



News Release

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Mow-Chip Rebate Alternative to Outdoor Burning

There's another incentive program now available as an alternative to outdoor burning.

The Regional District of Central Okanagan Air Quality Program is offering a rebate through the new Mow-Chip program. It provides 80% of the cost of equipment rental (daily/multi-day/weekly/) or chipping/flail mow service up to a maximum of \$500 per applicant.

Qualifying participants must have a property one hectare or greater in size with a small volume of wood for fuel reduction and/or agricultural activities that can't be served through the regular Agricultural Chipping Program.

The Air Quality Technical Committee has been working on different approaches to reduce particulate matter across the region. In order to preserve good air quality and to keep material out of the landfill, one option was to encourage more on-site grinding. According to the [Agricultural Waste Disposal - Best Practices Guide](#), BURNING IS NOT RECOMMENDED for prunings as they're easily managed by chipping or using a flail mower. A number of businesses provide rental equipment or services and chipping can be done year-round. Green wood waste is not allowed to be burned and is perfect for chipping. Dry wood creates too much dust and wears the chipping blades down faster.

A November 2017 survey on open burning found Central Okanagan residents expressed their support for a rebate of this type program. The rental rebate includes fuel mitigation activities, as around 15% of all burning permits issued in the Central Okanagan are for fuel reduction to create a defensible space reducing wildfire risks. Homeowners are also encouraged to remove and chip any flammable landscaping materials (cedars, junipers etc.).

Open burning should not be considered as a first option for wood management. Residents and farmers that apply for this new rebate will show their commitment and social responsibility by using alternatives to burning and supporting the region in its efforts to protect the health of their families and neighbours. Working together, we will help improve local air quality.

Depending on the volume of wood, the two chipping options are now available for qualifying participants:

Requirement	Volume	RDCO Support	Process
Property 1 ha or more	Prunings/ fuel reduction Less than 4 piles of wood 3m width x3m large x2m height	Rebate is limited to 80% of the daily/multi-day/weekly/rental or chipping/flail mow service cost, up to a Maximum of \$500 per applicant.	Complete form (estimates and invoice are required) Mow / Chip / Rent-it Rebate
Fuel reduction & farm activities	Orchard removal 4 or more piles 3m width x3m large x2m height	Free	Register to a waiting list for the Agricultural Wood Waste Chipping Program
First come, first served. Limited funding based on availability.			

For more information on these and other Air Quality programs, visit www.regionaldistrict.com/airquality; email airquality@kelowna.ca or contact the Regional Air Quality Program Coordinator at 250-469-8408.

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