

To: Regional and Corporate Services Committee

Date: 2025-09-04

From: Elias Ross, Environmental Services Coordinator

Subject: Overview of Air Quality Committees Represented by FVRD Staff

Reviewed by: Lance Lilley, Manager of Environmental Services
David Urban, Deputy Director of Regional Services
Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Services/Deputy CAO
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RECOMMENDATION

This report is being brought forward for the Board's information and there is no staff recommendation.

BACKGROUND

The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) is part of the sensitive Lower Fraser Valley Airshed (Figure 1). Since pollution is often constrained in the airshed, and actions in the neighbouring jurisdictions of Metro Vancouver and Whatcom County can significantly impact the FVRD, staff work closely with staff from our neighbouring jurisdictions. FVRD staff sit on several air quality related committees and **working groups that align with the FVRD's Air Quality Management Plan goals of improving community health impacted by exposure to air contaminants, having excellent visual air quality, and reducing community greenhouse gas emissions.** These engagement and collaborative efforts make up an important function for FVRD staff working on air quality.



Figure 1: The Lower Fraser Valley Airshed.

DISCUSSION

As many contaminants spread and come from a variety of sources, airshed management is complex and involves numerous agencies and experts working together. The FVRD is a key contributor to several air quality groups that provide staff with the opportunity **to highlight the FVRD's** efforts, learn from other professionals, be made aware of airshed issues or trends, and collaborate on efforts that improve the health of the Lower Fraser Valley Airshed. While these groups are dynamic and can evolve as issues or projects emerge, an overview of three current collaborative efforts is provided below.

Lower Fraser Valley Air Quality Coordinator Committee

Representatives from Environment and Climate Change Canada, BC Ministry of Environment, the Fraser Port Authority, Metro Vancouver, three health authorities, multiple Washington State agencies, and the FVRD meet quarterly to discuss air quality concerns, major projects, and successes in the air quality field. This committee is hosted and chaired by the FVRD once every two years.

This committee is crucial for gaining knowledge and understanding of the work being done by other agencies, for understanding major sources of pollution, and for maintaining critical multi-jurisdictional partnerships.

Ground Level Ozone Working Group

In 2013, the FVRD helped form a working group with regional partners to create a Regional Ground Level-Ozone Strategy to mitigate the impacts of ozone on the airshed. Ozone continues to be one of the most impactful air quality contaminants leading to air quality warnings, degraded visual air quality, and harm to plants impairing growth, productivity, and resilience to environmental stressors.

In 2025, this group has been working to update the strategy with new data to help better address and understand the impacts of ozone on the airshed. It is expected that the new strategy will influence ozone management regionally and function as an educational aid for air quality professionals, residents, and decision makers.

BC Lower Mainland Peer Network

The FVRD is part of the Province-led Lower Mainland Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Peer Network. This network, which includes Squamish, Metro Vancouver, and the Fraser Valley, focuses on information and initiative sharing about emissions and on collaborative climate adaptation planning. This group meets regularly throughout the year and also allows for additional opportunities to meet with Peer Networks from the rest of the province to discuss greenhouse gas emissions, climate initiatives, and funding opportunities.

COST

n/a

CONCLUSION

The FVRD's **air quality program** is deeply collaborative and connected with many of our partner agencies that have the shared goal of improving the health of our airshed. Staff participate on several committees and working groups to achieve this goal, which allows the FVRD to learn from others, collaborate on research and planning efforts, raise awareness of FVRD interests, and to share knowledge. Collaborating on these committees constitutes an important function for air quality staff.