



**wildsight
golden**

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Dear Mayor Ozust and Council,

On behalf of Wildsight Golden, I am writing to submit our formal feedback and support for the environmental health and air quality policies in the draft Official Community Plan (Bylaw No. 1516, 2026).

The recent provincial Air Zone Report placing Golden in the high-risk "Red Zone" for fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) is a sobering reminder of the urgency of this work. Because our valley topography traps wintertime emissions, local policy is a powerful tool to protect community health.

We are incredibly pleased to see the Town of Golden embed these targeted air quality goals directly into our community's latest planning document. To ensure these policies successfully translate from planning into measurable improvements, we recommend that Council incorporate the following priorities:

1. Establish a clear timeline for the development of the community-wide no-idling zone and initiate contact with CPKC to collaborate on idling mitigation protocols.
2. Explore regulatory tools, such as a municipal nuisance bylaw, to address persistent, heavy smoke issues. This would encourage responsible wood stove operation, promote clean-burning education, and provide a mechanism for progressive enforcement (including fines) for non-compliant, highly polluting appliances that impact neighbour health.

We want to thank Town staff, Mayor, and Council for their commitment to protecting the health of Golden's residents. We look forward to working together to successfully implement these vital policies.

Sincerely,

Monica Taylor

Branch Manager Wildsight Golden