

**WORKPLAN FOR THE 2008 WOOD SMOKE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
February, 2008**

Background:

In 2007, the “Wood Smoke Work Group,” established under SHB 2261, identified and evaluated 26 strategies for reducing wood smoke emissions. Three of those were recommended proposals for the 2008 Legislature. Fourteen were slated for further consideration. Some or all of those could become recommendations for 2009 legislation or for agency implementation. Although the legislatively mandated task of the work group established under SHB 2261 was completed with the final transmittal of their report to the Legislature in January, 2008, as stated in the report, Ecology intends to continue working with members of the work group on the remaining strategies.

2008 Scope:

Ecology is inviting members of the 2007 work group and other parties to participate in a Wood Smoke Advisory Committee to complete work on the fourteen strategies or others that might be added by advisory committee members.

The primary focus of the 2008 workplan is the nine strategies listed as items that could, pending additional consideration, become legislative proposals for the 2009 session. The other five strategies in the report could be implemented without legislation. Some are essentially staff work for developing a budget proposal. Others could be directly implemented by Ecology or other LAAs if staffing allows. The advisory committee can consider these items again as needed, but this workplan does not allot them as much time as the other nine.

2008 Goal:

The goal is for the Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the Air Quality Program for possible inclusion in Agency Request or Governor Request legislation. Ecology staff will coordinate the development of advisory committee recommendations with the Agency process for developing legislative proposals. If legislation is not needed, and proposals can be implemented with existing resources, committee recommendations may be included in Air Quality program plans and priorities. The next section describes the timelines involved.

2008 Schedule:

The table below shows the Ecology calendar for developing legislative and related budget proposals. The dates are approximate. It's a two step process. By May 1, the Air Quality Program management decides what legislative proposals it needs to achieve priority air quality goals. On May 15th, Ecology senior management makes preliminary decisions on what legislative proposals make the most sense and have the most merit across all agency program needs. There's not a lot of detail at this stage, but the reasons for the proposals need to be compelling. On June 15, agency senior management selects the final proposals based on more detailed proposal descriptions, costs, benefits, and stakeholder input.

Wood Smoke Advisory Committee Process and Ecology's Legislative Calendar		
When	What	Who
March 3, 2008	Review of issues being considered by the Advisory Committee	Air Quality Leadership Team
<i>Mar 20</i>	<i>Advisory Committee Meeting #1</i>	<i>Adv. Committee</i>
April 3, 2008	Review status of advisory committee work; approve draft of a high level "scope and rationale" recommendation for senior management.	Air Quality Leadership Team
<i>Apr 10</i>	<i>Advisory Committee Meeting #2</i>	<i>Adv. Committee</i>
<i>Apr 24</i>	<i>Advisory Committee Meeting #3</i>	
Apr 17	Ecology staff gives update on advisory committee work	Air Quality Leadership Team
May 1, 2008	Final program policy and budget proposals for 2009.	Air Quality Leadership Team
May 15, 2008	All "brief" agency policy and budget proposals get initial review and <u>short listing</u> .	ECY Senior Management
<i>May 22</i>	<i>Advisory Committee Meeting #4</i>	
June 15, 2008	More complete "budget briefing papers" get reviewed. <u>Final list</u> of policy and budget proposals are chosen.	ECY Senior Management
August 15, 2008	Full-blown justifications for OFM and Legislature completed for final list. Includes bill language, fiscal notes, decision briefing, stakeholder input.	ECY Senior Management
November 30, 2008	Governor chooses which agency policy and budget proposals go forward as Governor or Agency request legislation	Governor and OFM
December 31, 2008	ECY finds legislative champions to sponsor the bill in Legislature	Ecology legislative coordinator
January, 2009	Legislative Session begins	

Keep in mind that the initial round of decisions by Senior Management on approximately May 15 will be based primarily the "why" of the proposals, i.e. a big picture look at what makes sense in light of overall agency needs. The next round in mid June will consider more thoroughly the merits (or not) of the specific proposals. The above schedule provides two early meetings to get through the main issues so we can have a fair sense of the scope of the recommendations, but we do not have to make final decisions, either to drop strategies or to identify all the specific details of the strategies. The third meeting allows time for homework after the first two, but we will need to make decisions at that meeting and shape the major outlines of the proposal. The fourth meeting would consider any remaining issues and clarify details of the proposals. After the mid-June Senior Management decisions, the work is more focused on justifications and impacts, but finer points could be clarified if needed based on consultations and email.

Summary of Topics to be considered and meeting goals:

- Mar 20: Consider incentive and barriers to gas heating strategies, identify issues
- Apr 10: Consider other emission reduction strategies, review a draft budget proposal, and identify issues
- Apr 24: Resolve issues, reach agreements where possible
- date ??: Continue resolving issues and reaching agreements where possible

Detail of Meeting Topics:

Meeting 1: Strategies to increase change-out incentives (non-budget) and reduce barriers

- Discuss and identify direction/issues on these strategies:
 - Incentive strategies:*
 1. Eliminate sales tax on the purchase of cleaner certified wood stoves, inserts, and pellet stoves when replacing an uncertified device.
 2. Eliminate sales tax on the purchase of cleaner certified wood stoves, inserts, and pellet stoves for new construction.
 3. Provide a credit toward the state portion of the real estate excise tax for sellers who remove and dispose of (destroy?) uncertified devices at the time of a property sale.
 - Reduce barriers strategies:*
 4. Establish a low-interest loan program.
 5. Reduce barriers to changing to gas stoves/inserts.

Apr 10, Mtg 2: Strategies to reduce emissions and change-out budget

- Discuss and identify direction/issues on these strategies
 1. Develop fireplace strategies.
 2. Draft Ecology budget proposal for a long-term change-out program, education and enforcement, including how the budget addresses:
 - a. A larger, more effective public education/information campaign
 - b. Implementation needs for running effective change-out, education, and curtailment programs including enforcement.
 - c. Identify monitoring and forecasting needs.

Apr 24, Mtg 3: Resolve Issues, review agency implementation items

- Discuss and identify direction/issues on these strategies
 1. Tighten the Washington State emission standard for home wood burning devices.
 2. Authorize agencies to ban or phase out use of uncertified devices in priority areas.
 3. Include replacement of uncertified devices as an eligible item in low-income weatherization programs.
 4. Coordinate with tribal jurisdictions.
 5. Review status of real estate disclosure bill

Date??, Mtg 4: Resolve remaining issues, finalize advisory committee proposals

- Agenda topics to be filled in, but it seems likely we will hold this meeting
- The original May 22 date needs adjustment