East Whatcom Community Council Clean Air Committee (CAC)
Meeting agenda
November 19, 2014
4:30-6:00 pm

CAC Charge: The charge of the East Whatcom Community Council Clean Air Committee is to work jointly with the Northwest Clean Air Agency to develop a comprehensive, community-based, long-range plan designed to improve the air quality in the East Whatcom County Region.

Committee Guidelines:
1. Listen to understand, not to respond; seek clarity.
2. Voice opinions and questions openly in the meeting and not after; speak for yourself; everyone’s opinion is valuable and worthy of attention.
3. Conflict over a topic is healthy; take nothing personally; engage in debate.
4. Do not expect consensus or certainty.
5. Explain why you don’t agree with a proposal, but when a decision is made, buy in.
6. If people look like they have something to say, encourage them to speak.

Chair: Lou Piotrowski (excused)
Acting Chair: Phil Cloward
Members: Jerry DeBruin & David Moe, WCFPD #14; Mark Schofield & Kyle White, OppCo; Veronica Darden, Kendall Watch Community Action Group, Kurt Thompson, community member; Viktor Vetkov, Slavic Church; Wain Harrison, Whatcom County; Rebecca Brown & Julie O’Shaughnessy, NWCAA
Other: Paul Schissler, Community Development Planner

Agenda items:

1. Introductions (5 minutes)
2. Approval of October 15, 2014 meeting minutes (5 minutes)
3. Open public comment – Please limit comments to 3 minutes per person
4. Announcements - (5 minutes)
5. Strategic plan update – Phil (20 minutes)
6. Winter outreach/community event – Julie/All (20 minutes)
7. Air monitoring update – Julie (10 minutes)
8. Burn ban and air quality advisory overview – Rebecca & Julie (15 minutes)

Upcoming meetings, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.
East Whatcom Regional Resource Center, 8251 Kendall Road, Maple Falls, WA:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date</th>
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<td>Sept. 17</td>
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<td>Dec. 17</td>
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**East Whatcom Community Council Clean Air Committee (CAC)**

**Meeting minutes**

**October 15, 2014**

**4:30-6:00 pm**

**CAC Charge:** The charge of the EWCC Clean Air Committee is to work jointly with the Northwest Clean Air Agency to develop a comprehensive, community-based, long-range plan designed to improve the air quality in the East Whatcom County Region.

**Committee Guidelines:**

1. Listen to understand, not to respond; seek clarity.
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**Chair:** Lou Piotrowski (excused)

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**Members:** Jerry DeBruin & David Moe, WCFPD #14; Mark Schofield & Kyle White, OppCo; Veronica Dearden, Kendall Watch Community Action Group; Kurt Thompson, community member; Viktor Vetkov, Slavic Church; Wain Harrison, Whatcom County; Rebecca Brown & Julie O’Shaughnessy, NWCAA

**Agenda items:**

1. **Introductions:** Members present introduced themselves to new member, John Wolpers.
   - **Mark Schofield,** Opportunity Council – Conservation Programs Coordinator. Works with families to reduce their energy burden and make their homes more efficient. Also, involved with the woodstove change-out program which is the key involvement component of this committee.
   - **David Moe,** WCFPD #14 – firefighter. Assists local community in his firefighter capacity and as a member of the CAC committee.
   - **John Wolpers,** Whatcom County Health Department – Environmental Health Manager. Works to help protect the health of Whatcom County citizens. Received and accepted Lou Piotrowski’s invitation letter to help facilitate and support the CAC’s mission.
   - **Julie O’Shaughnessy,** Northwest Clean Air Agency (NWCAA) – Special Projects Manager. Primary contact at Northwest Clean Air Agency for the wood smoke reduction program in Columbia Valley. Previously served as Director of Compliance.
2. Approval of August 20, 2014 minutes:

Motion:
- Mark Schofield moved to approve minutes.
- David Moe seconded the motion.

3. Open public comment: None, no public present.

4. Announcements:
- Julie updated the committee that Viktor Vitkov’s email address associated with the EWRRC email group was incorrect and as such has not received recent group emails. His address has since been corrected.
- Viktor agreed to ground truth the winter outreach postcards prior to printing after translation by The Language Exchange is complete.

5. Strategic plan update:
- Phil originally emphasized the need to develop a CAC strategic plan. He suggested, however, that as CAC actions continue to progress, the importance of developing a strategic plan may apply more to the Biomass Committee. Phil’s perception is there hasn’t been a great deal of enthusiasm to develop a strategic plan and asked for feedback and comments on this perception. He also said the biomass committee still intends to develop a business plan.

- Mark agreed that the development of a business plan fits well with the biomass committee, but still supports the identification of broad goals, specific objectives, actions, and timelines of CAC activities in a written format. By default, activities that fit into our charge have already been done and others are underway, such as winter outreach. Mark supported the development of a more formal CAC planning document that identifies achievable, measurable objectives, and timelines.

- Phil volunteered to create a CAC plan for review by the committee that would reflect items identified by Mark.

- Julie summarized the results (spreadsheet) of the committee’s previous work session where primary stakeholders identified their affiliation and areas of involvement which support the CAC charge.

- The committee supported the development of a written CAC plan as identified by Mark and Phil.
6. Winter outreach/community event:

Community event:
- Wood-heating workshop is scheduled for December. Exact date has yet to be confirmed.
- Location will be the EWRRC.
- The event will include Zigiz Gadowski’s “Burn it Smart” presentation and woodstove demonstrations.

Winter outreach (general):
- Rebecca stated that as part of NWCAA’s overall strategy to improve air quality in Columbia Valley, NWCAA was planning a winter outreach campaign to help establish rapport with the community. This will include a winter-long door-to-door campaign to let people know who we are, what programs are available, and tips to burn cleaner and more efficiently. The outreach will include a short survey asking about:
  - Source of heat
  - Age and certification status of woodstove
  - Impressions of air quality in the area, especially during the winter
  - Health issues of family/household members
  - Ideas for the CAC to assist the community

- Mark inquired about the purpose of the health question.
- John inquired about survey data and how it will be collected, summarized, and used.
- John and Jerry stated the importance and difficulty in collecting and synthesizing data to determine a meaningful relationship between health and particulate exposure.
- Rebecca stated that the intent is to help people associate high particulate levels with potential heart or lung issues and would refer people to the air quality monitor to help avoid exposure during periods of poor air quality, but would not offer health advice since she is not a health care official. The health information would be used anecdotally to help NWCAA develop further strategies to improve air quality.
- Julie said a standardized form will be used to ask and record answers to questions for which people are willing to provide responses. The information will be collected, summarized, and used anecdotally to help identify unknown areas of need or concern and help NWCAA develop further strategies to improve air quality.
- Jerry said that people are also interested in outdoor burning regulations and the impacts smoke from these fires have on neighboring residents, especially persons with health problems.
- Mark suggested that if household with young children who have asthma are encountered, Opportunity Council’s Healthy Home Program, which serves low-income families with children, may be a valuable resource to help assess the health of the home to identify and eliminate asthma triggers. Mark will provide program brochures to be handed out during the outreach campaign.
- John said that the health department has personnel that are certified in healthy homes that may also be of assistance.
- The committee supported the technical assistance and educational approach of the outreach program prior to proceeding with enforcement.
• Phil asked Mark if the woodstove change-out program can be expanded to include pellet stoves. Mark said that as the program exists today, only heat pumps and woodstoves are allowed.

**Winter outreach tools for review and comment:**
- Draft talking points to assist in delivering a consistent message.
  - Clearly identify each team member’s affiliation.
  - Flexibility is necessary in order to hear individual’s personal experience and concerns, such as outdoor burning. Deviation from the standardized outreach list is ok.
  - Include and acknowledge garbage burning as an issue of concern and identify ways people can address their concern and whom to call.
  - Inform people of the 20 minute start-up and every 4-hour opacity exemption.
  - Include definition of dry wood.
  - Modify “unhealthy days” data to represent winter heating seasons versus calendar years.
- Door-to-door and leave-behind postcards:
  - Postcards have not been printed or mailed.
  - Postcards and other info are viewed as necessary outreach tools for an effective outreach program.
- Canvassing:
  - Winter outreach will be delayed an additional week since postcards are not complete.

7. **Woodstove bounty program:**

The NWCAA plans to hold an event in the spring where individuals can receive a $250 voucher in exchange of recycling old woodstoves. Details and frequency of the program will be provided as spring nears.

8. **Biomass committee update:**

Mark received an email from Paul Schissler who has drafted a letter to be sent to the Port of Bellingham to support a biomass venture market analysis.

Phil said and Mark agreed that the Opportunity Council has delayed their involvement of the dry fuel project for this year, but is interested in pursuing and supporting the program next year possibly using energy assistance funds.

Phil learned that the necessary component to activate the Columbia Valley industrial zone is a financed commercial project.

9. **Air monitoring update (NWCAA):**

- A meteorological station has been added to the existing water district monitoring location. The instrument records temperature, wind speed, wind direction, relative humidity, and barometric pressure.
• Two additional nephelometers will be added to NWCAA’s monitoring network to collect data throughout this winter’s heating season. One on Shamrock Lane, the other on Holly Lane.

• Permanent monitors were chosen over mobile monitoring as they are more effective, efficient and reliable.

• Data will be polled manually at least two times a month and posted to NWCAA’s website. The two new stations will supplement the existing monitor’s data and help provide a broader picture of Columbia Valley air quality.
Columbia Valley air quality improvement door-to-door outreach strategy

Introduction

As part of its work with the East Whatcom Community Council Clean Air Committee, the Northwest Clean Air Agency is engaging in a door-to-door campaign to increase awareness about air quality improvement efforts in Columbia Valley, and to gain a better understanding of community needs, concerns, roadblocks, and underlying conditions.

This outreach effort is intended to be an early step in an ongoing conversation within the community, while the Clean Air Committee continues its work toward a long-range, community-based plan for air quality improvement.

This is purely an outreach effort – no enforcement – with a goal of making personal contact with every home in the Columbia Valley urban growth area.

Background

Improving air quality is a priority in this area because residents experience periods of unhealthy air. These periods occur most often during winter temperature inversions, when colder air sinks below warmer air, trapping pollution close to the ground. The pollution-trapping effect of inversions is compounded in Columbia Valley by topographical conditions and excessive smoke from some of the 1,200 homes in this two-square-mile area.

Purpose of the outreach effort

This outreach effort is a component of a developing long-range strategy to reduce excessive smoke in Columbia Valley. In contrast to our effort last year to contact residents with a known smoke problem, this year we intend to reach every household in the community with information, resources, and a receptive ear.

The goals of our door-to-door efforts are:

- Introducing ourselves and the efforts of the Clean Air Committee in a helpful, open manner.
- Learning from residents how they view the quality of their air.
- Asking residents who think there is an air quality problem what they think should be done.
- Advertising woodstove replacement opportunities. (Get advertising card from OppCo.)
- Advertising an upcoming winter wood-heating workshop in mid-December.
• Advertising a woodstove bounty project this spring.
• Offering safety tips and advice to prepare for winter heating.
• Sharing methods to improve woodstove operation to reduce excess smoke.
• Identifying specific challenges that may be responsible for poor woodstove operation.
• Providing contact information for the Northwest Clean Air Agency to file complaints.
• Informing residents that, after completing the door-to-door outreach campaign, the Northwest Clean Air Agency will be working in the community to identify sources of air pollution.
• Encouraging residents to get involved in community efforts to improve air quality.
• Sharing information with residents about ongoing and upcoming monitoring efforts and the number of “bad-air days” during the last few winters.
• Providing information about where people can check their air quality themselves – online and as they drive by the fire station.
• Providing information about outdoor burning requirements.

Door-to-door outreach team members
Julie O’Shaughnessy – Planning, canvassing
Rebecca Brown – Planning, canvassing
Bob Uhrich - Canvassing
Scott Pratschner - Canvassing
Katie Skipper - Planning
Axel Franzmann – Monitoring
Shawn Collins – Opportunity Council, woodstove replacement programs
Jerry DeBruin – Whatcom County Fire District No. 14
David Moe – Whatcom County Fire District No. 14

Outreach plan steps
Planning and advertising

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Assigned to</th>
<th>Target date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brief EWCC Clean Air Committee</td>
<td>Julie and Rebecca</td>
<td>Oct. 15 - done</td>
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<tr>
<td>Invite firefighters, resident committee members and</td>
<td>Julie</td>
<td>Oct. 7 - done</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunity Council to participate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify “no-contact” residents</td>
<td>Rebecca</td>
<td>Oct. 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plan routes and schedules</td>
<td>Julie and Rebecca</td>
<td>Oct. 10 - done</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Postcard and info sheet:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Content for both, postcard design concept</td>
<td>Katie</td>
<td>Oct. 7 - done</td>
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<tr>
<td>Info sheet design concept</td>
<td>Rebecca</td>
<td>Oct. 10 - done</td>
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<td>Format survey</td>
<td>Julie &amp; Rebecca</td>
<td>Oct. 10 - done</td>
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<td>Julie</td>
<td>Oct. 15 - done</td>
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<td>with Russian speaker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract graphic designer, printer, mailing service</td>
<td>Julie</td>
<td>Oct. 17 - done</td>
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<td>Postcard distribution</td>
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<td>Oct. 21 - done</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mail to UGA mailing list</td>
<td>Julie (via mailing service)</td>
<td>Oct. 21 - done</td>
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<td>Post at food bank, library, post office, Shell gas station</td>
<td>Julie (via facility contact)</td>
<td>Oct. 22-24</td>
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<td>Provide to school to send home with students (include disclaimer)</td>
<td>Julie (via family service coordinators)</td>
<td>Oct. 22-24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide to EWRCC</td>
<td>Julie (via Jessica)</td>
<td>Oct. 22 - done</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide to Jessica for mobile food pantry event.</td>
<td>Julie</td>
<td>Oct. 22-24 - done</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post message on FD 14 reader board</td>
<td>Julie to ask Jerry</td>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Send message to Columbia Valley Listserv subscribers</td>
<td>Katie (coordinate with mailing)</td>
<td>Oct. 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ask KendallWatch to post outreach announcement (postcard) on Facebook</td>
<td>Katie</td>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Send message to “In Reach” – Mt. Baker Head Start, EWRRC, and current clients</td>
<td>Julie</td>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide to EWCC &amp; EWRRC to include in email newsletter</td>
<td>Julie</td>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact Brent Lindquist at Foothills Gazette</td>
<td>Katie</td>
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**Door-to-door canvassing - Julie, Rebecca, Bob, Scott, Fire District No. 14**

- Visit Columbia Valley UGA residents
- Provide information to residents (see attached leave-behind postcard)
- Collect information. (See attached survey)

**Evaluate and report**

- Provide regular updates to Clean Air Committee (standing agenda item). Incorporate committee input and adjust approach as necessary. - **Julie**
- Compile survey results. - **Rebecca**
- Continue monitoring and tracking air quality trends. - **Axel**

**Key messages**

- We’re members of the East Whatcom Community Council Clean Air Committee that is working to improve local air quality.
- We’re visiting every house in Columbia Valley to get the same information to everyone who lives here, and give everyone an equal chance to provide input.
• The air quality issue we’re trying to tackle first is wintertime wood smoke.

• Breathing smoke is unhealthy, especially for children, the elderly and anyone with heart, lung, or circulation problems.

• If your fire is smoky, it means you’re wasting wood and money.

• We’re offering tips and information for reducing smoke, advertising a couple of upcoming opportunities, and asking people for ideas about how to improve air quality.

• If you heat with wood, make sure you:
  o Only burn dry wood.
  o Don’t damper down your fire.
  o Go outside and look at your chimney often. You should only see heat waves – a wisp of smoke at the most.

• We’ve got a couple of programs coming up. Look for:
  o A winter wood-heating workshop in mid-December.
  o Our woodstove bounty program this spring.

• Would you be willing answer a few questions to help us develop our program and improve air quality? (Survey)

• If you think of questions, have an idea, or you want to file a complaint later, please call us.
<table>
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<th>WINTER OUTREACH 2014-2015</th>
<th>Air quality</th>
<th>Heat source</th>
<th>Certified</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Ideas</th>
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<th>Comments and follow-up</th>
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Comments and follow-up:
- Interested in wood stove change-out or other heating device
Clean Air Committee - Columbia Valley
Winter outreach talking points
2014-2015
(Intended for canvassing personnel)

- We’re (identify how each member is associated with the committee – NWCAA, community member, health official, etc.), members of the East Whatcom Community Council Clean Air Committee that are working to improve local air quality.

- We’re going door-to-door in Columbia Valley to talk about:
  o Wood burning techniques
  o What is legal to burn – no garbage
  o Programs available to help get a new wood stove or other heating device
  o Upcoming community events
  o Spring “bounty” program to get rid of old wood stoves and earn $250
  o Impressions of local winter air quality and ways to improve it

- The air quality issue we’re trying to tackle first is wintertime wood smoke and the burning of garbage.

- Breathing smoke is unhealthy, especially for children, the elderly and anyone with heart, lung, or circulation problems.

- We’re offering tips and information for reducing smoke, advertising a couple of upcoming opportunities, and asking people for ideas about how to improve air quality.

- If your fire is smoky, it means you’re wasting wood and money.

- What you can do to improve the air quality (identify start-up and stoking exemption)
  o Only burn dry wood
  o Don’t damper down your fire
  o Go outside and look at your chimney often. You should only see heat waves – a wisp of smoke at the most.

- We’ve got a couple of programs coming up. Look for:
  o Our woodstove bounty program in the spring,
  o A winter wood-heating workshop on December 13th.

- Would you be willing answer a few questions to help us develop our program and improve air quality? (Survey)
If you giving out a moisture meter. First show them how to use it and then have them try it. Don’t just hand them one. Get them involved.

Identify the number of poor air quality days last winter or last couple of winters.

- Heating season
  - 2014-2015 – 0 days so far
  - 2013-2014 – 20 days
  - 2012-2013 – 41 days
  - 2011-2012 – 15 days
  - 2010-2011 – 20 days

What does a poor air quality day mean for them?

Talk about air monitor at the fire department.

Talk about getting a new woodstove or heat pump – Opportunity Council

- Handout OppCo info and flyers and encourage contact
Представители Северо-Западного управления чистого воздуха (Northwest Clean Air Agency) и пожарного района № 14 округа Уотком посетят на дому жителей долины реки Колумбия для разговора на следующие темы:

- Как перейти на более безопасное для здоровья и экономичное дровяное отопление.
- Как получить дровяную печь или более экологичную альтернативу бесплатно или по низкой цене.
- Наши предстоящий семинар по дровяному отоплению.
- Как можно заработать деньги, избавившись от старой дровяной плиты.
- Ваши идеи по улучшению качества воздуха в зимний сезон.

У вас есть вопросы? Позвоните Джули О'Шогнеси из Северо-Западного Управления чистого воздуха по тел. 360-428-1617 доб. 210 или напишите ей на julie@nwcleanair.org.
Здоровье начинается с чистого воздуха!
мы посетим вас на дому для разговора об этом.
Breathe better. Save money. Be safe.

The Northwest Clean Air Agency and Whatcom County Fire District No. 14 will be going door-to-door in Columbia Valley to talk about:

- Tips for healthier, less expensive wood heating.
- How to get a free or low-cost woodstove, or a cleaner alternative.
- Our upcoming wood-heating workshop.
- How you can earn money for unloading that old woodstove.
- Your ideas for improving winter air quality.

Questions? Contact Julie O'Shaughnessy
Northwest Clean Air Agency:
360-428-1617 ext. 210 or julie@nwcleanair.org
Health is in the air.

We’ll be stopping by to talk about it.
Do your part to improve the air you breathe.

Burn cleaner:

• Only burn dry wood.

• Keep the damper open on your woodstove or fireplace.

• Go outside and look at your chimney often. You should only see heat waves – a wisp of smoke at the most.

• Start collecting wood now for next year.

Talk with your neighbors:

• Your neighbors might not realize they’re smoking you out. If you feel comfortable, talk to them about it. You might be able to help each other.

• If problems continue, call the Northwest Clean Air Agency to file a complaint: 360-428-1617.

Join the effort:

• Stay informed and help us develop a strategy to improve the air. Follow the efforts of the East Whatcom Community Council Clean Air Committee online at www.nwcleanair.org/news/meetings.htm, or attend meetings.
Breathe better. Save money. Stay safe.

Get a new woodstove or heat pump – maybe for free:
- Call the Opportunity Council to see if you qualify: 360-734-5121 ext. 158
- Read about the program on the Northwest Clean Air Agency’s website:
  www.nwcleanair.org/aqPrograms/CV_Wood_Stove.htm

Tune in to air quality:
- Check out your current and historical air quality. www.nwcleanair.org/airQuality/current.asp
- Watch the monitor at the Fire District No. 14 station. It’s updated daily.

Participate in events:
- Wood-heating workshop December 13th: We’re bringing back this popular event. Details coming soon.
- Woodstove bounty event: Coming this spring. You could earn money for getting rid of that old stove.
Дышите чистым воздухом. Экономьте. Берегите себя.

Представители Северо-Западного управления чистого воздуха (Northwest Clean Air Agency) и пожарного района № 14 округа Уотком посетят на дому жителей долины реки Колумбия для разговора на следующие темы:

• Как перейти на более безопасное для здоровья и экономичное дровяное отопление.
• Как получить дровяную печь или более экологичную альтернативу бесплатно или по низкой цене.
• Наш предстоящий семинар по дровяному отоплению.
• Как можно заработать деньги, избавившись от старой дровяной плиты.
• Ваши идеи по улучшению качества воздуха в зимний сезон.

У вас есть вопросы? Позвоните Джули О’Шогнесси из Северо-Западного Управления чистого воздуха по тел. 360-428-1617 доб. 210 или напишите ей на julie@nwcleanair.org.
Внесите свой вклад в улучшение качества воздуха, которым вы дышите.

Более чистое сгорание:
• Используйте только сухую древесину.
• Держите дымовую заслонку дровяной печи или камина открытой.
• Часто смотрите на дымоход с улицы. Вы должны увидеть только тепловые волны или небольшой дымок, но не более того.
• Начинайте собирать дрова для следующего сезона уже сейчас.

Поговорите с соседями:
• Возможно, ваши соседи не понимают, что задымляют ваш дом. Если ваши отношения это позволяют, поговорите с ними на эту тему. Вы можете помочь друг другу.
• Если проблемы по-прежнему возникают, вы можете подать жалобу в Northwest Clean Air Agency по телефону 360-428-1617.

Примите участие в кампании:
• Будьте в курсе происходящего и помогите нам в выработке стратегии по улучшению качества воздуха. Следите за успехами кампании, проводимой Комитетом по чистому воздуху Общественного совета округа восточный Уотком, на сайте www.nwcleanair.org/news/meetings.htm, а также посещайте проводимые комитетом заседания.