

Proposed Official Community Plan Amendments

May 2007

Build Energy Efficient Communities

The District supports energy conscious community planning and building design that makes communities more energy efficient, and supports all efforts to promote energy conservation and alternative energy sources which are environmentally friendly and sustainable.

Efficient use of energy resources contributes to a cleaner and more sustainable environment. The District supports energy efficiency and conservation in the planning and design of communities.

The following policies will address issues regarding the efficient use of energy:

Issues: Policies:

Promote Energy Conscious Planning and Design

Guidelines to Promote Energy-Conscious Planning and Design

Land use considerations:

- Support small lot and common-wall residential developments that reduce the use of energy in building construction, heating and cooling.
- Support integrated developments of compatible residential, office, retail, institutional or low-impact industrial uses within the same site that could benefit from district heating/cooling or other energy saving schemes.
- Support the location of high density residential, commercial and institutional uses close to transit and encourage provision of transit services to areas of high density developments. Support the creation of dense, mixed use centres within walking distance from residential areas.
- Encourage the infill or redevelopment of properties to achieve a compact and compatible development at a higher density, subject to balancing other planning considerations.

Street planning:

- Support a reduction in road pavement and street widths, with due consideration for safe vehicular movement.
- Support a street pattern that permits a maximum number of buildings and dwellings to be oriented in north-south direction to benefit from solar heat gain.



DISTRICT OF HOUSTON
BYLAW NO. 947, 2006

A Bylaw to regulate open burning and enhance air quality within the
District of Houston.

WHEREAS Council of the District of Houston has the authority, pursuant to the *Community Charter*, to regulate in regard to the protection, promotion or preservation of the health of individuals and the maintenance of sanitary conditions in the municipality;

AND WHEREAS a copy of this Bylaw has been deposited with the Minister of Environment;

NOW THEREFORE, in open meeting assembled, Council of the District of Houston, **ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

Part 1 - DEFINITIONS

In this Bylaw:

Air Quality Advisory - means a public health warning issued by the Minister of Environment on the basis of its monitoring of air quality parameters in the District of Houston.

Canadian Standard - means the Performance Testing of Solid-Fuel-Burning Stoves, Inserts, and Low-Burn-Rate Factory-Built Fireplaces CAN/CSA-B415.1 standard published by the Canadian Standards Association as amended from time to time.

Certified wood burning appliance – means a solid fuel burning appliance that bears a certification mark certifying conformity with the *Canadian Standard* or the *US Standard*.

Demolition and Construction Wastes - includes but is not limited to waste materials resulting from the demolition or construction of buildings such as pipe, concrete, asphalt, lumber, stumps, roofing material masonry, wire, treated wood, particle board, paint, drywall, tar and asphalt products.

Fire Chief – means the chief officer, or his/her designate appointed by Council, as head of the Fire Department.

Garbage - means any household and commercial waste or refuse.

Land Clearing Debris- means any organic material cleared from land in the process of preparing the land for development, agriculture, silviculture, highway construction or utility installation or any other use.

Noxious Material - includes tires, plastics, rubber products, Demolition and Construction Wastes, special waste as defined in the *Environmental Management Act*, animal organic waste, vegetable waste, food waste, biomedical waste, automotive battery shipping boxes, plastic materials, waste petroleum products, chemically-treated paper and cardboard or any Prohibited Material as identified in Schedule A of the *Open burning Smoke Control Regulation*.

Open Burning - means the combustion in the open air of yard and garden waste, land clearing debris, or any other material, including burning of any of these materials in a container, but does not include the combustion of gas, propane, or charcoal in a barbecue or hibachi for the purpose of cooking food.

2.4 Non-certified Wood burning Appliance Removal

- 2.41 The District of Houston is hereby authorized to establish a removal program for non-certified wood burning appliances that may incorporate incentives for energy conservation and air quality improvement including, but not limited to, household insulation, insulating products, non-certified wood stove replacement and substitution of heating methods and appliances, including certified wood burning appliances.
- 2.42 Any non-certified wood burning appliance removed under this section shall be rendered permanently inoperable.
- 2.43 All non-certified wood burning appliances within the District of Houston shall be removed from all properties by Dec. 31, 2010 or rendered permanently inoperable by Dec. 31, 2010.
- 2.4.4 It shall be a violation of this section for any person on or after Dec. 31, 2010 to possess or operate a wood burning appliance within the District of Houston unless it is certified or it has been rendered permanently inoperable.
- 2.45 Prior to the completion or consummation of a sale or transfer of any real property on or after Dec. 31, 2010 all existing non-certified wood burning appliances shall be replaced, removed, or rendered permanently inoperable.

Part 3 - OPEN BURNING

- 3.0 Nothing in this bylaw exempts any *person* from conditions of any provincial legislation such as but not limited to the *Environmental Management Act, Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation, Wildfire Act, or Wildfire Regulation*.
- 3.1 No *person* shall conduct *open burning* on any lot less than 1 hectare in area within the boundaries of the District of Houston.
- 3.2 No *person* shall conduct *open burning* or ignite or maintain any *recreational fire* if an *air quality advisory* has been issued.
- 3.3 If an *air quality advisory* is issued while a *person* is conducting *open burning* or maintaining a *recreational fire*, that *person* shall take all reasonable steps to cease the *open burning* or extinguish the *recreational fire* as soon as possible.
- 3.4 No *person* shall conduct any *open burning* or maintain any *recreational fire* in such a manner as to discharge air contaminants that are likely to cause or significantly contribute to the cause of injury or damage to human health, plant or animal life or property, or so as to unreasonably interfere with the enjoyment of life or property.
- 3.5 No *person* shall cause or allow any *garbage* or *noxious material* to be burned by *open burning* or by a *recreational fire*.
- 3.6 The operation of a domestic outdoor or back yard incinerator or any structure serving as a domestic incinerator is expressly prohibited.

Part 4 - OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

4.1 Any person who violates any of the provisions of this Bylaw, or who suffers or permits any act or thing to be done in contravention of this Bylaw, or who refuses, omits or neglects to fulfill, observe, carry out, or perform any duty or obligation imposed by this Bylaw, commits an offence and is liable, upon summary conviction, to a fine of not less than \$50.00 and not more than \$500.00 for each offence.

Part 5 – BYLAW TITLE

5.1 This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as "District of Houston Open Burning & Air Quality Bylaw No. 947, 2006".

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 20th DAY OF June, 2006

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 20th DAY OF June, 2006

READ A THIRD TIME THIS 20th DAY OF June, 2006


THIRD READING RESCINDED THIS 4th DAY OF July, 2006

BYLAW AMENDED AND READ A THIRD TIME THIS 4th DAY OF July, 2006

ADOPTED THIS 18th DAY OF July, 2006



MAYOR SHARON SMITH



PAUL GIPPS,
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Certified a true copy of Bylaw No. 847, 2006

Director of Corporate Services