



Environmental Services
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 22, 2018
TO: Mayor and Councilmembers
THRU: Darin Atteberry, City Manager
 Jeff Mihelich, Deputy City Manager
 Lucinda Smith, Interim Chief Sustainability Officer
 Lindsay Ex, Interim Environmental Services Director
FROM: Cassie Archuleta, Air Quality Program Manager

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RE: READ BEFORE: Item #1 – Outdoor Recreational Wood Burning

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a summary of the feedback from the Air Quality Advisory Board (AQAB) and the Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) in advance of the October 23, 2018 Council Work Session regarding outdoor recreational wood burning.

Bottom Line

AQAB and NRAB indicated they support development of a regulatory option to address recreational wood fires that negatively impact neighbors. AQAB added a request for more health impacts data, and NRAB stated that any new regulatory option should come with adequate education, outreach and enforcement.

Background

In 2018, staff facilitated community and stakeholder engagement related to the use of recreational wood fires in residential neighborhoods. Staff is seeking direction regarding potential next steps to develop a policy recommendation for Council consideration. Options proposed include:

- Option #1: No new regulations, enhanced education and outreach
- Option #2: Regulatory option to address only fires that negatively impact neighbors
- Option #3: Regulatory option to prohibit emissions of wood smoke from recreational fires in residential areas

These options were discussed by AQAB on October 15 and NRAB on October 17; responses unanimously supported by each Board are included below.

AQAB recommends to City Council that outdoor wood burning is a growing concern warranting consideration. The main concerns are the health issues, which at this time we have not seen data on the incidence of health impact data within the City of Fort Collins, so AQAB recommends gathering additional health outcome data prior to narrowing recommendations. Based on the qualitative information we have, something along the lines of Option #2 or #3 may be appropriate. The current policies are not adequate to address the needs of sensitive or affected populations.

NRAB indicated they could support pursuing a recommendation along the lines of Option #2 (with some support for #3) if it came with adequate education and outreach, and resources to effectively enforce. Option #1 was not supported. They also suggested that device standards rather than prohibitions be considered to limit smoke emissions (such as a smokeless wood burning fire pit).

CC: Arsineh Hecobian, AQAB Chair
 Nancy DuTeau, NRAB Chair