support the Sunshine Coast Clean Air Society

BECOME A MEMBER

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The SCCAS team wishes you a healthy, happy summer!



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Louis Leval, Ryan Logtenberg, Valerie Thorsteinson, Elizabeth Lytviak, John Field, and Naomi Fleschhut



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