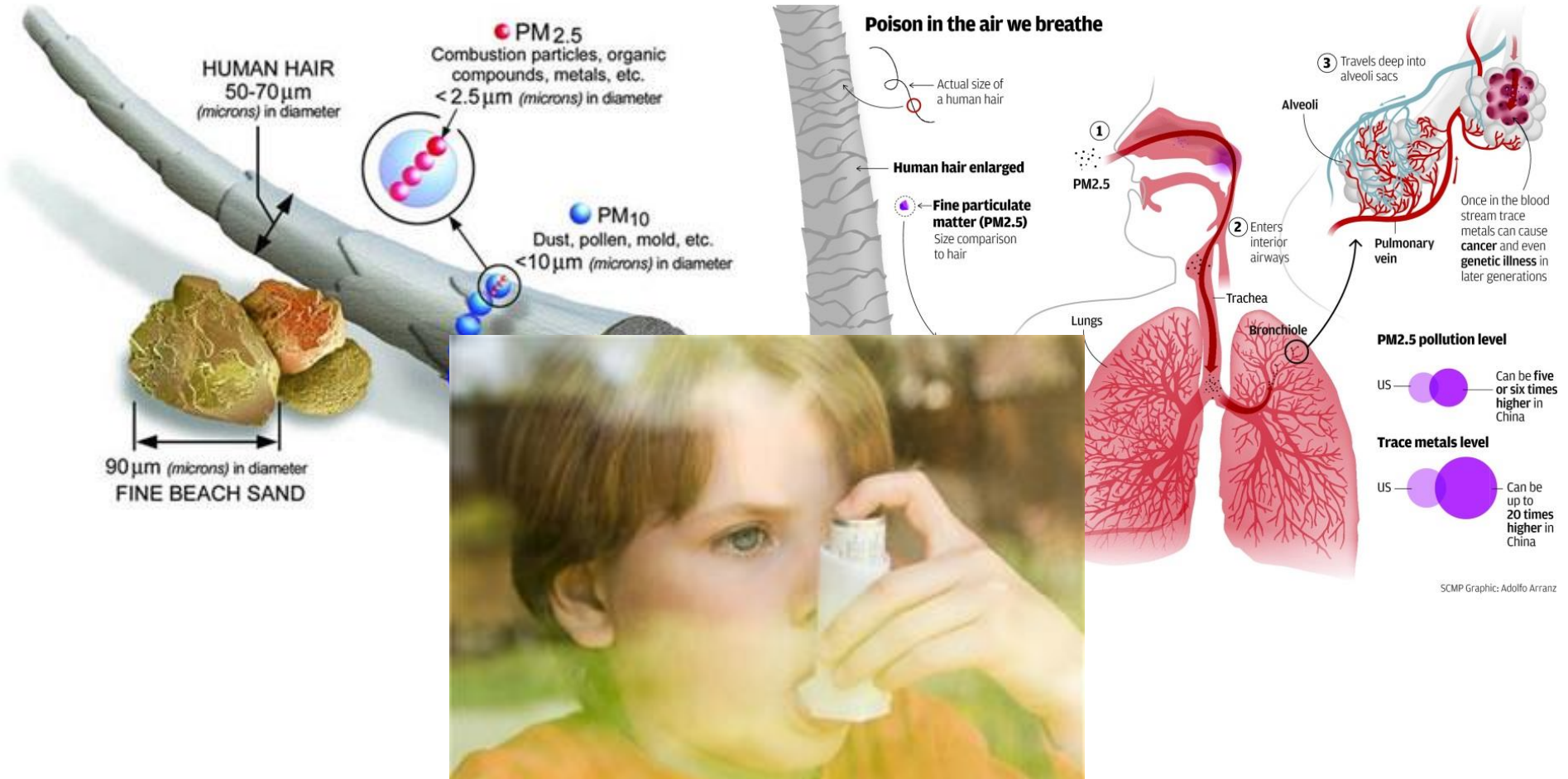


Cowichan's Regional Airshed Protection Strategy

Thetis Island Community Meeting

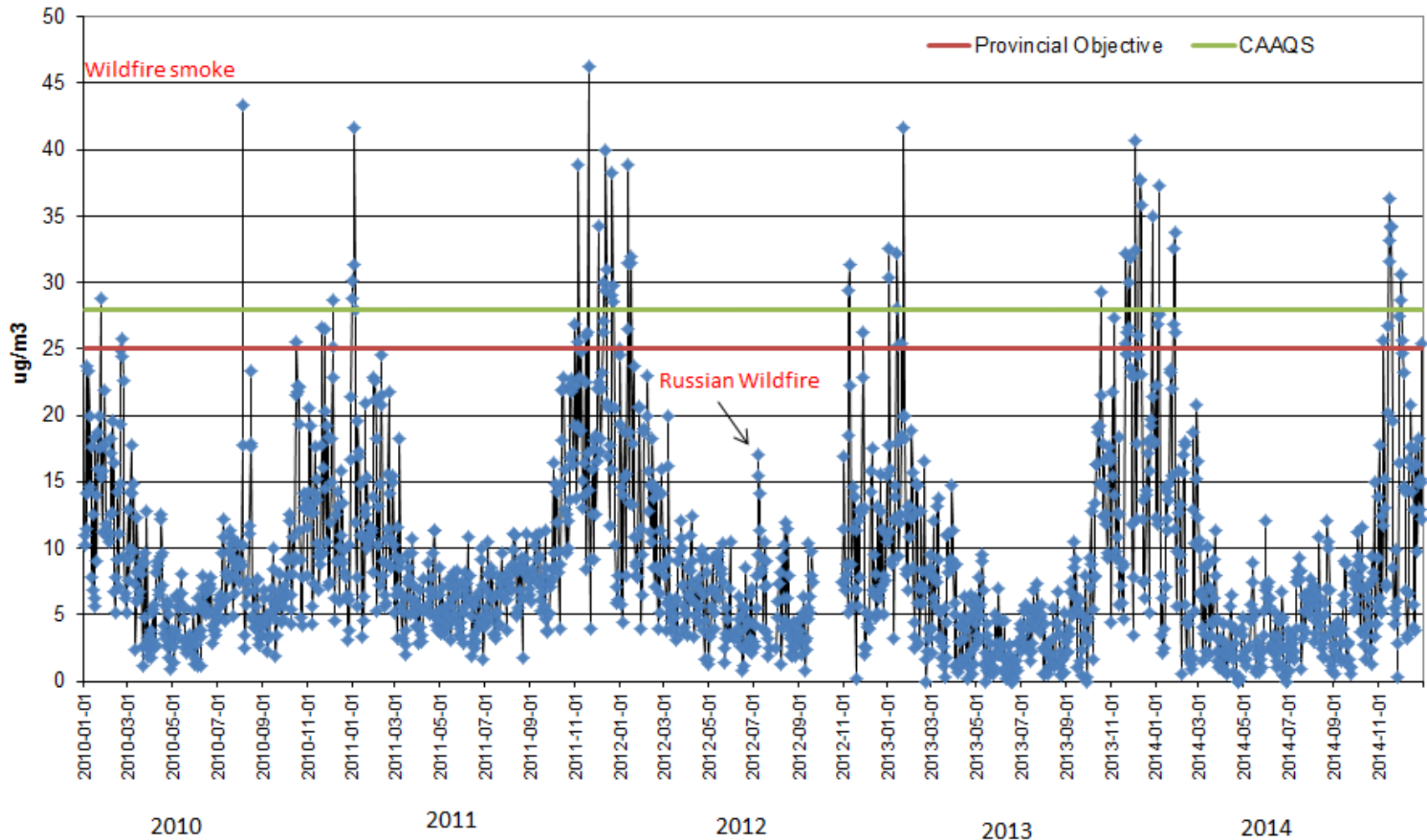


What is the air quality problem in the Cowichan



What is the air quality problem in the Cowichan

Daily PM2.5 Concentrations at Duncan Cairnsmore January 2010 - December 2014



Partnership



Area



Point



Mobile

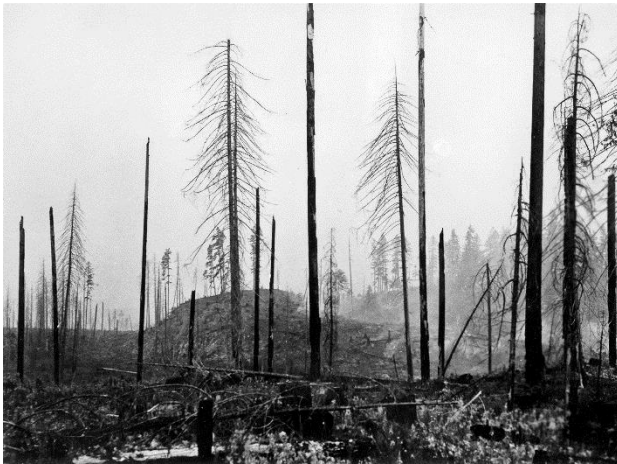


Our History

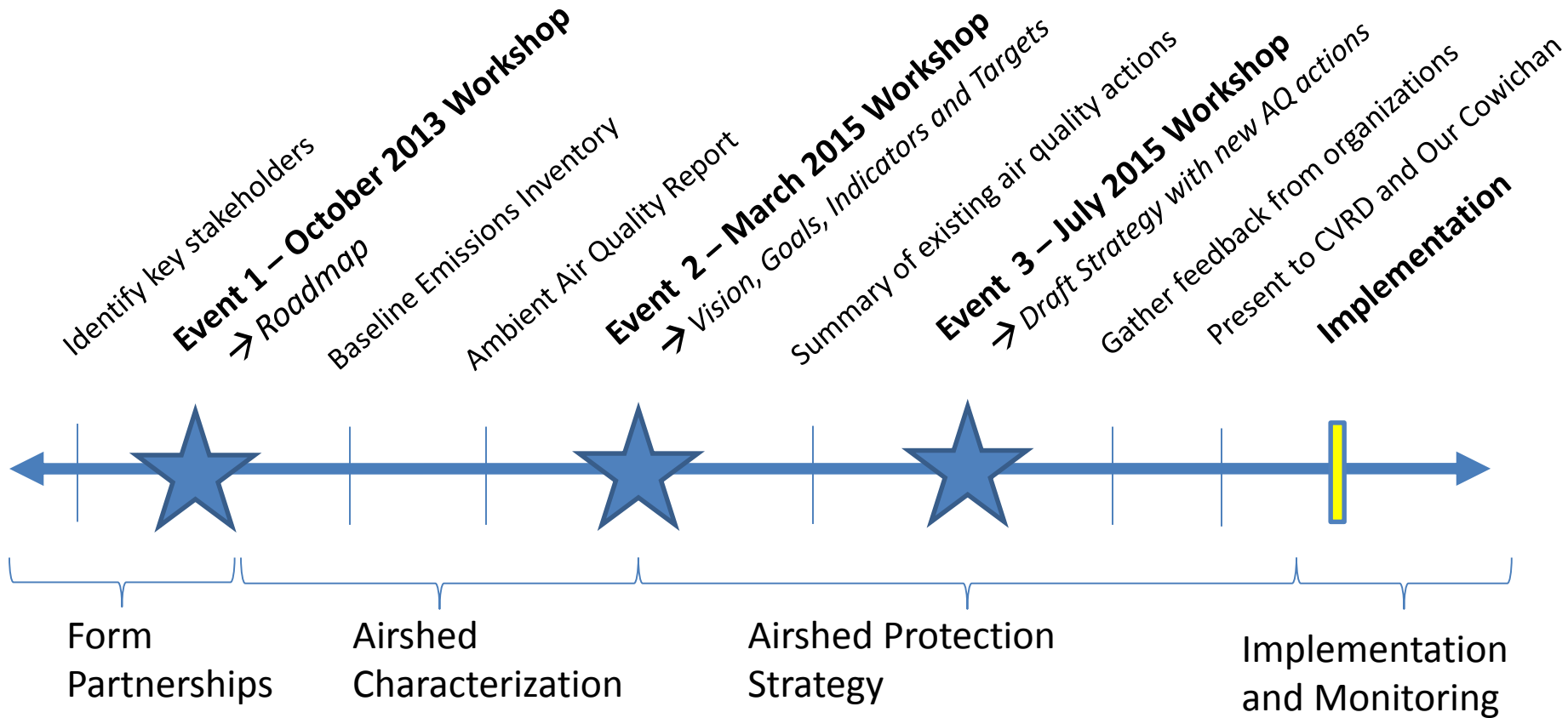


There is something about the smell of wood smoke and the warmth of heat from a fire that is comforting for people. In our region, it is part of our history of living off the land. People will say: “My parents burned wood and my grandparents burned wood, why wouldn’t I?” Today, we know about the health effects of wood smoke. And today, the technology and practices exist to do it better.

TW Paterson – local historian and author of over 26 books on BC History



Addressing Concerns – Collaborative Airshed Planning Process



Working together for **clean air** to support our health, our environment and our communities

Goals

1. Protecting Human Health
2. Building Strong and Collaborative Partnerships



Highlights of our progress

Protecting Human Health – Priority actions

- BC Lung hosted an Air Quality Forum in Duncan in the fall of 2015. MoE, CVRD, UBC and BCCDC presented.
- The MoE conducted short term air quality monitoring projects in Shawnigan Lake and Lake Cowichan, started a 3rd in Ladysmith
- *Citizen Air Quality Awareness* project, includes installation of low cost PM_{2.5} sensors



Highlights of our progress

Protecting Human Health – Priority actions

- Feasibility work in progress to include Area G in the CVRD backyard burning bylaw
- MoE updated Solid Fuel Burning Appliance Regulation
- CVRD including heat pumps in the wood stove exchange program



Highlights of our progress

Protecting Human Health – Supporting actions

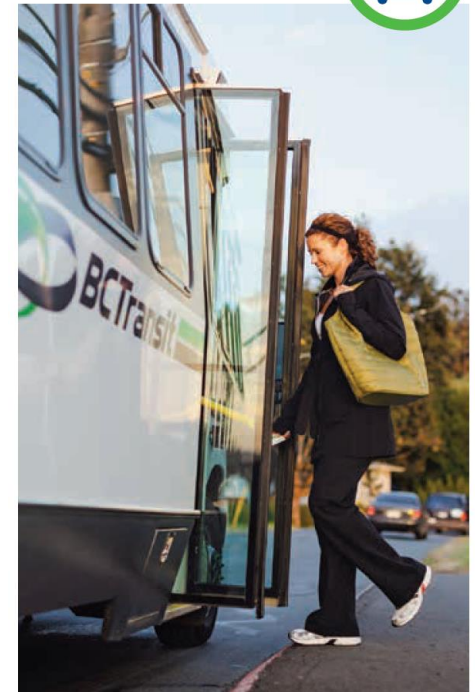
- Local governments adopting and exploring anti-idling bylaws and policies
- Ladysmith-Duncan Express route
- Electric vehicle charge station upgraded at ISC



Cowichan Valley Regional Transit

RIDER'S GUIDE

Effective October 6, 2014



Highlights of our progress

Building Strong and Collaborative Partnerships

- Airshed Protection Roundtable was formed
- Supportive funding grant was provided by PlanH
- Periodic reporting and monitoring is ongoing
- Climate impacts that may drive changes to air quality



Thank you



How can waste management improve air quality?

- Free yard waste drop-off
- Mulch & reuse leaves instead of burning
- Compost leaves at home to make soil

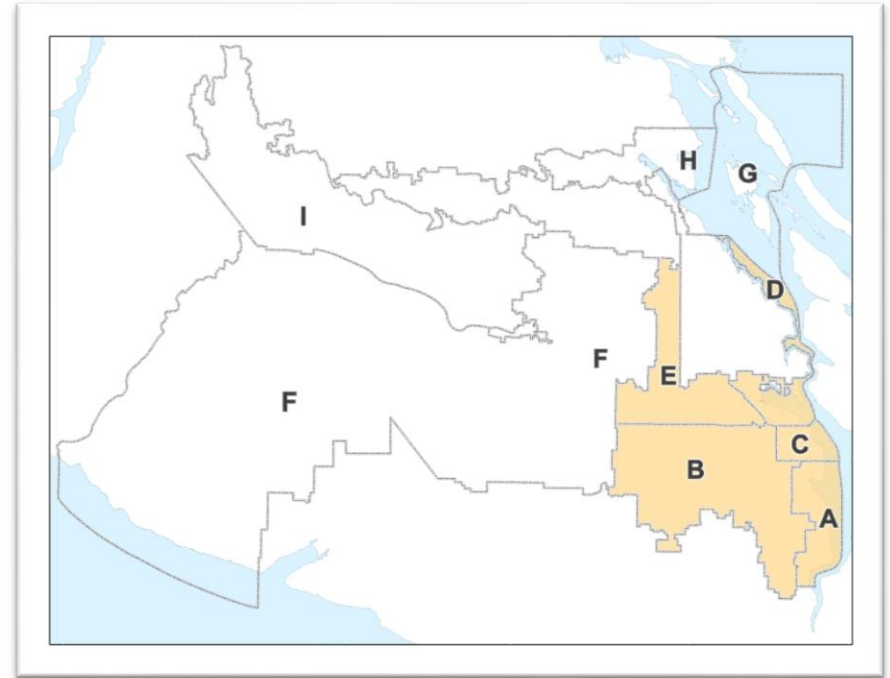


What role do bylaws play?

- Bylaws can
 - Reduce the amount of smoke
 - Make sure that fires are burned properly
 - Help educate about options

Backyard Burning Bylaw (No. 3716)

- Enacted in 2013
- Goal – improve air quality
- Applies in 5 of 9 Electoral Areas, and matches North Cowichan bylaw
- Burn for 1 month in spring, and 1 month in fall, only



Backyard Burning Bylaw (No. 3716)

- Burn Mar. 15 – Apr. 15 OR Oct. 15 – Nov. 15
- Property > ½ acre
- 1 fire per property
- 2m x 2m max. fire size
- No garbage or wet materials like leaves or grass (dry natural wood, branches and pruning's okay)
- Venting index “good”
- Burn between 7 am and sunset (up to 72 hours for large items like stumps)
- Burn Smart – don't pollute neighbours

Thank you

