



Air

Status of Air Quality Bylaws in B.C. (2016)

Poor air quality occurs when air pollutants reach high enough concentrations to endanger human health and the environment. Air pollution can stem from many different sources, such as motor vehicle exhaust, burning of solid fuels such as wood, and industrial air emissions. Air quality management tools—including financial rebates, airshed management plans, education and legislation—can assist jurisdictions in protecting or improving air quality. Local governments, for example, have the authority to pass bylaws to control emissions from some sources, such as vehicle idling, open burning and solid fuel (wood) burning appliances. This indicator reports on the occurrence and population coverage of air quality bylaws across regional districts in British Columbia.

Did You Know?

If every driver in Canada reduced their idling time by **3 minutes a day**, over one year we would save¹:

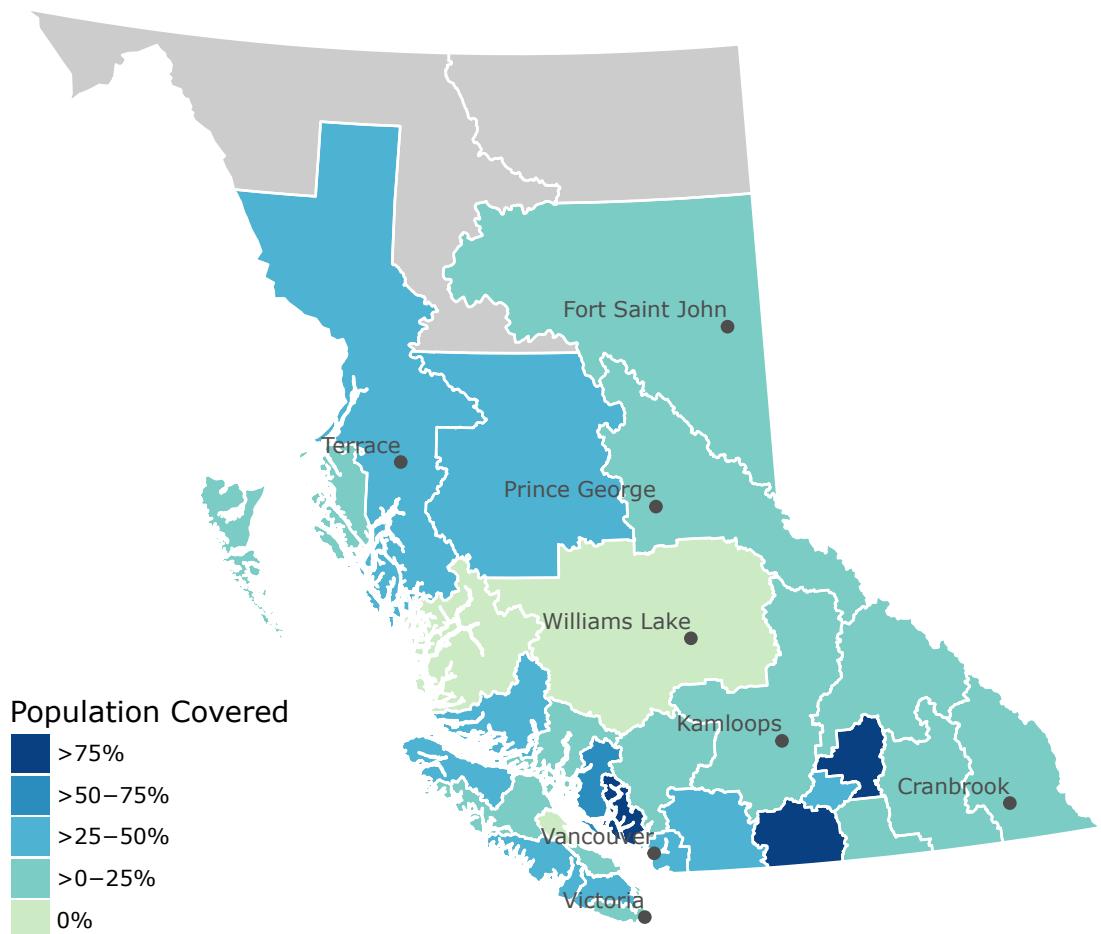
- 630 million litres of fuel
- \$630 million dollars in fuel costs
- 1.4 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions

The most common vehicle idling time limit found in B.C. municipal bylaws is **3 minutes**.

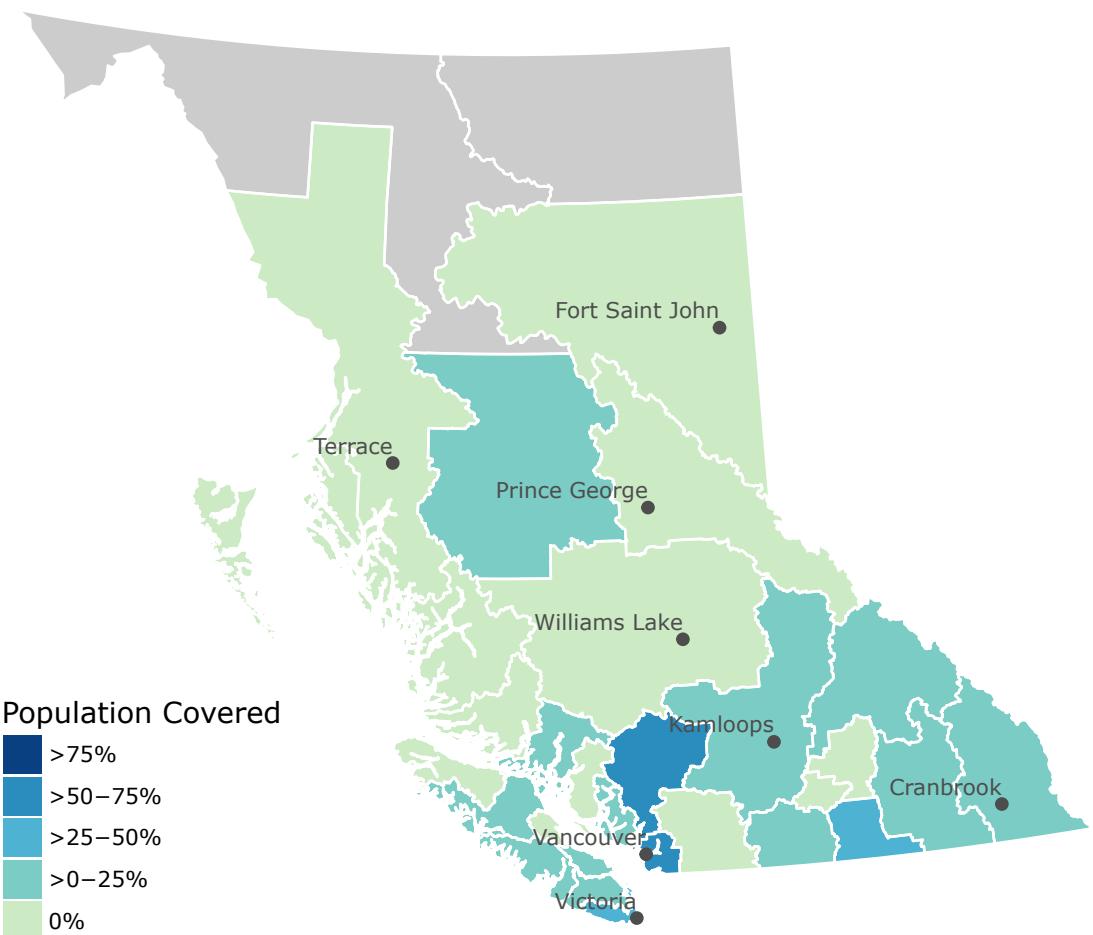
- **Air quality is linked to human health.** Poor air quality has been linked to many adverse health effects such as breathing difficulties, exacerbation of allergies, and aggravation of respiratory or cardiovascular conditions.
- **Two primary air pollutants in B.C. include fine particulate matter and ground-level ozone.** Major sources of fine particulate matter include vehicle emissions, open burning and solid fuel (wood) burning appliances. Vehicle emissions also include precursor pollutants that cause the formation of ground-level ozone. Local government air quality bylaws often focus on these three emission sources because their management can significantly improve local air quality.
- **Open burning and solid fuel burning appliance bylaws are both prevalent in B.C.** Open burning bylaws are in place in 70 municipalities within 24 regional districts, and 52 municipalities within 22 regional districts have solid fuel burning appliance bylaws. These bylaws each cover 29% and 35% of the total B.C. population respectively.
- **Vehicle idling bylaws in B.C. cover more than 35% of the B.C. population.** Vehicle idling bylaws are in place in 30 municipalities within 15 regional districts. Idling bylaws tend to be in place in urban areas and densely populated municipalities where vehicle idling can become a significant source of local air pollution.
- **Air quality challenges vary across regions in British Columbia.** Vehicle emission concerns are more prevalent in urban areas, such as Metro Vancouver, whereas solid fuel (wood) burning appliances are more common in parts of B.C. where alternative heating options are inaccessible or more costly.

The maps below summarise the population coverage of three air quality bylaws — vehicle idling, open burning and solid fuel (wood) burning appliances — across regional districts in British Columbia in 2016.

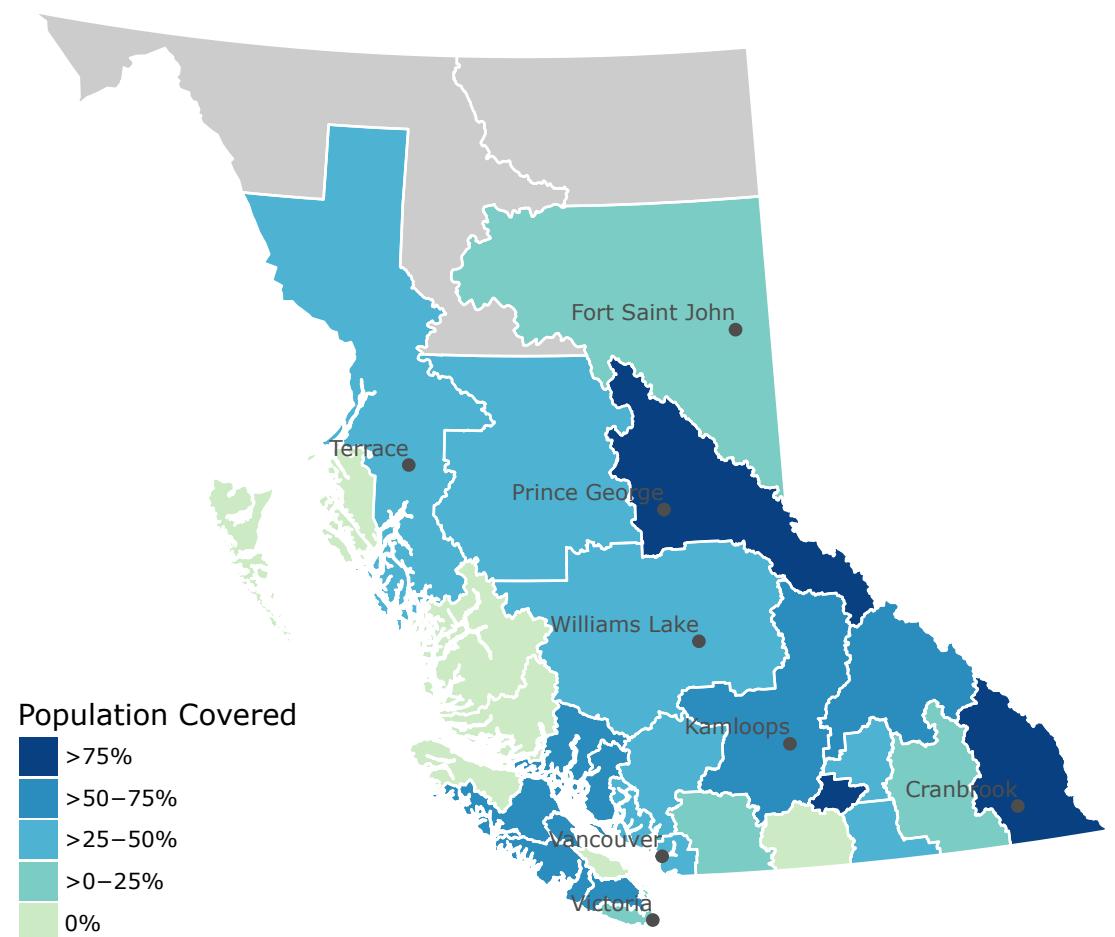
Open Burning Bylaw



Vehicle Idling Bylaw



Solid Fuel Burning Appliances Bylaw





Methods

The air quality bylaw census data was collected in 2016. The three air quality bylaw inventories reported here are based on the following methodologies:

- **Open burning bylaw:** Open burning bylaws are included if motivated solely by air quality or by fire hazard protection and air quality combined through the application of the [Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation](#).
- **Vehicle idling bylaw:** All anti-idling bylaws and street, traffic, noise control, nuisance, good neighbour and smoking and idling control bylaws were included if they contained the following provisions for improving air quality: idling restrictions must apply to all vehicle types, idling rules do not allow a vehicle to idle longer than 3 minutes and the bylaw applies to all areas of the municipality (residential and commercial).
- **Solid fuel burning appliance bylaw:** Solid fuel burning appliance bylaws are included if they are specific to wood burning appliances and any fire service bylaws or building bylaws that require wood burning appliances to have Canadian Standards Association or Environmental Protection Agency certification or significant air pollution prevention provisions.

Population coverage was calculated using 2015 B.C. population estimates by regional district sourced from [BC Stats](#), the central statistical agency of the Province of British Columbia. Two areas in the northern region of the province are not located within Regional District boundaries (Stikine Region and Northern Rockies Regional Municipality) and consequently were not included in the analysis.

Regional districts and municipalities that wish to update the air quality bylaw data reported above should contact the Environmental Standards Branch at envprotdiv@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca.

References and Other Useful Links

[Learn more about air quality in British Columbia.](#)

[View more B.C. air quality indicators.](#)

[British Columbia Environmental Management Act](#)

[British Columbia Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation](#)

[British Columbia Solid Fuel Burning Domestic Appliance Regulation](#)

[Read past British Columbia Air Quality Bylaw Inventory reports.](#)

¹[Natural Resources Canada - Office of Energy Efficiency](#)

Data

*By accessing these datasets, you agree to the license associated with each file, as indicated in parentheses below.

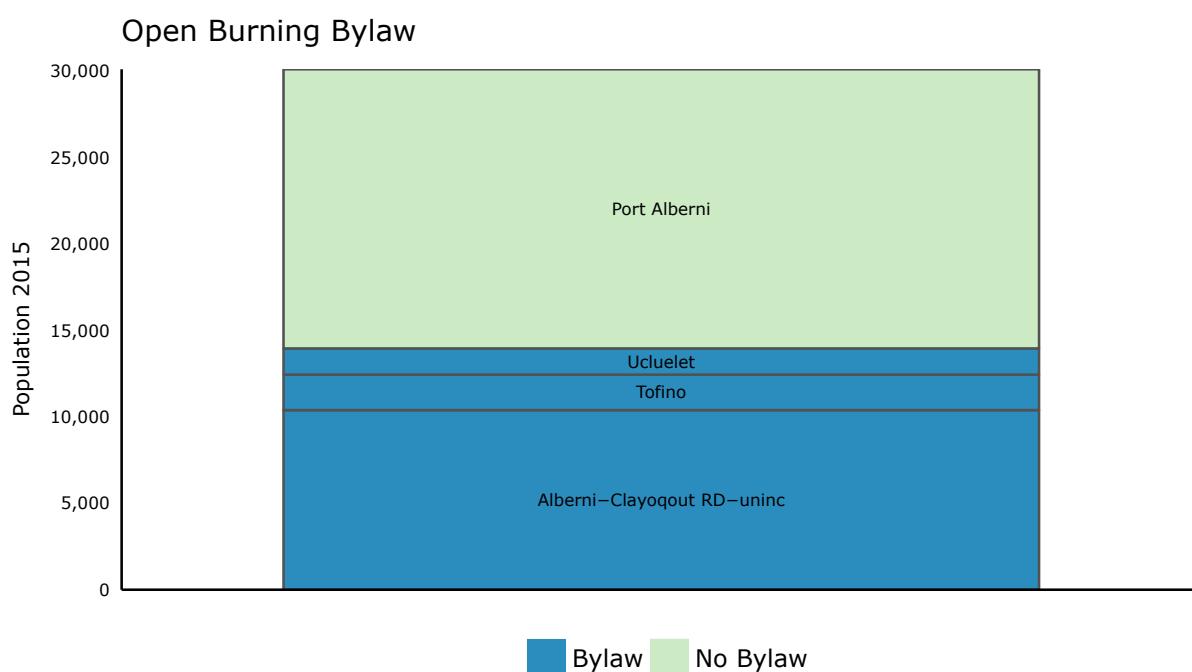
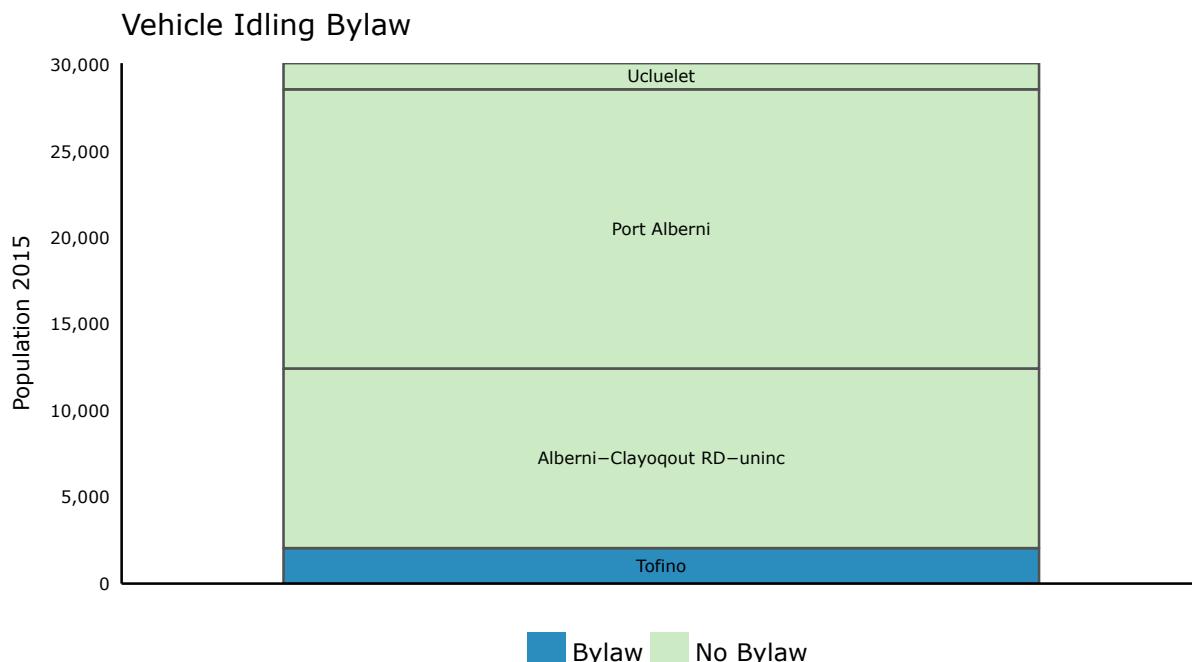
- [Inventory of Air Quality Bylaws in B.C. \(License: OGL-BC\)](#)

Published and Available On-Line at Environmental Reporting BC (February 2017): <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/soe/indicators/air/air-quality-bylaws.html>

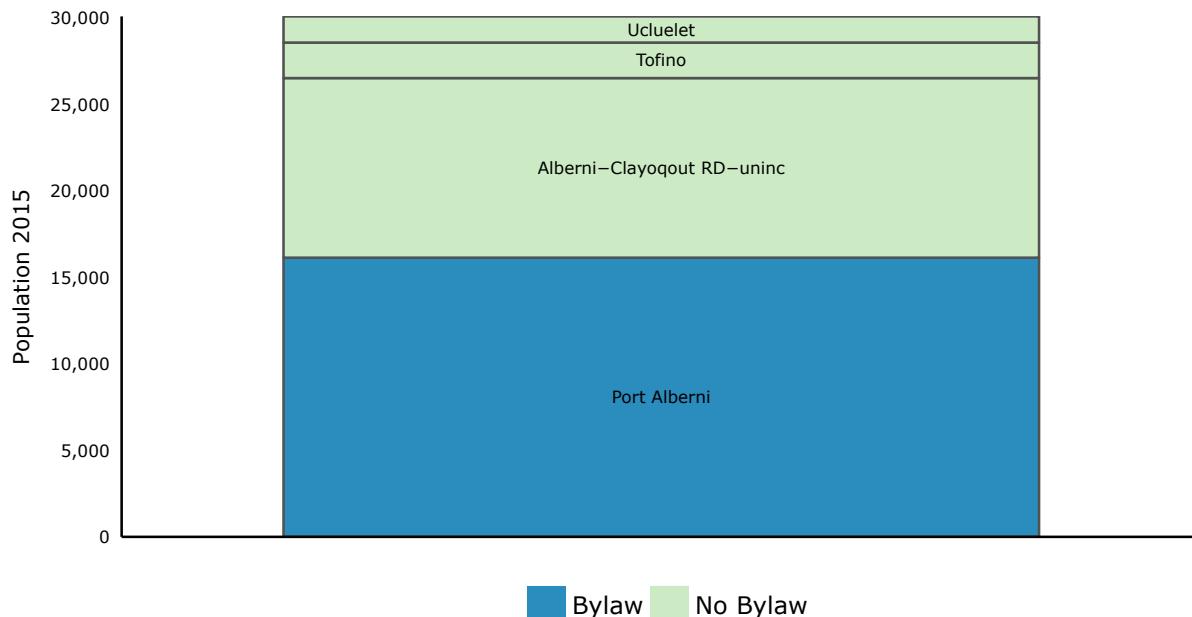
Email correspondence to: envreportbc@gov.bc.ca

Appendix: Population coverage of air quality bylaws by regional district in British Columbia

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

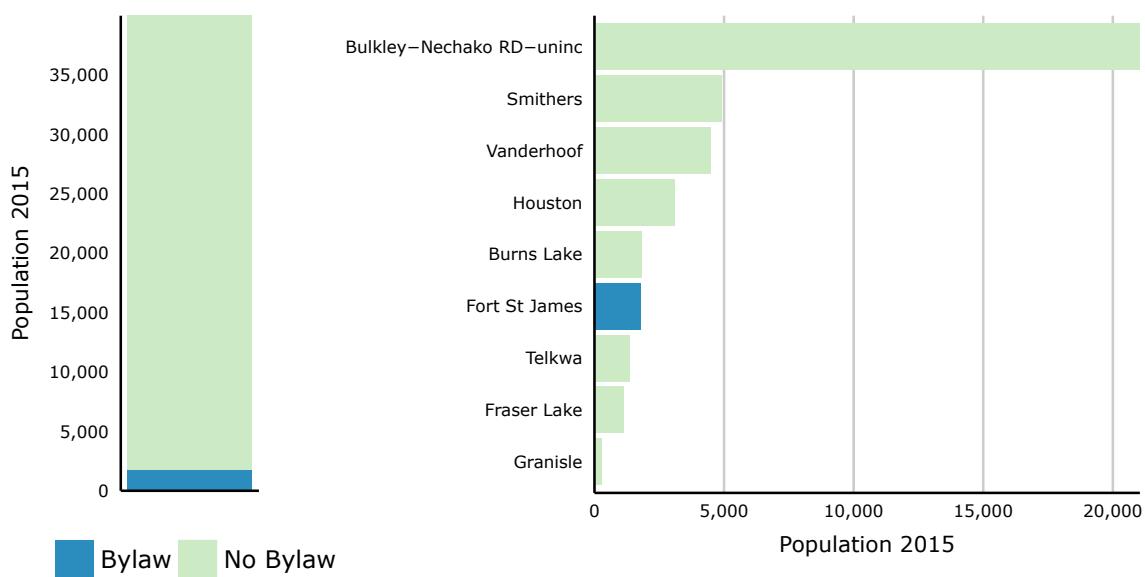


Solid Fuel Burning Appliances Bylaw

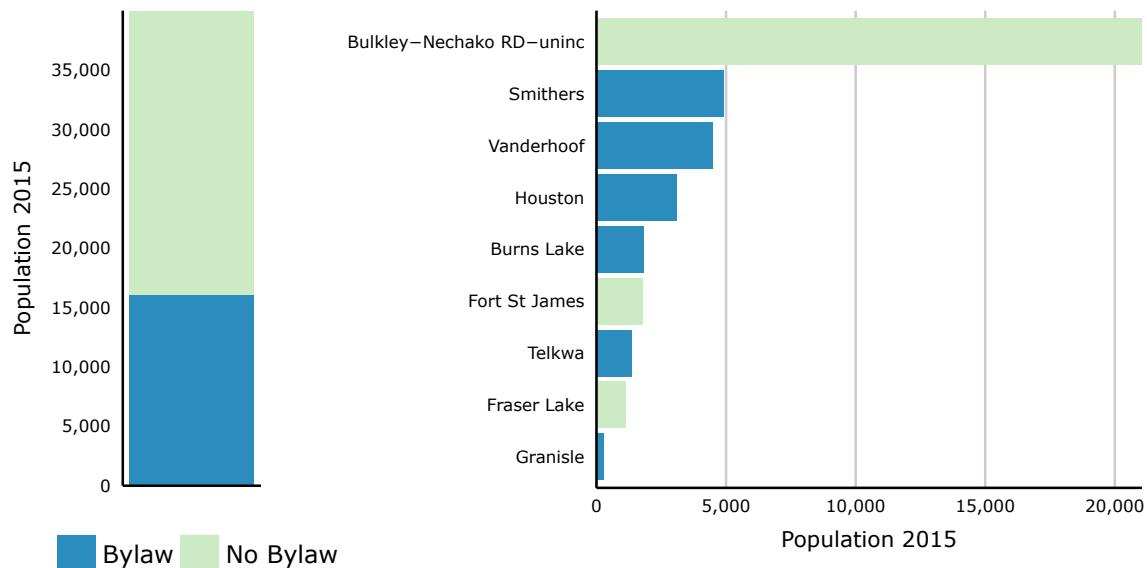


Bulkley-Nechako Regional District

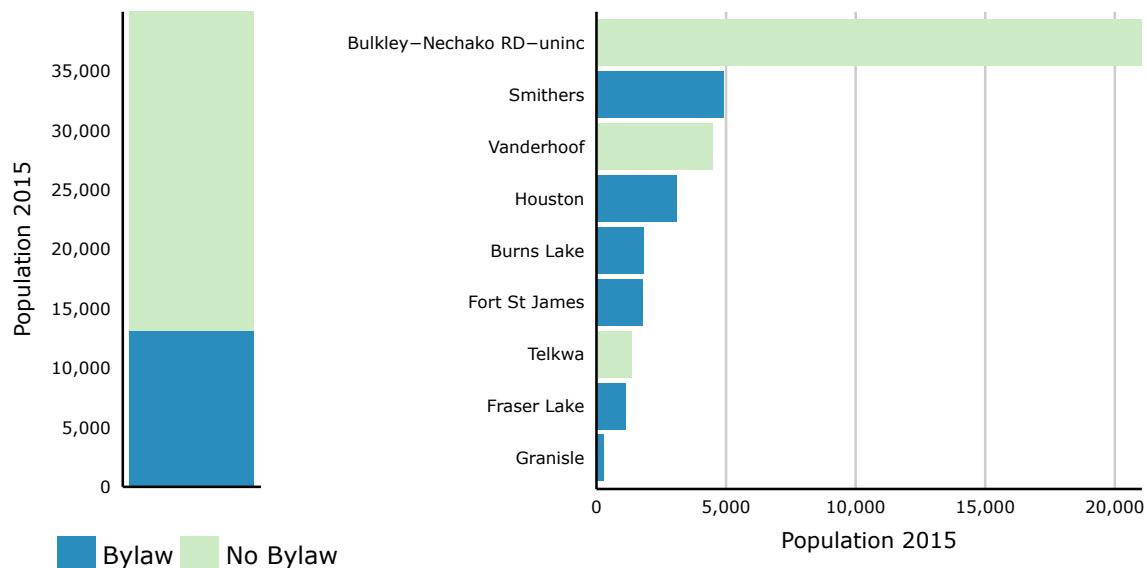
Vehicle Idling Bylaw



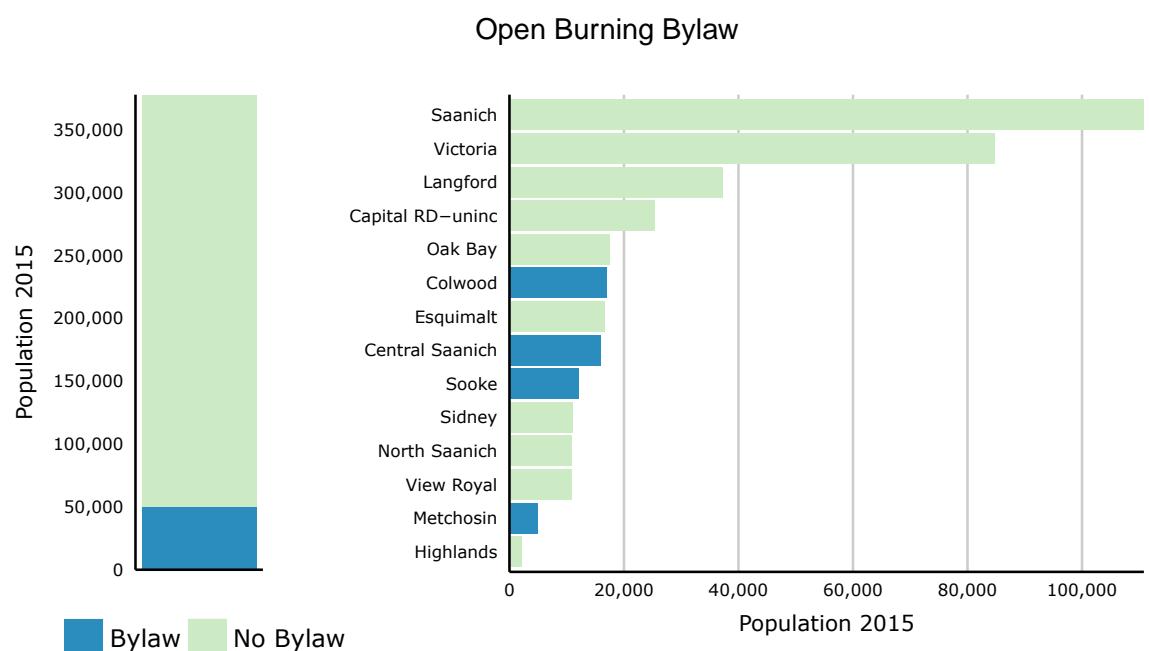
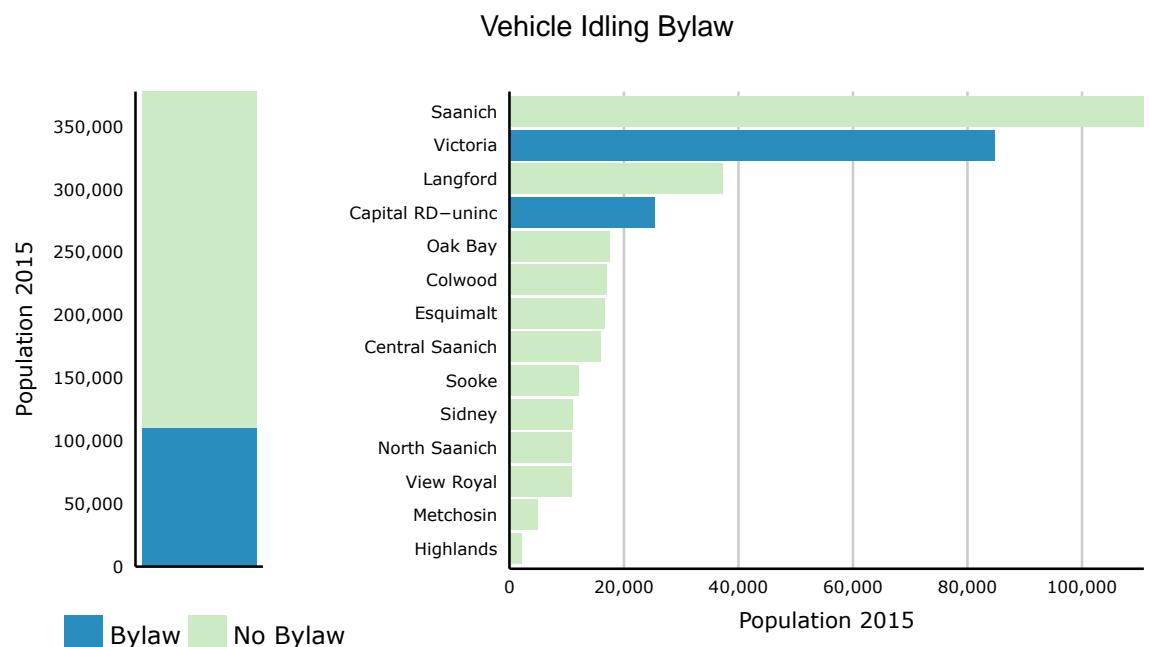
Open Burning Bylaw



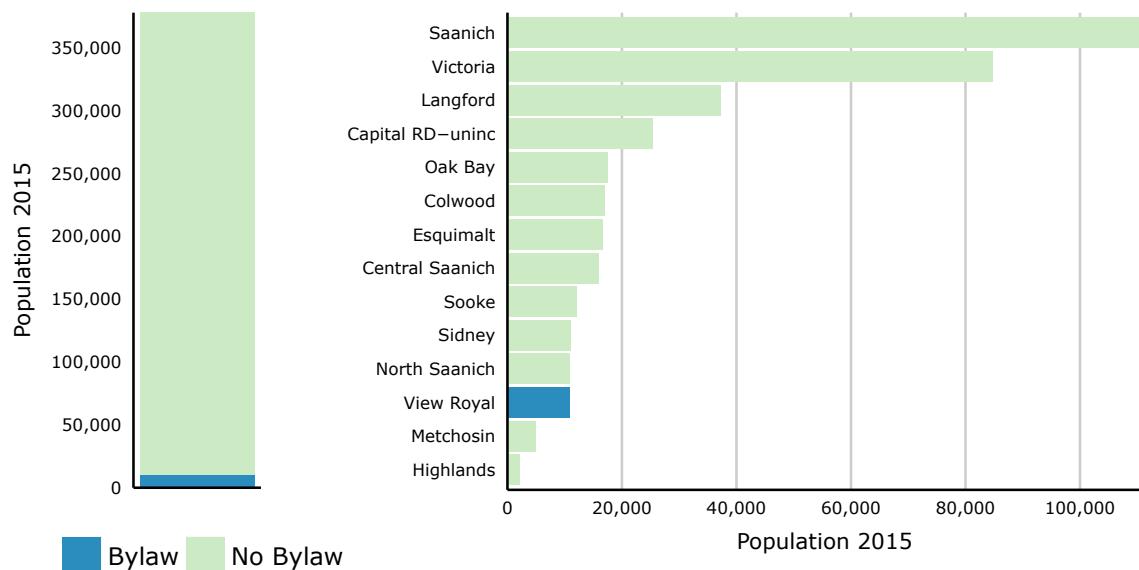
Solid Fuel Burning Appliances Bylaw



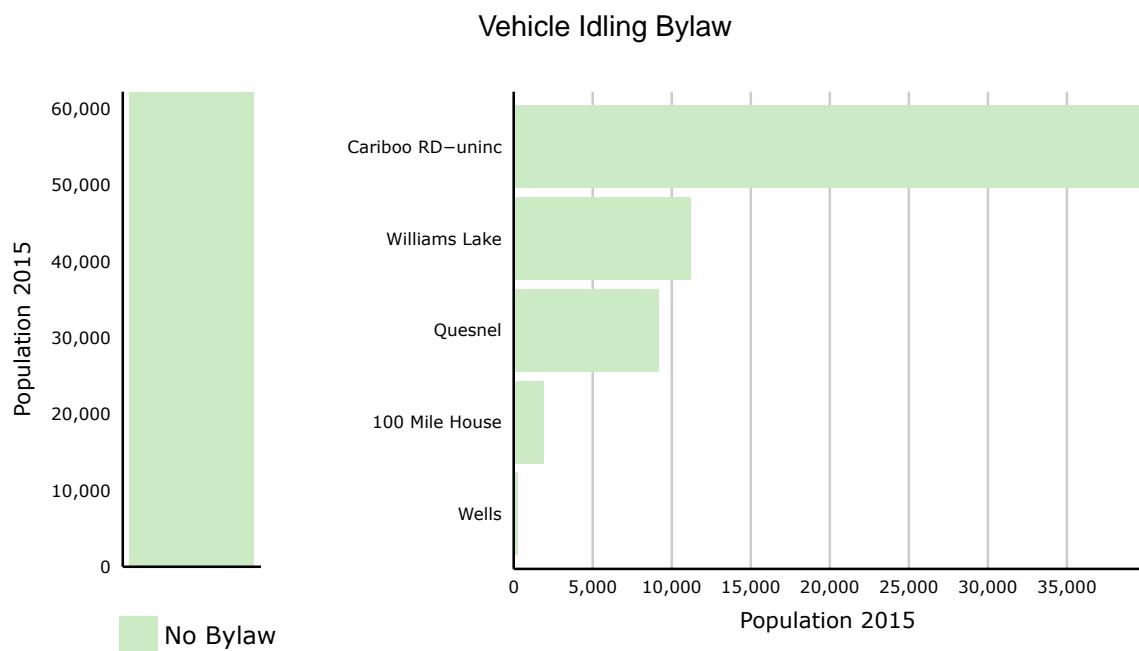
Capital Regional District



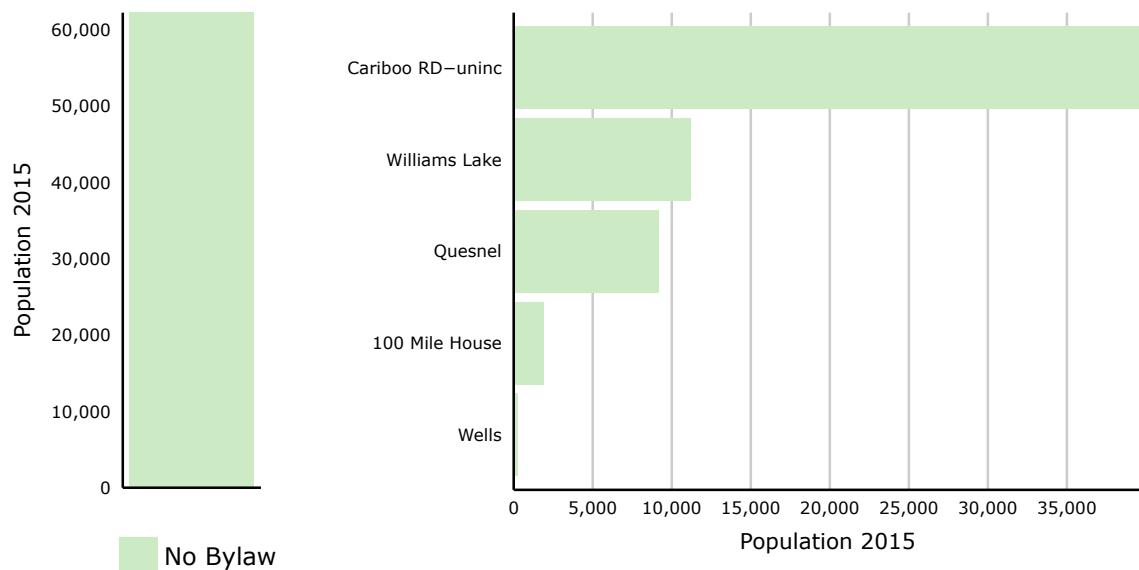
Solid Fuel Burning Appliances Bylaw



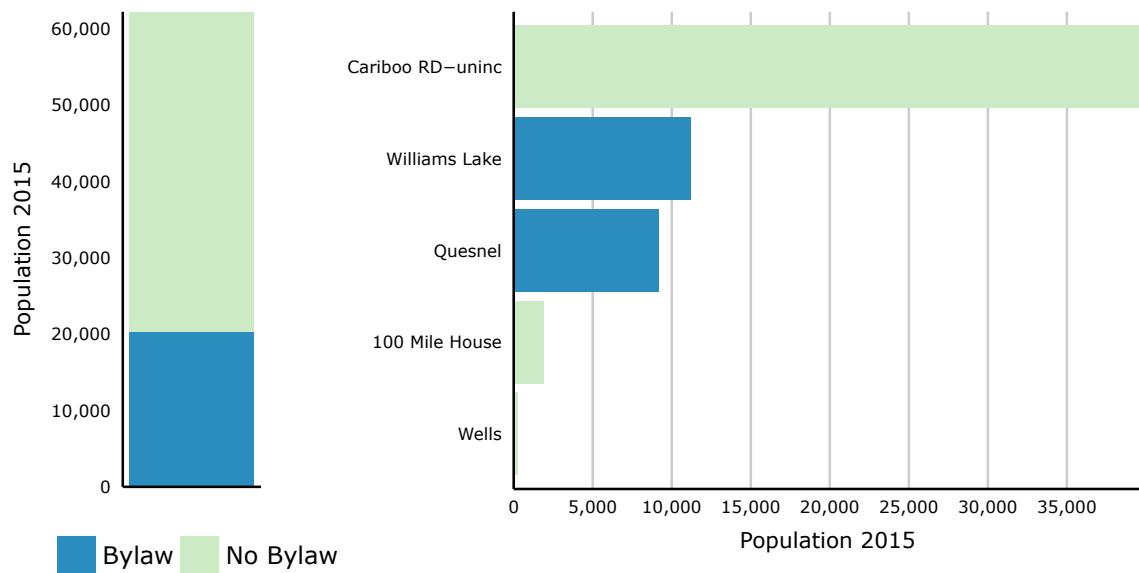
Cariboo Regional District



Open Burning Bylaw

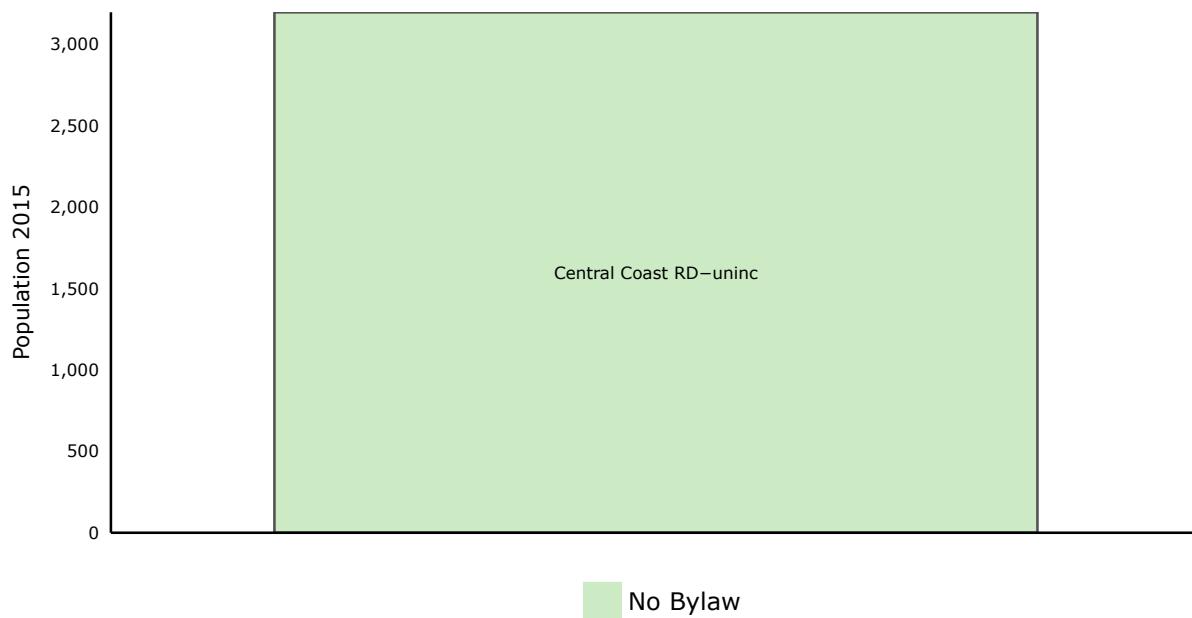


Solid Fuel Burning Appliances Bylaw

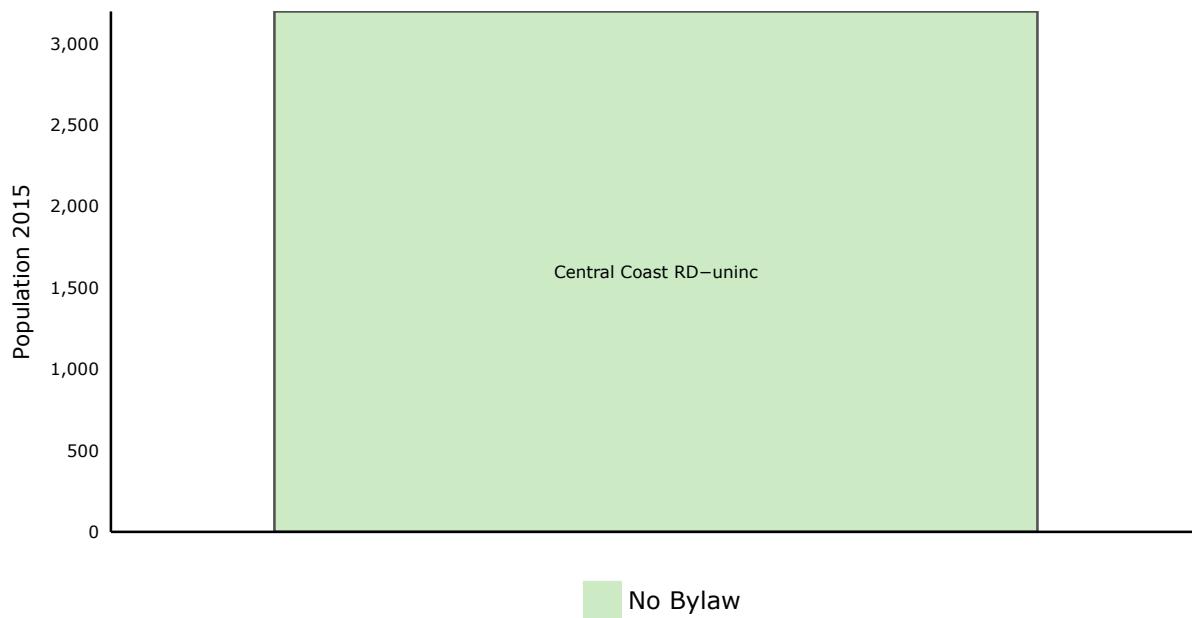


Central Coast Regional District

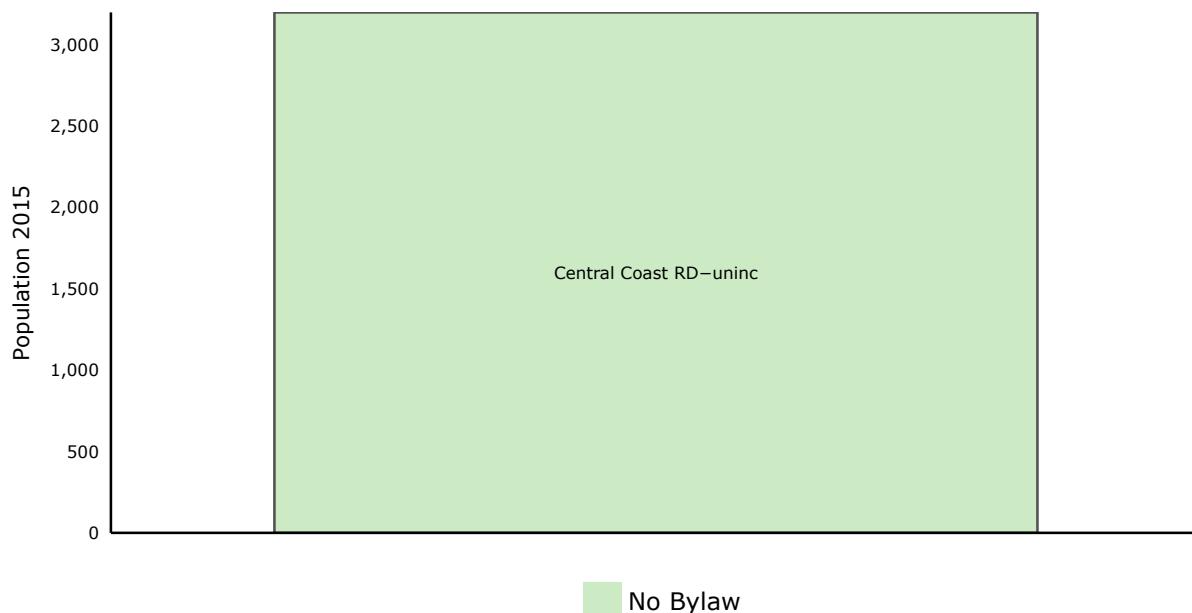
Vehicle Idling Bylaw



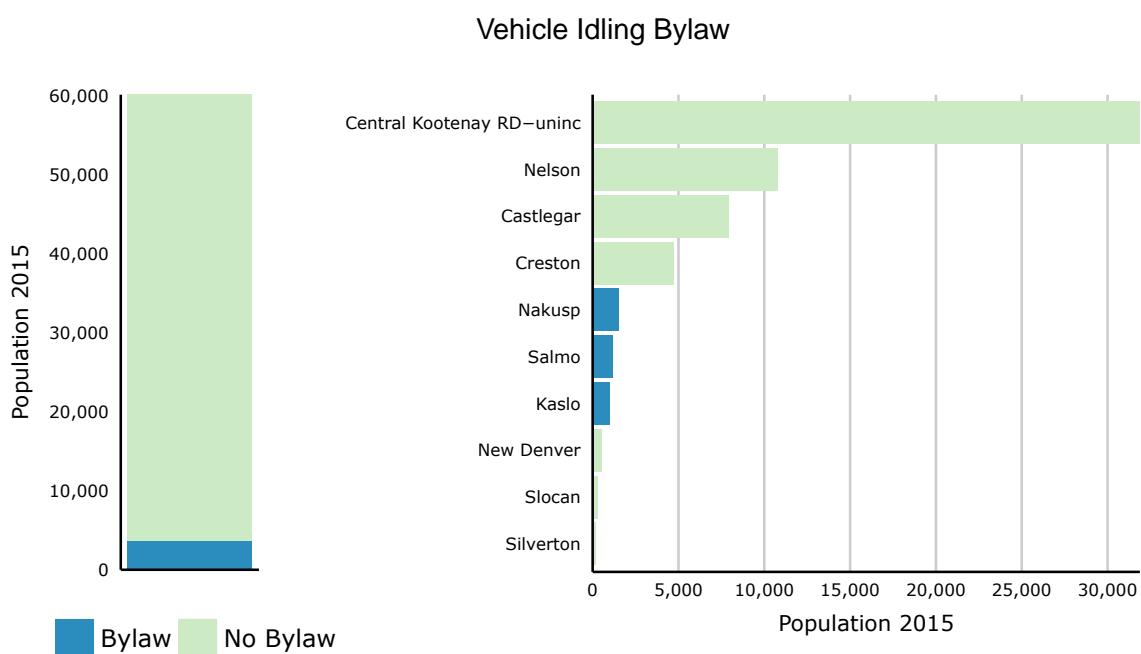
Open Burning Bylaw



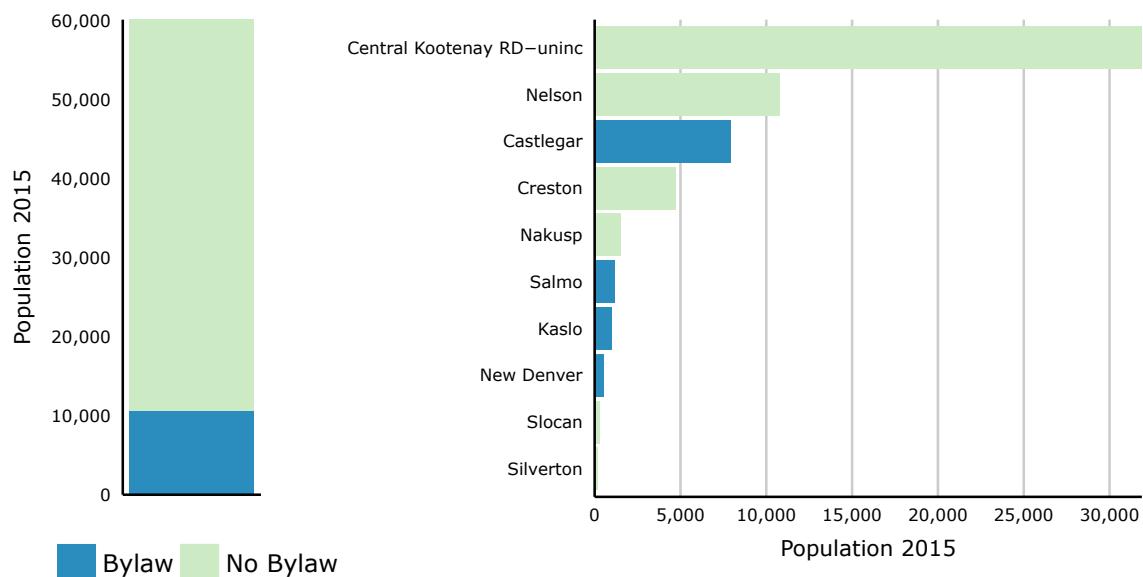
Solid Fuel Burning Appliances Bylaw



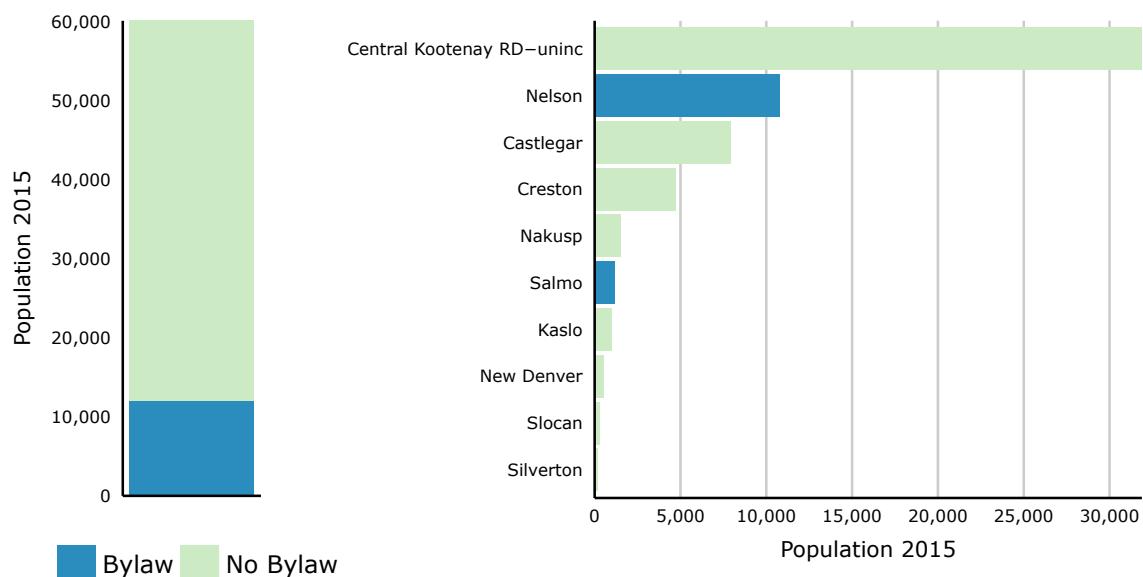
Central Kootenay Regional District



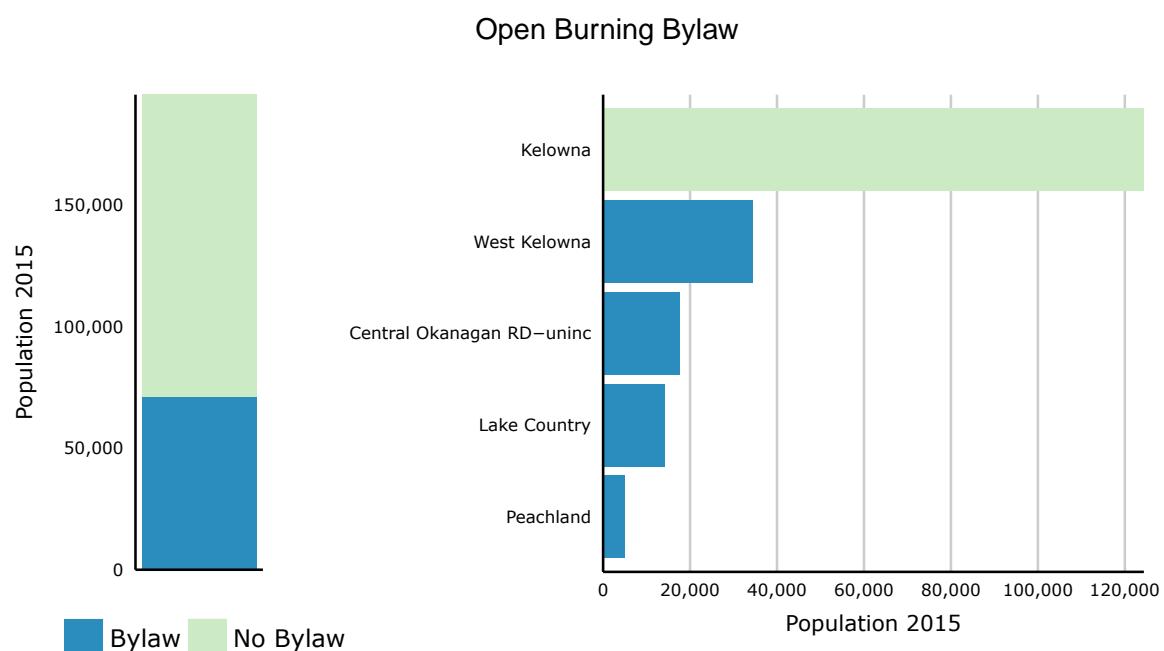
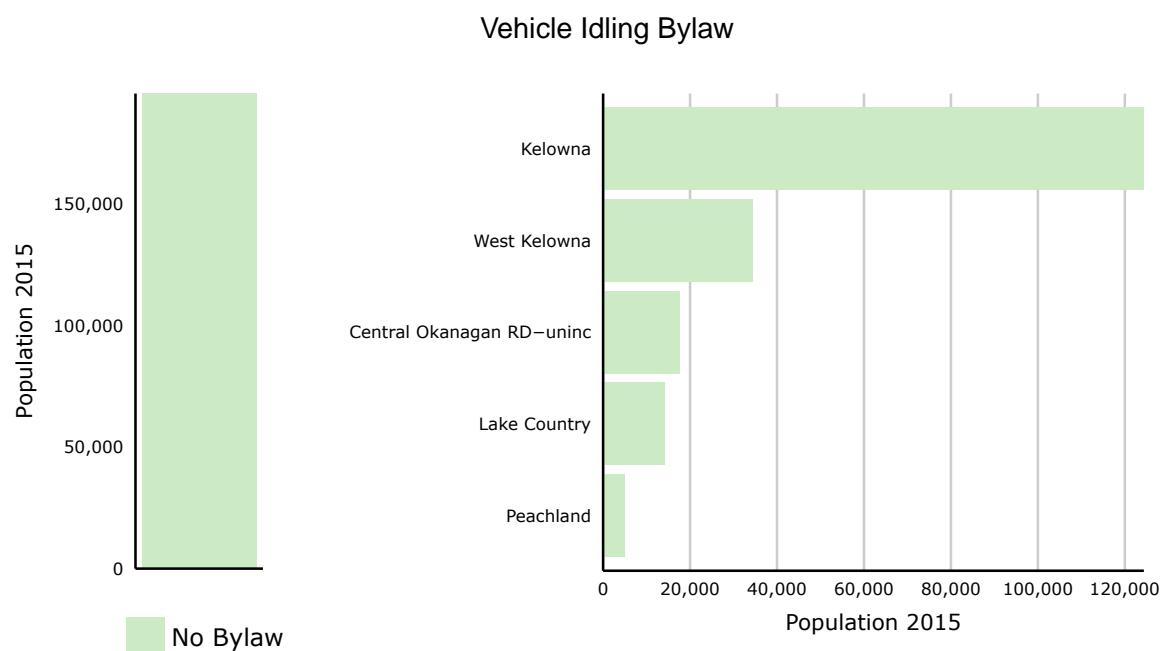
Open Burning Bylaw



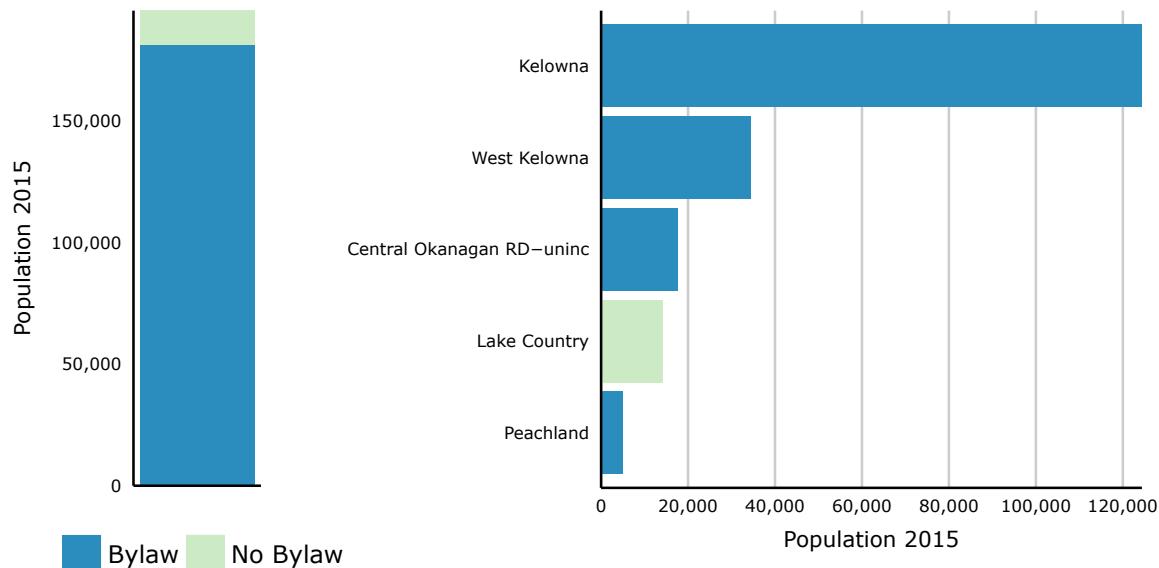
Solid Fuel Burning Appliances Bylaw



Central Okanagan Regional District

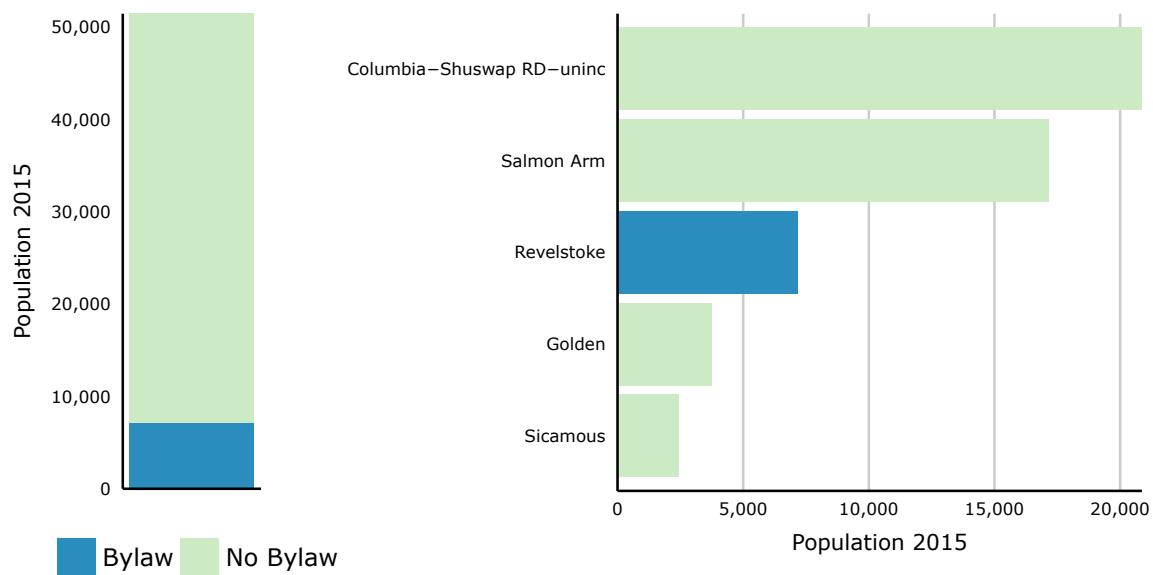


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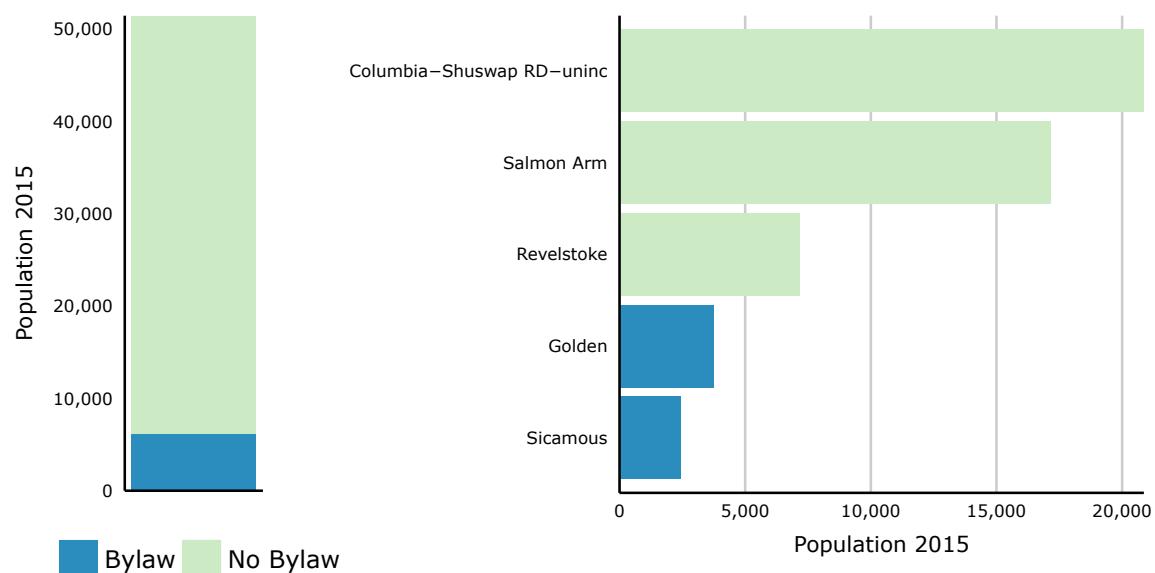


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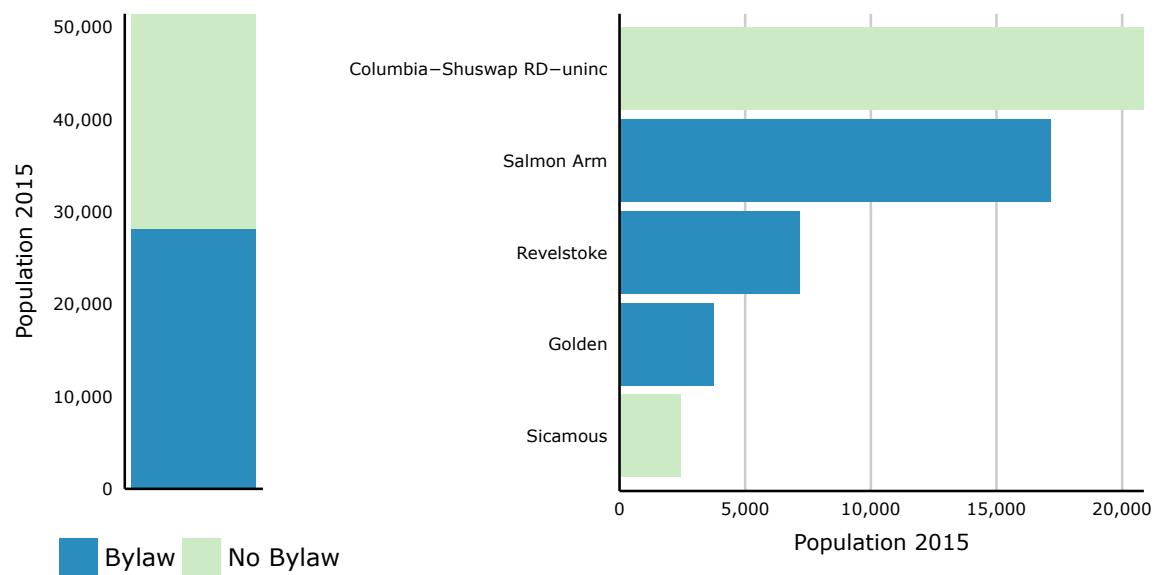
Vehicle Idling Bylaw



Open Burning Bylaw

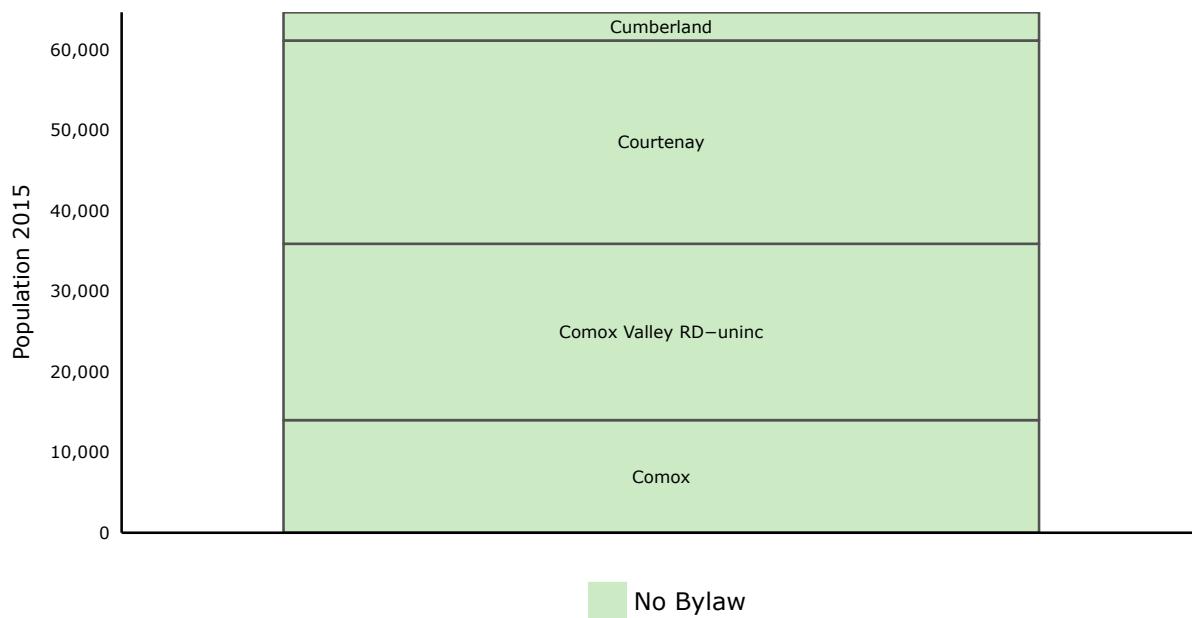


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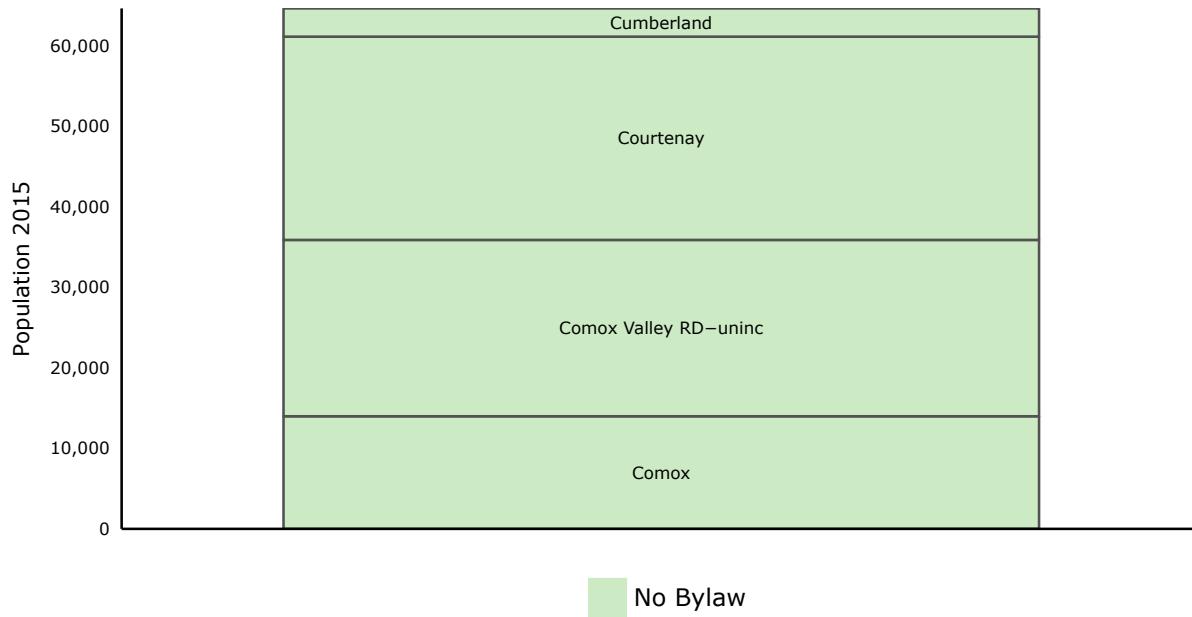


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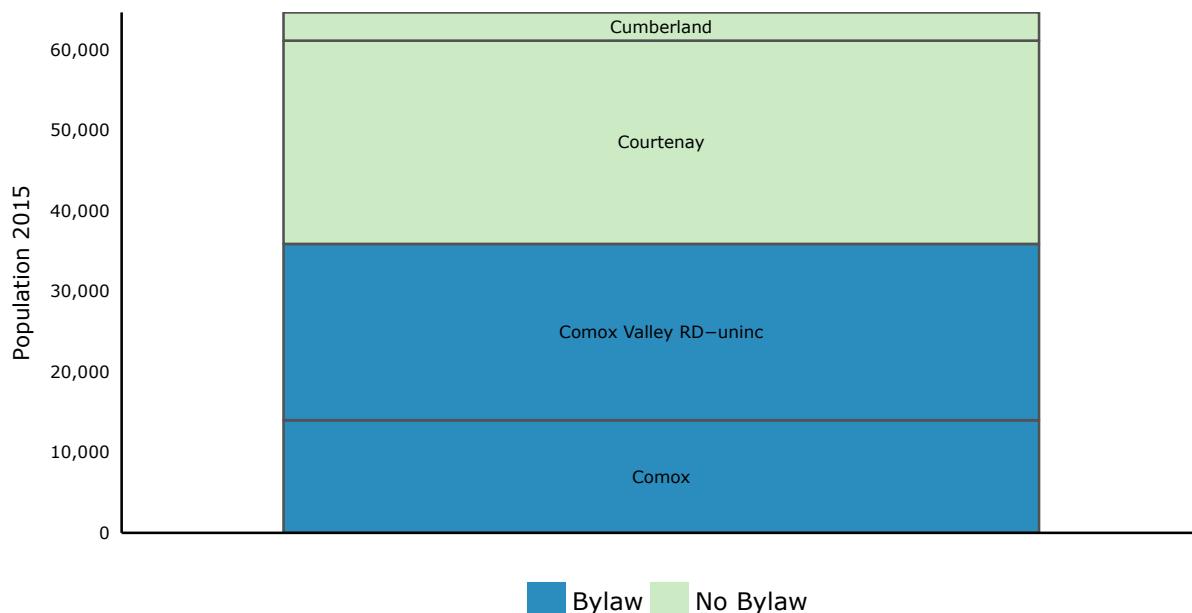
Vehicle Idling Bylaw



Open Burning Bylaw

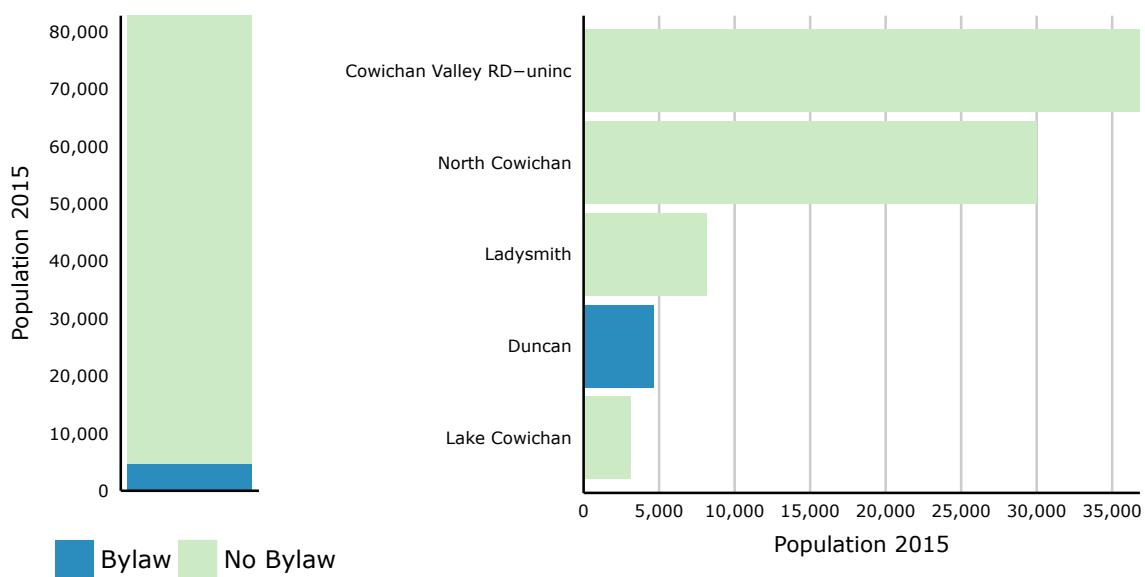


Solid Fuel Burning Appliances Bylaw

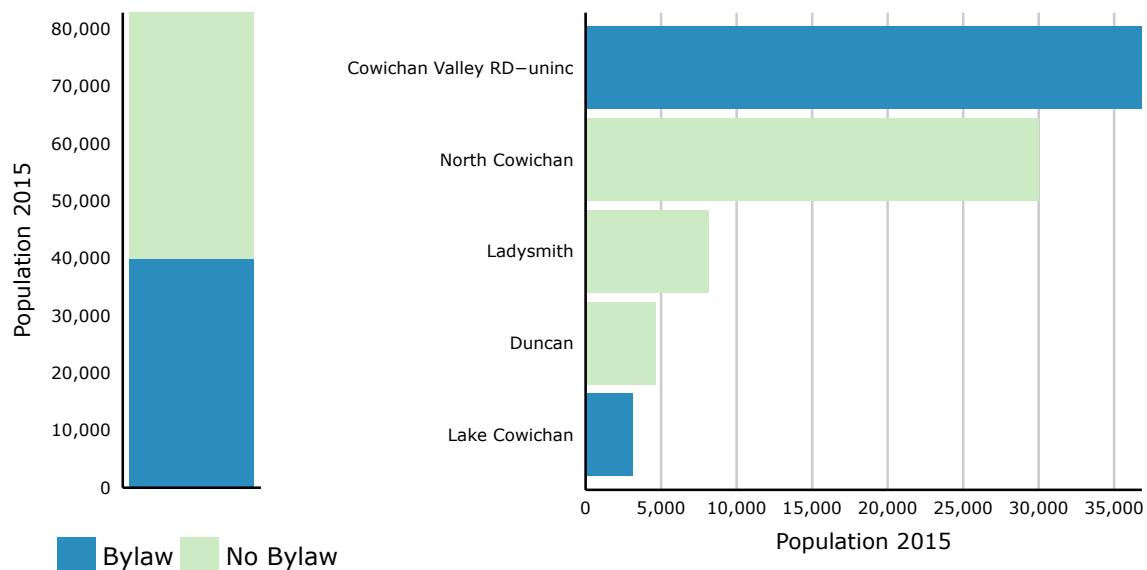


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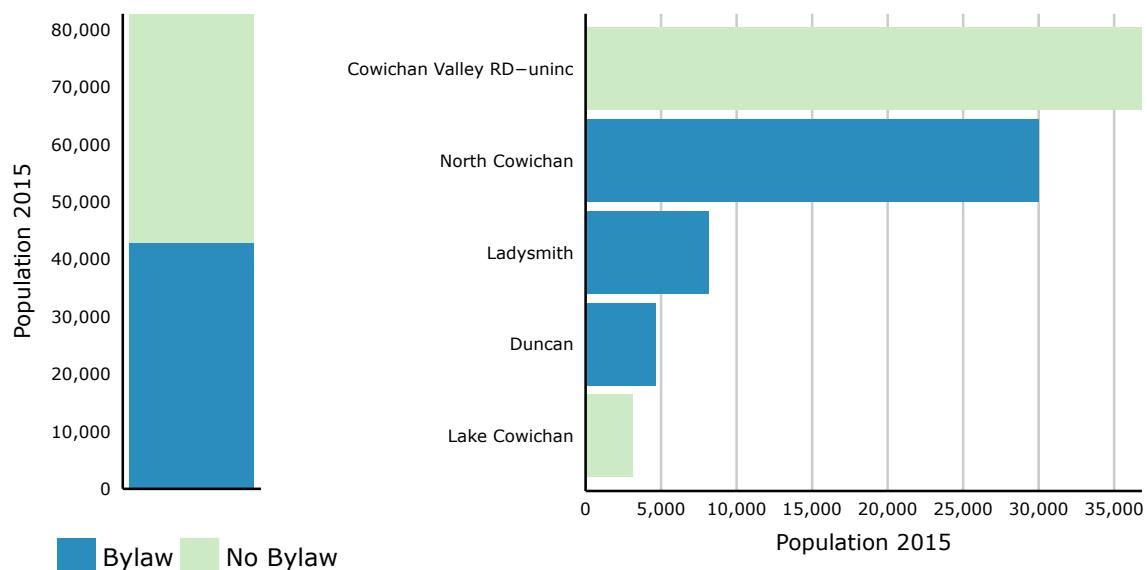
Vehicle Idling Bylaw



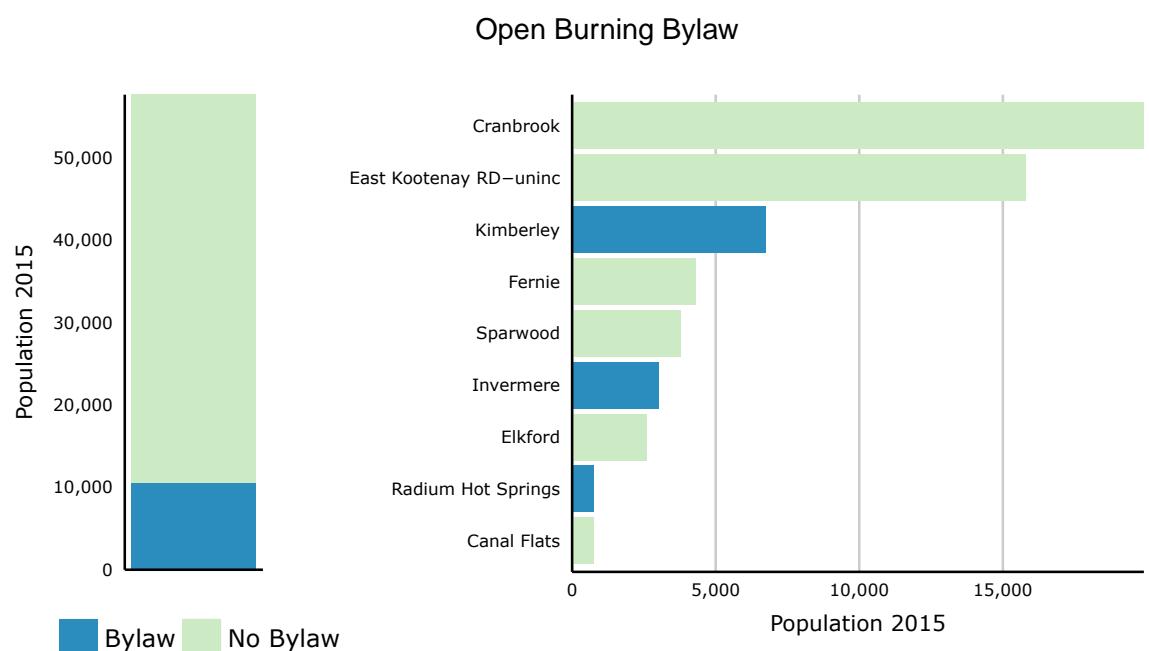
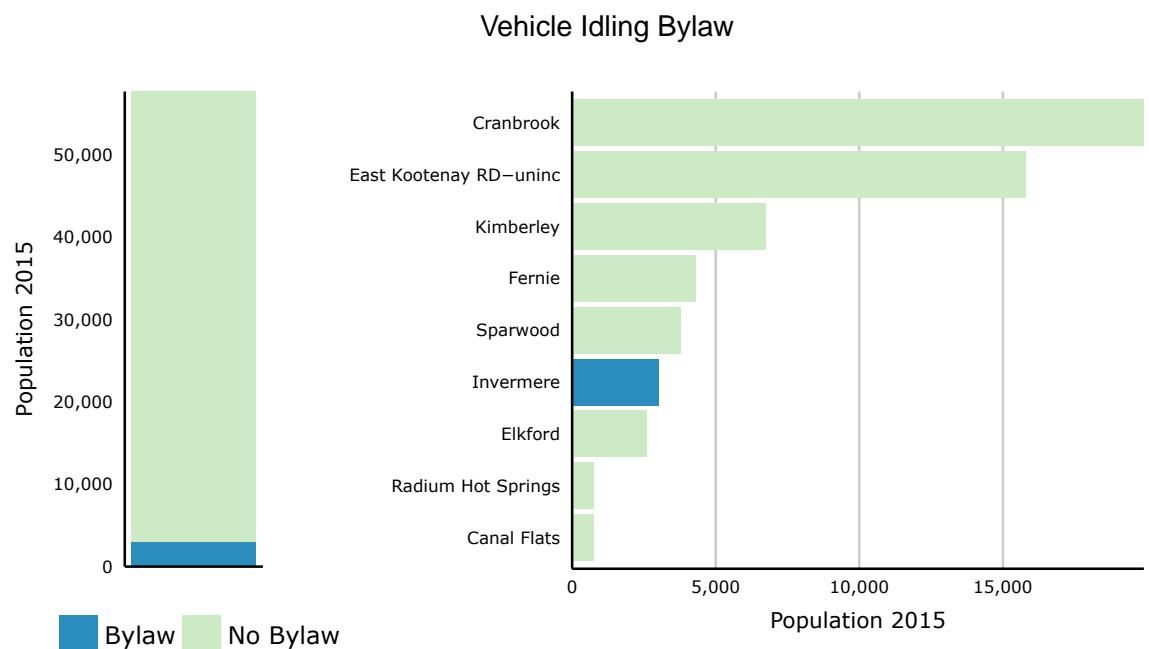
Open Burning Bylaw



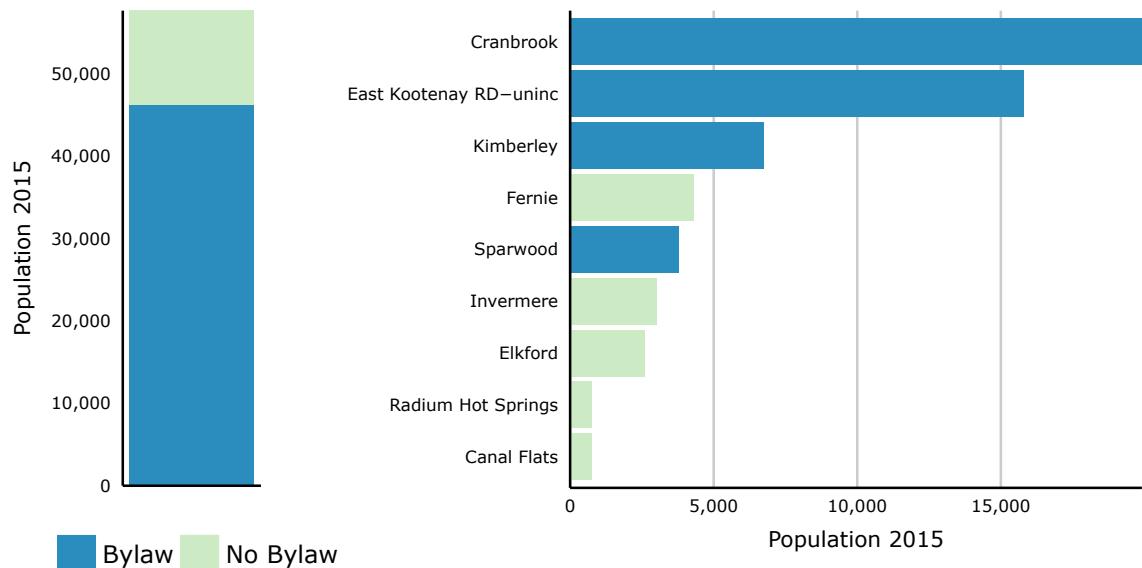
Solid Fuel Burning Appliances Bylaw



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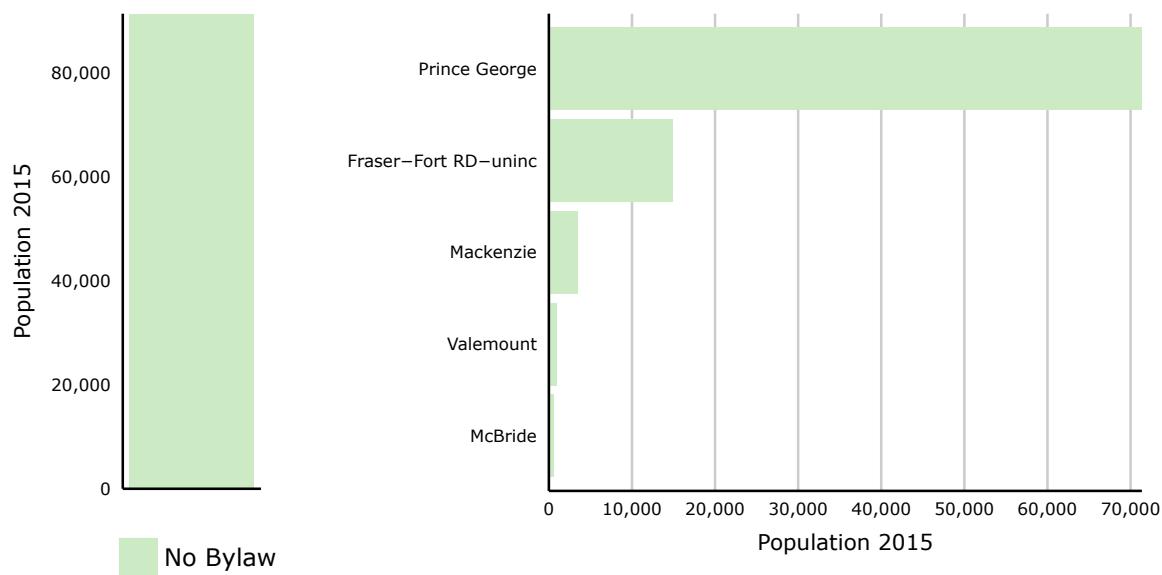


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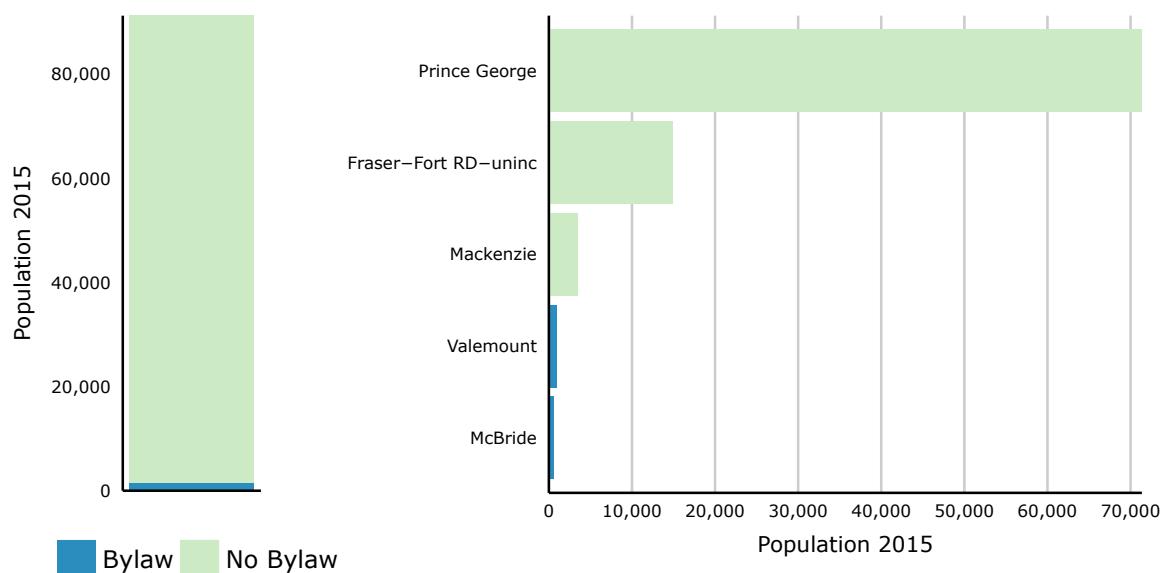


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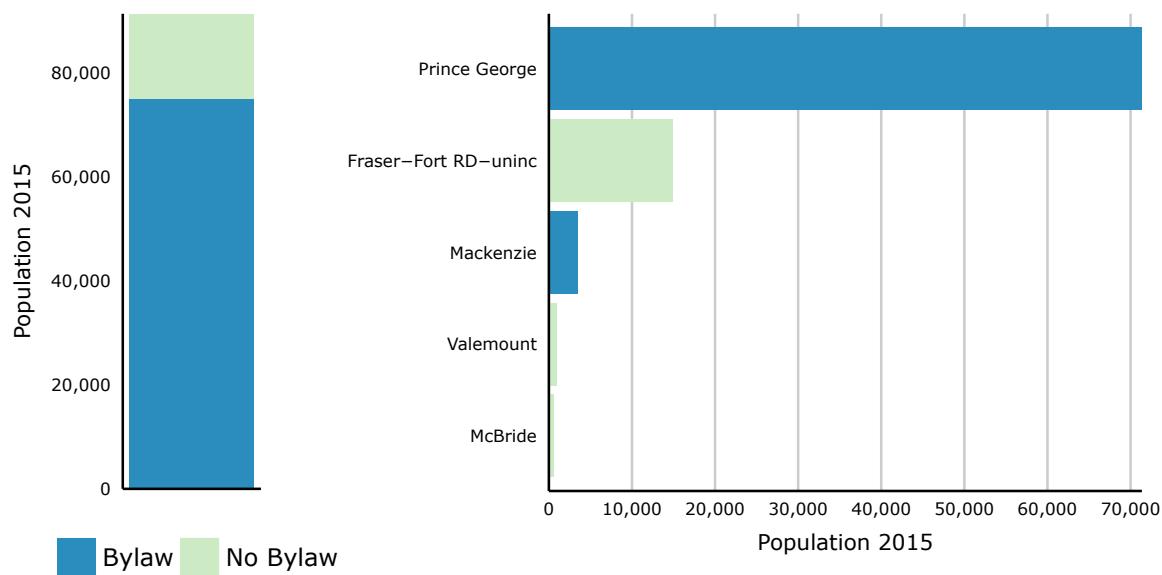
Vehicle Idling Bylaw



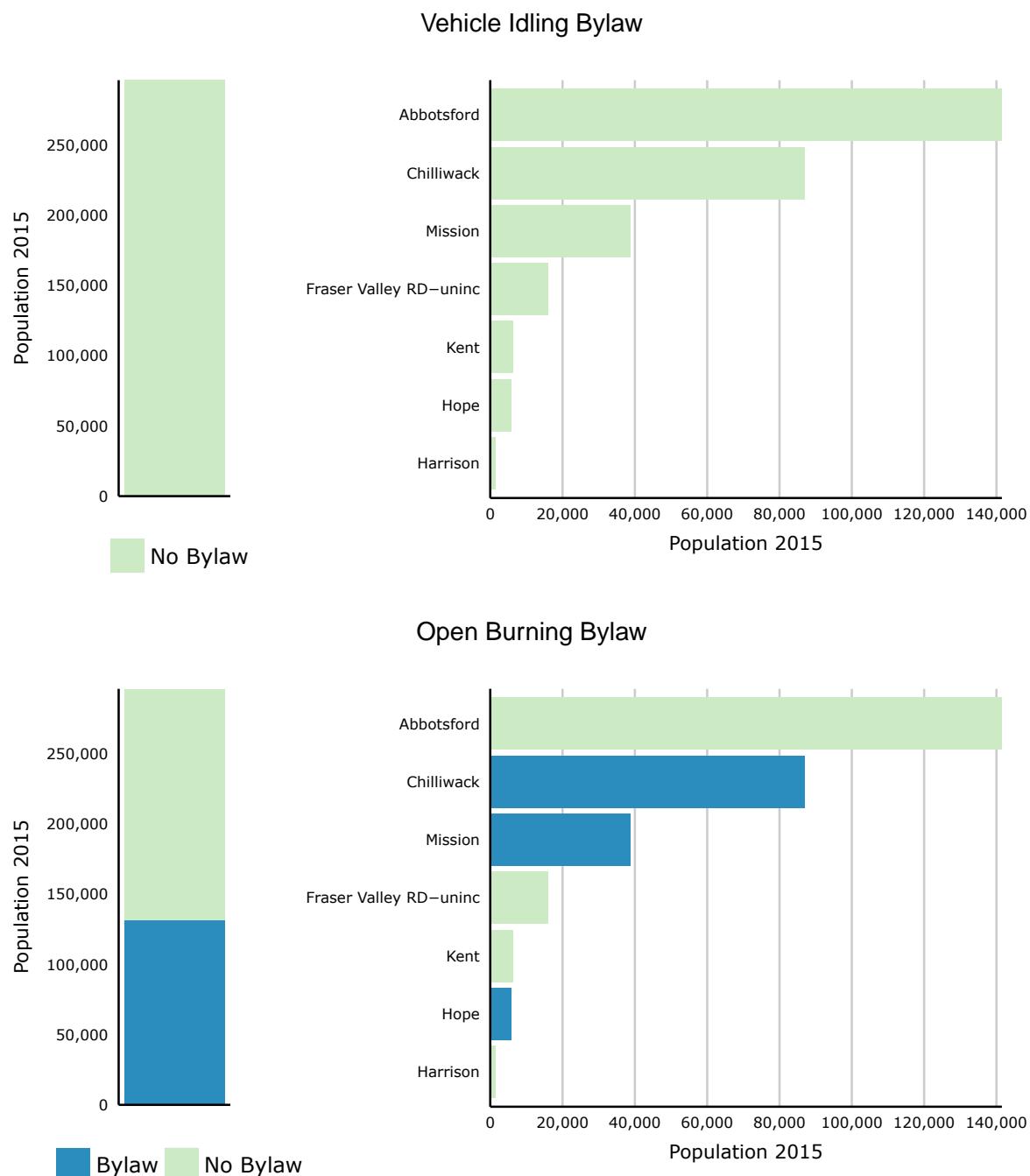
Open Burning Bylaw



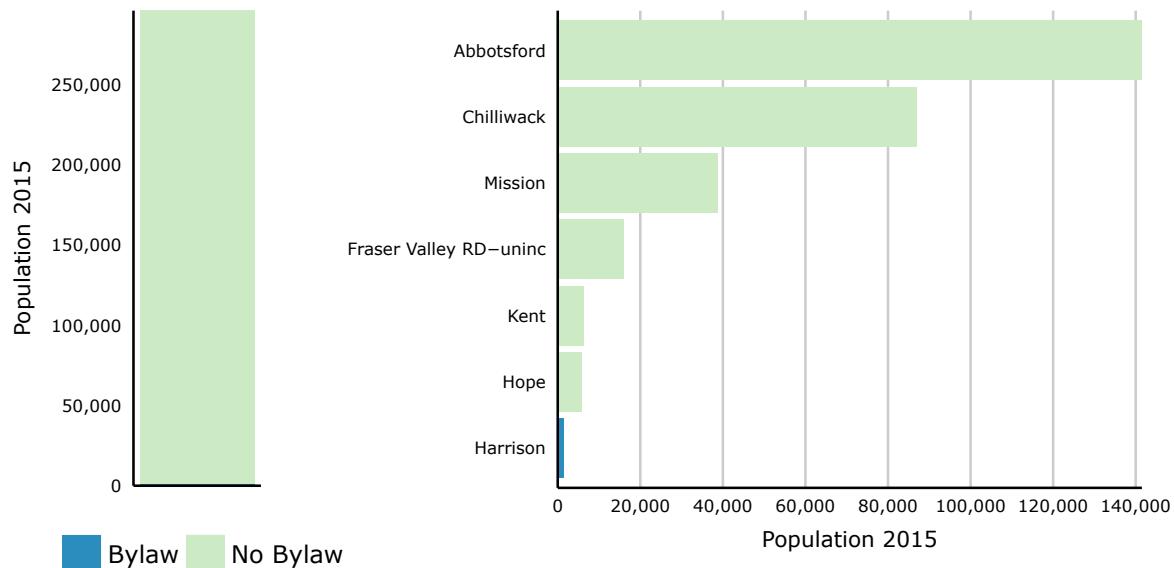
Solid Fuel Burning Appliances Bylaw



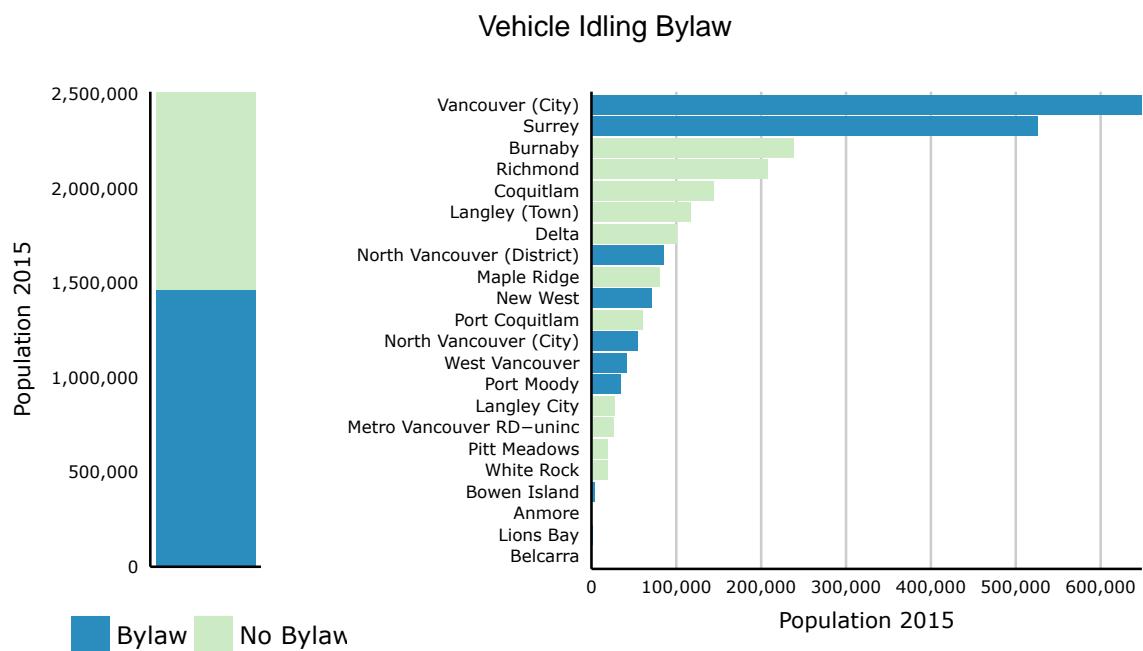
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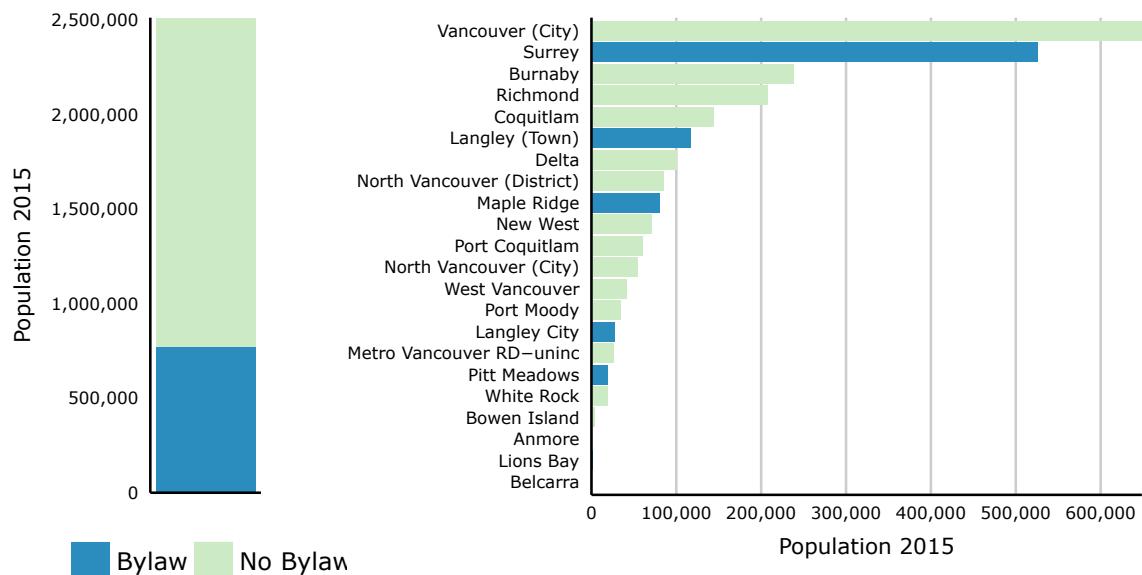
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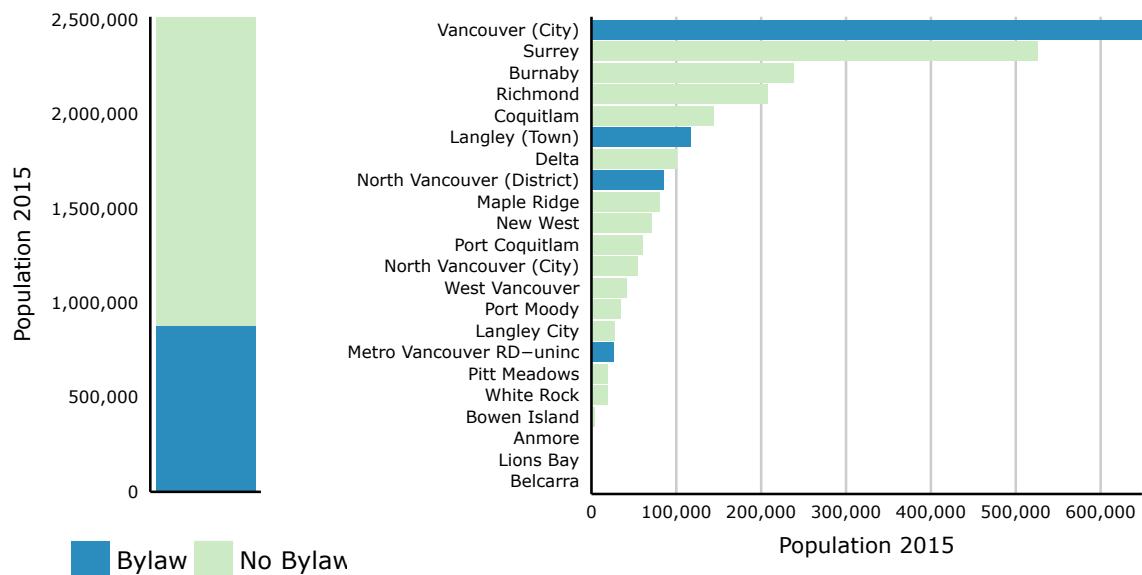
Greater Vancouver Regional District



Open Burning Bylaw

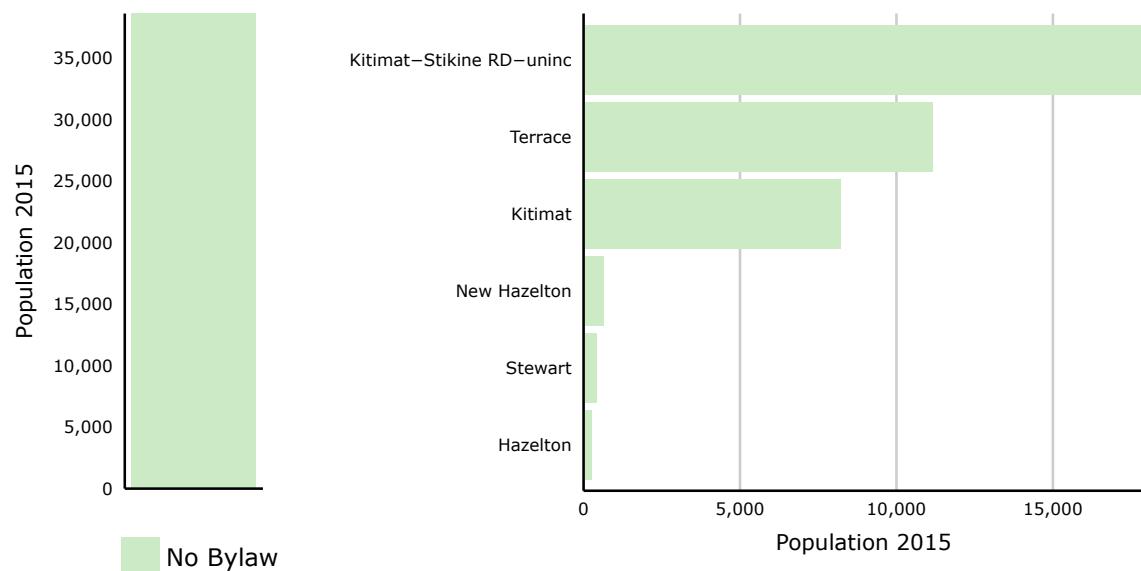


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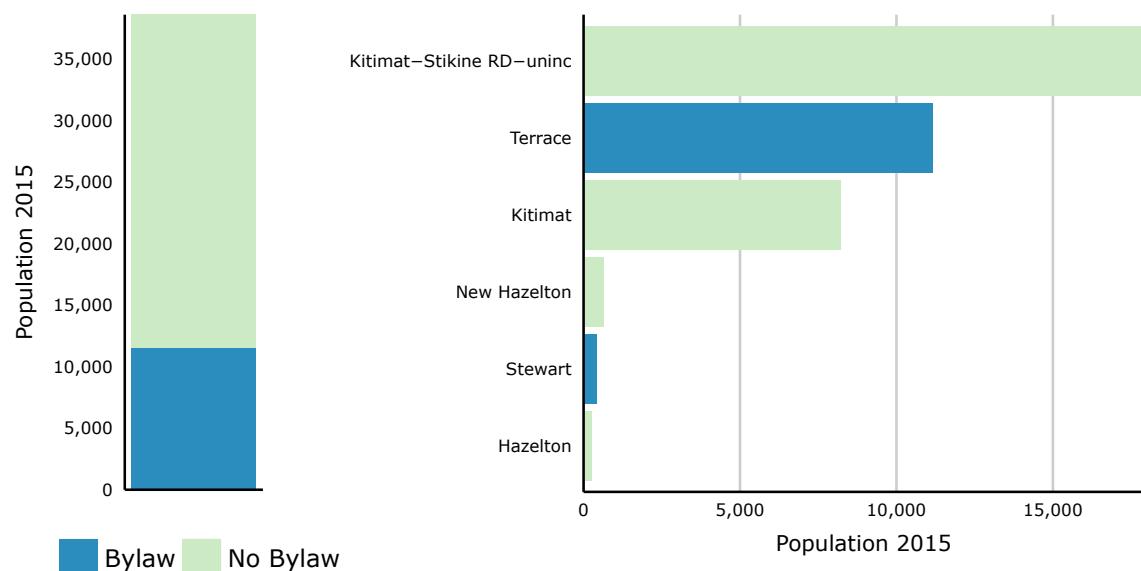


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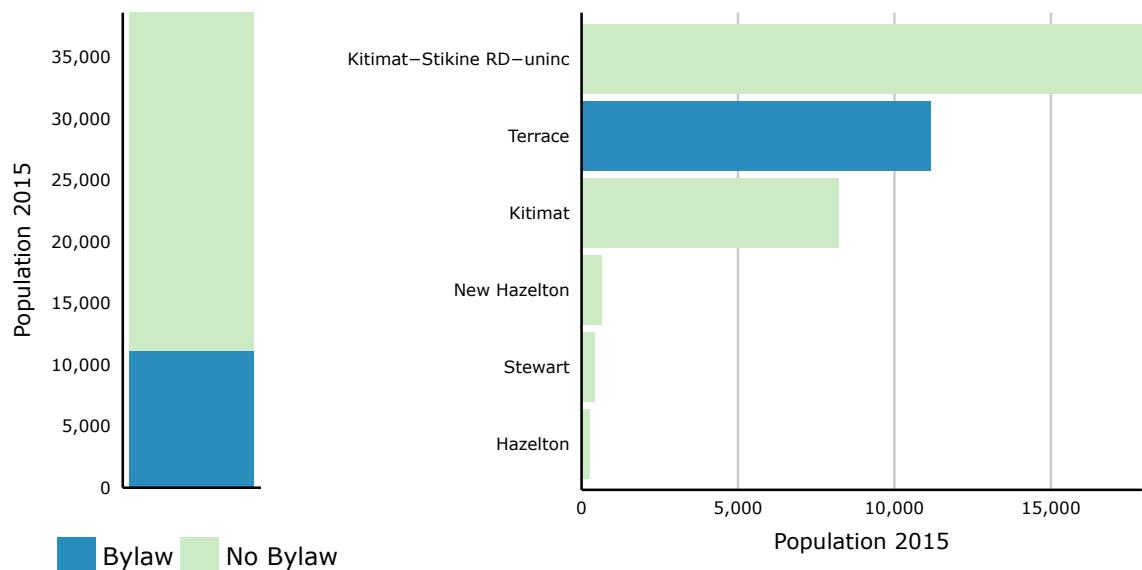
Vehicle Idling Bylaw



Open Burning Bylaw

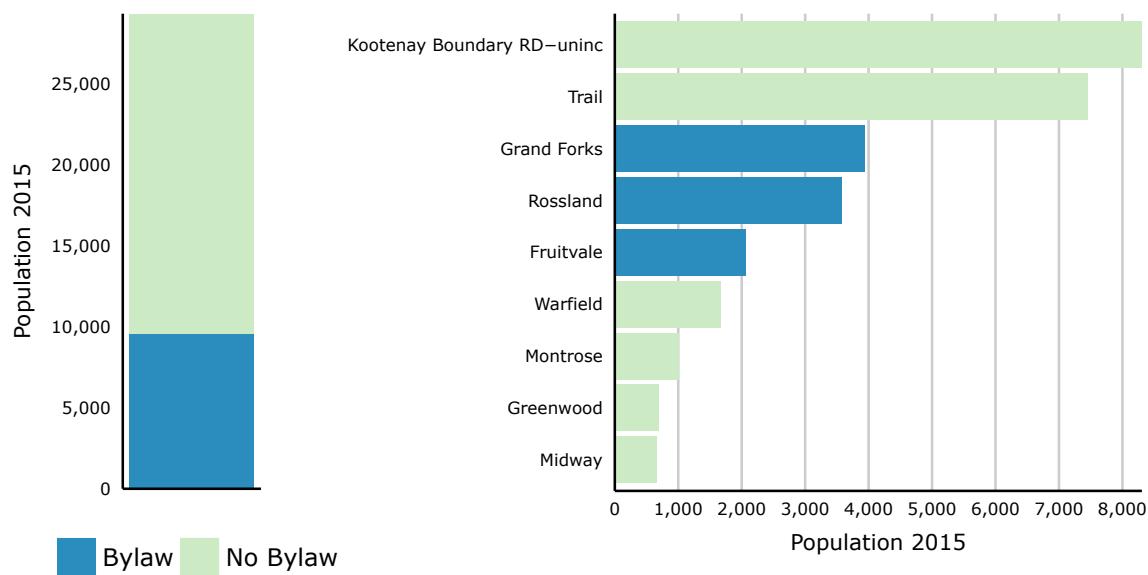


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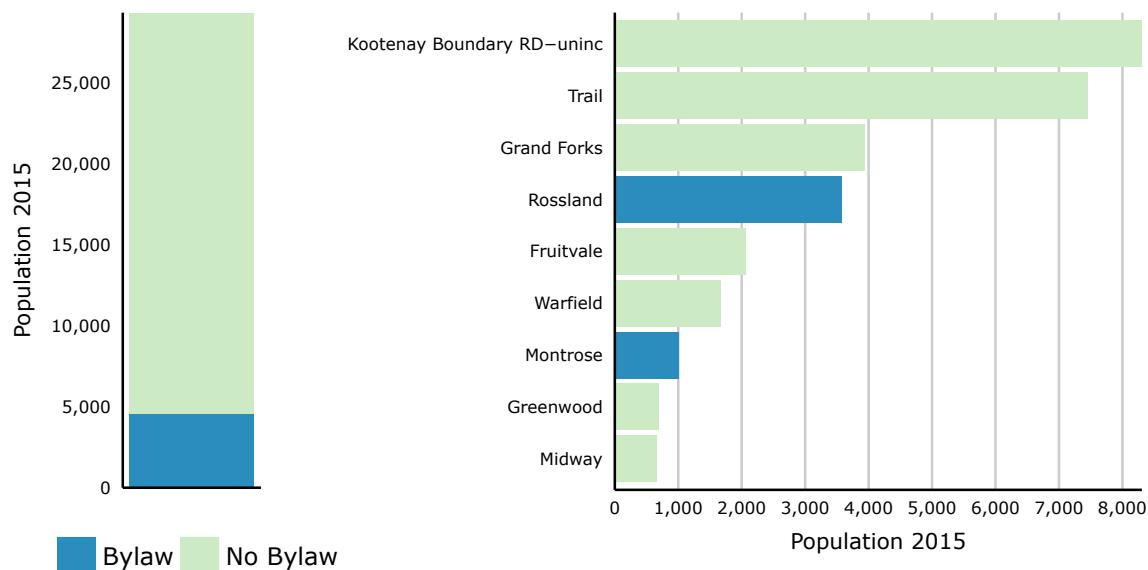


Kootenay Boundary Regional District

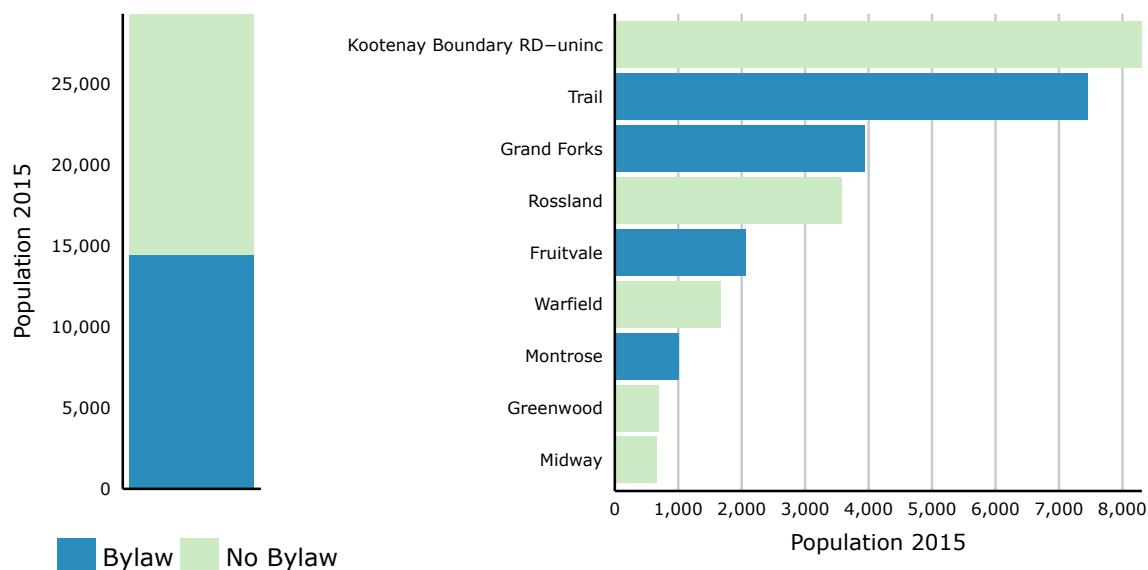
Vehicle Idling Bylaw



Open Burning Bylaw

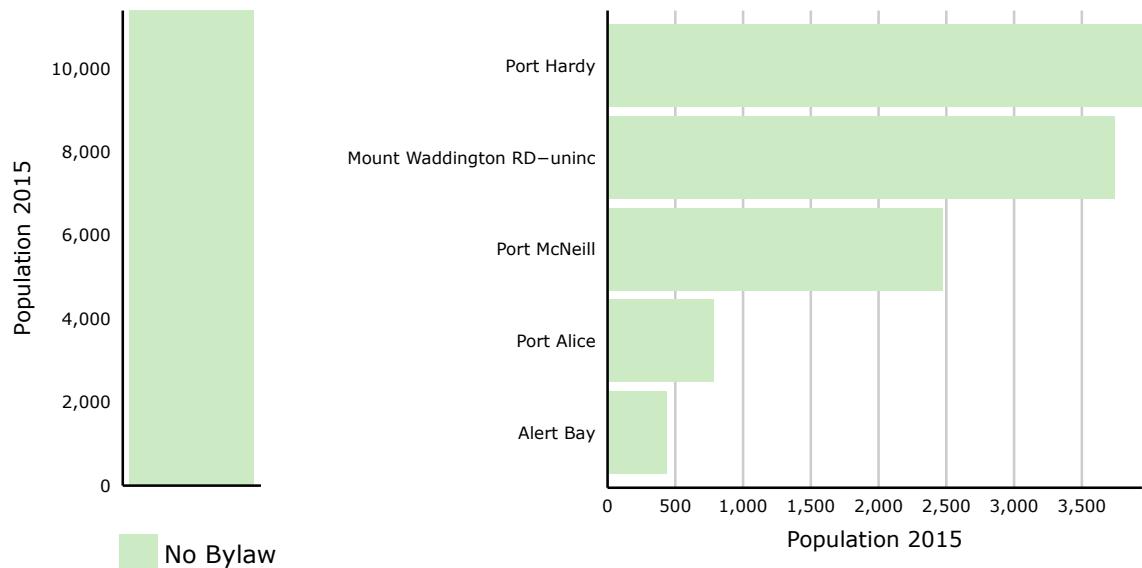


Solid Fuel Burning Appliances Bylaw

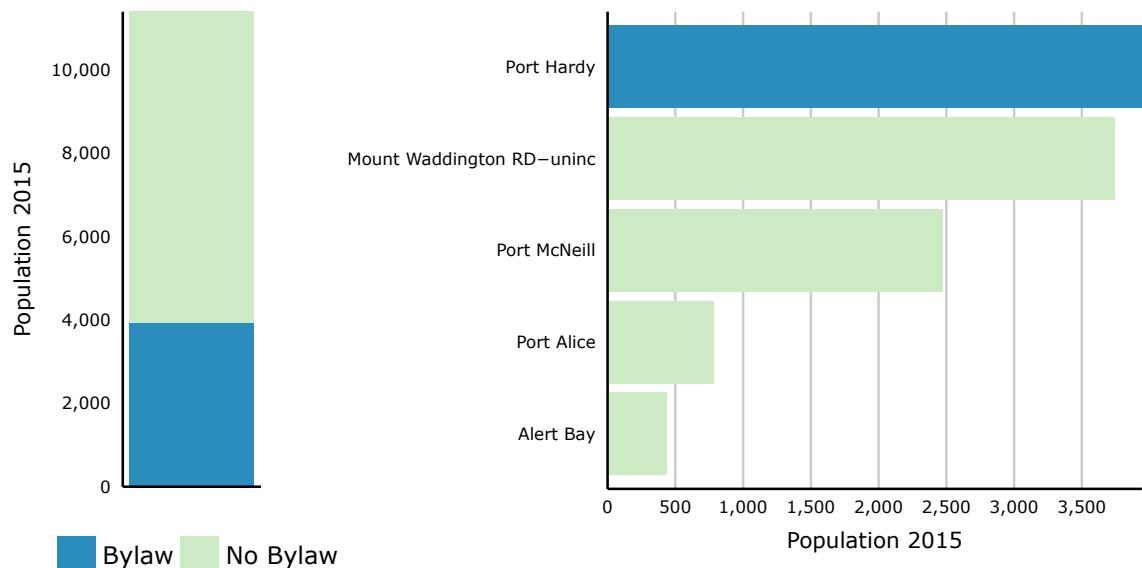


Mount Waddington Regional District

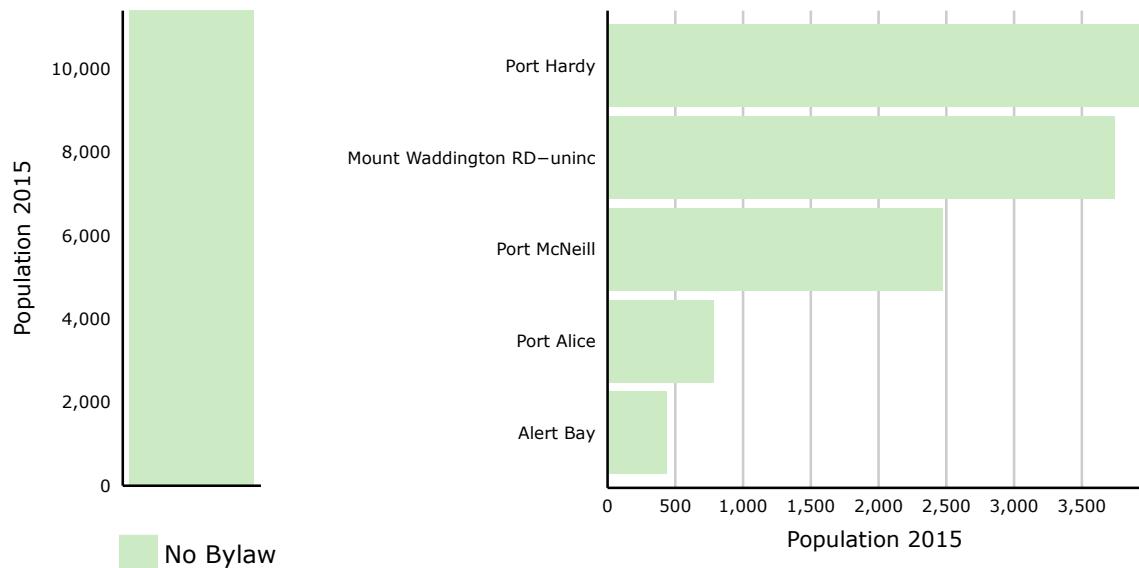
Vehicle Idling Bylaw



Open Burning Bylaw

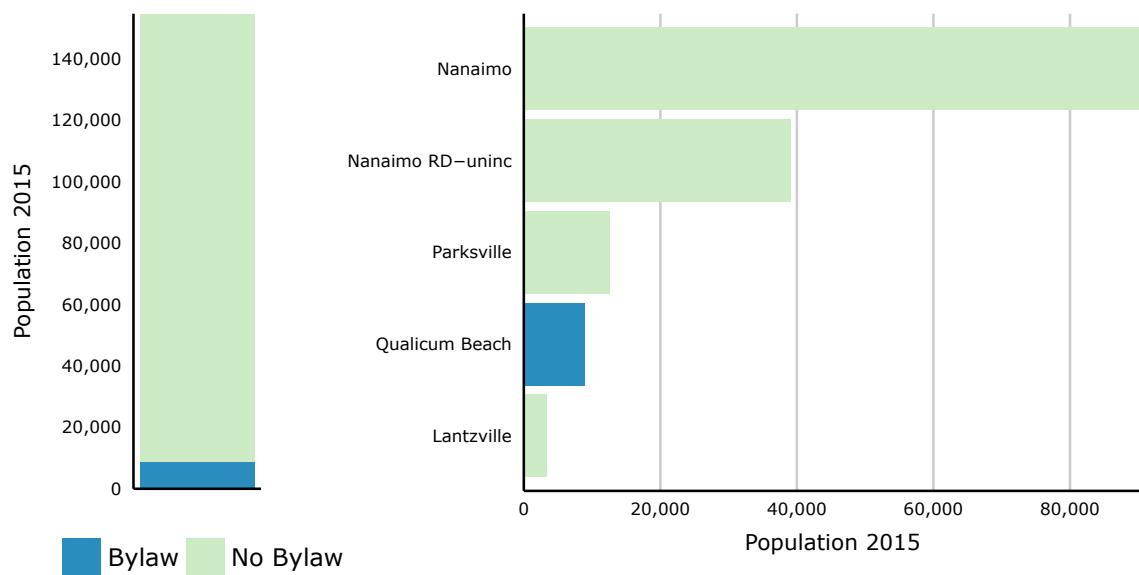


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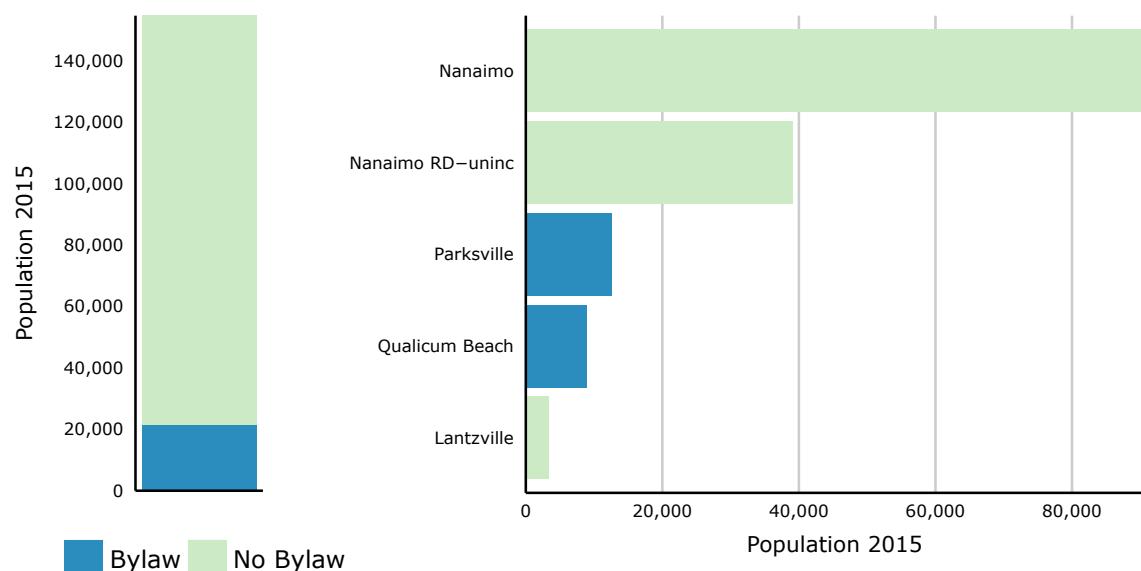


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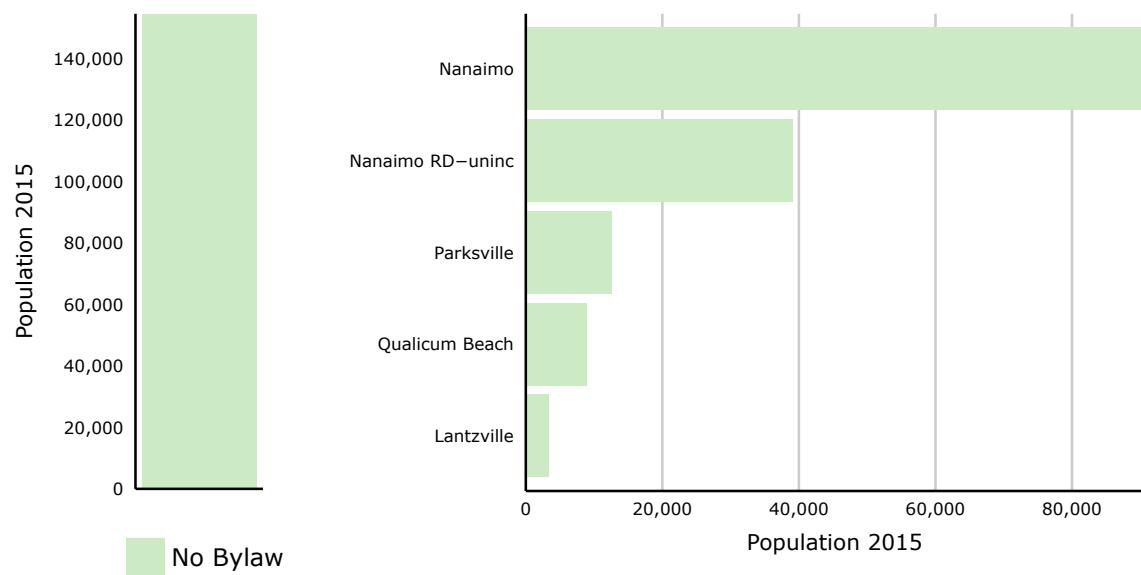
Vehicle Idling Bylaw



Open Burning Bylaw

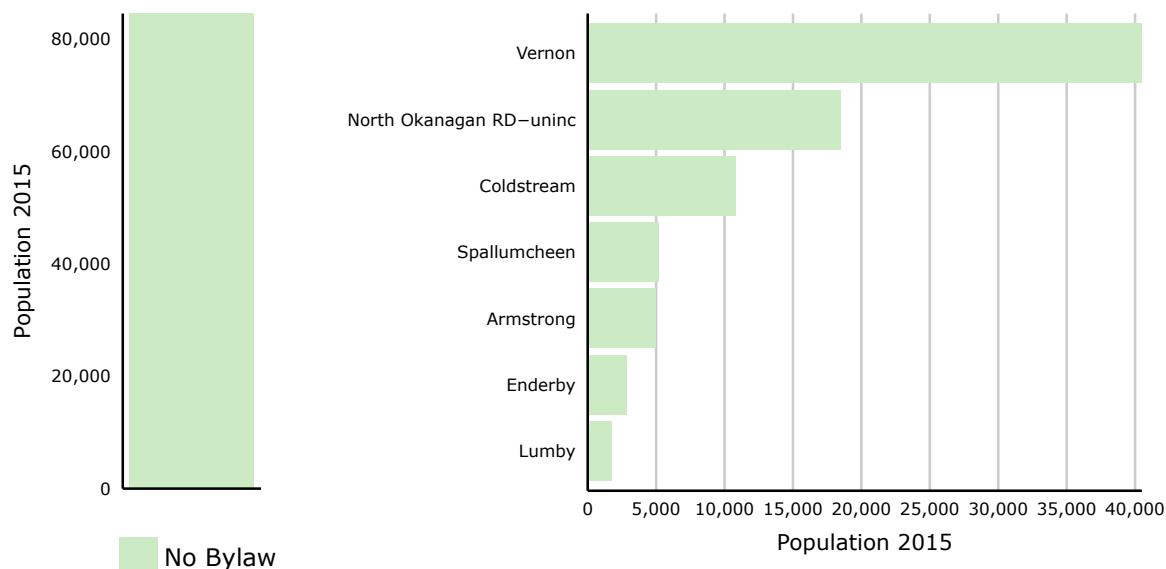


Solid Fuel Burning Appliances Bylaw

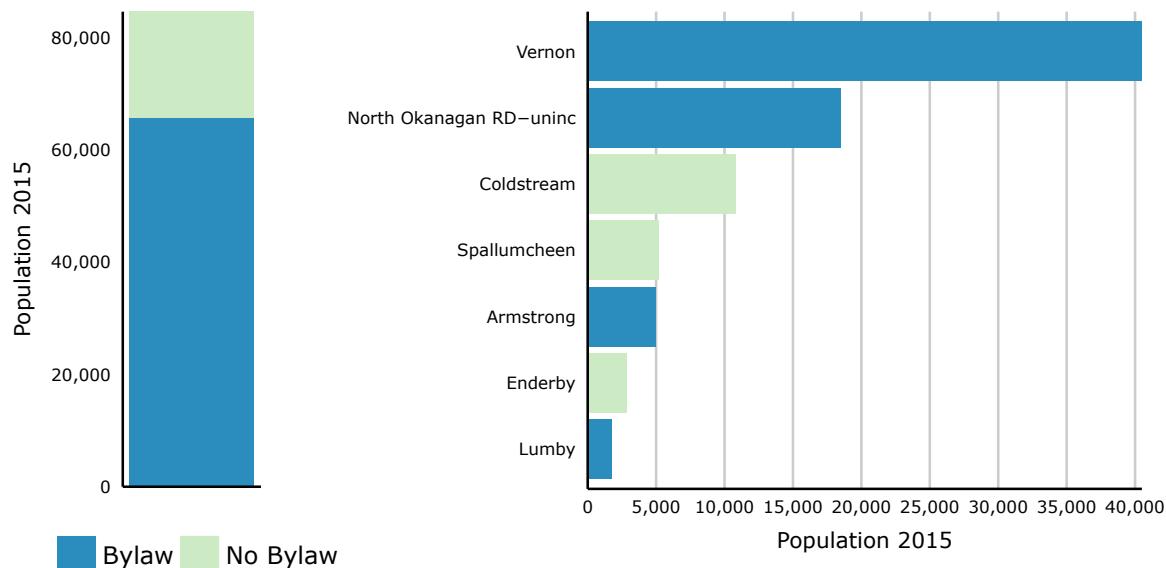


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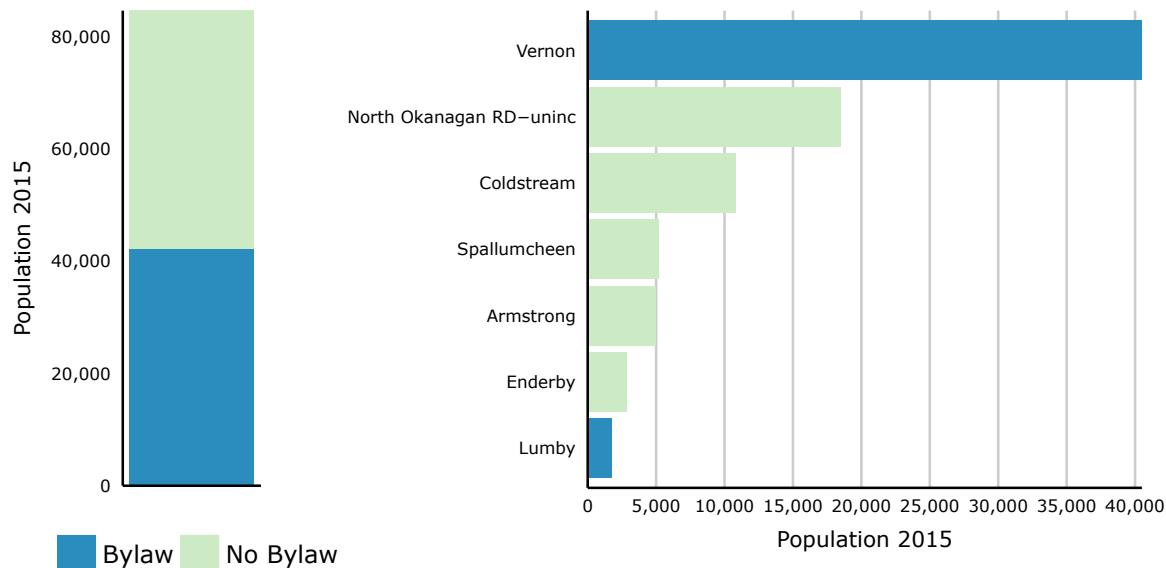
Vehicle Idling Bylaw



Open Burning Bylaw

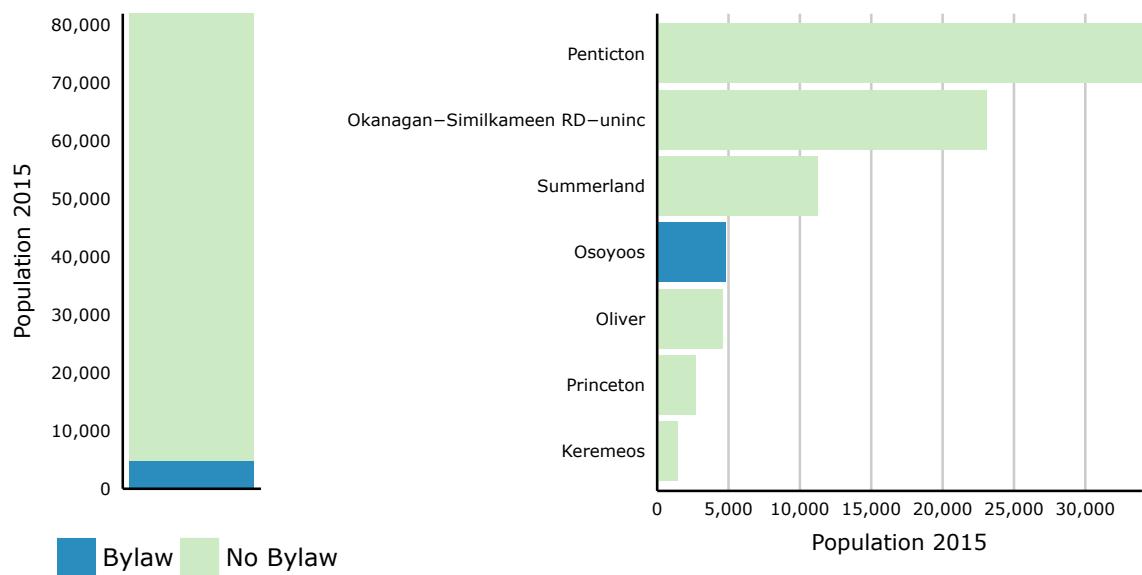


Solid Fuel Burning Appliances Bylaw

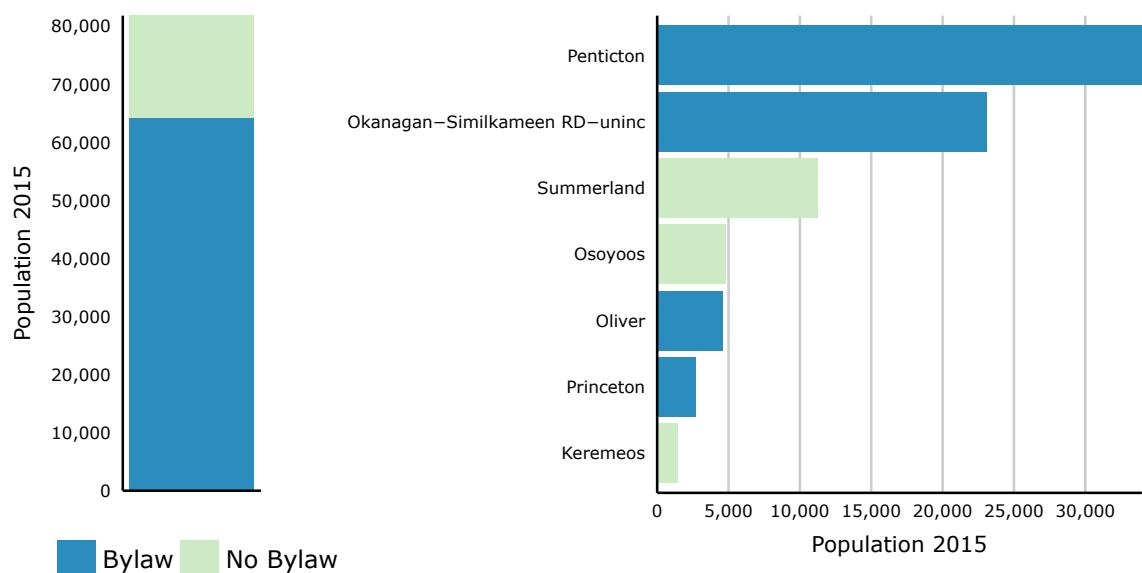


Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District

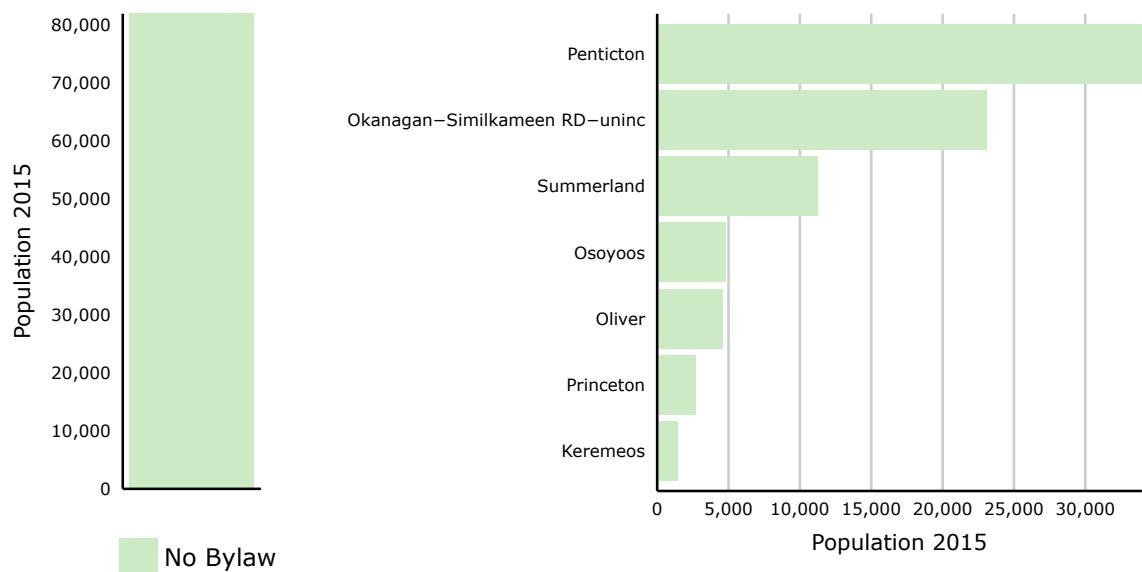
Vehicle Idling Bylaw



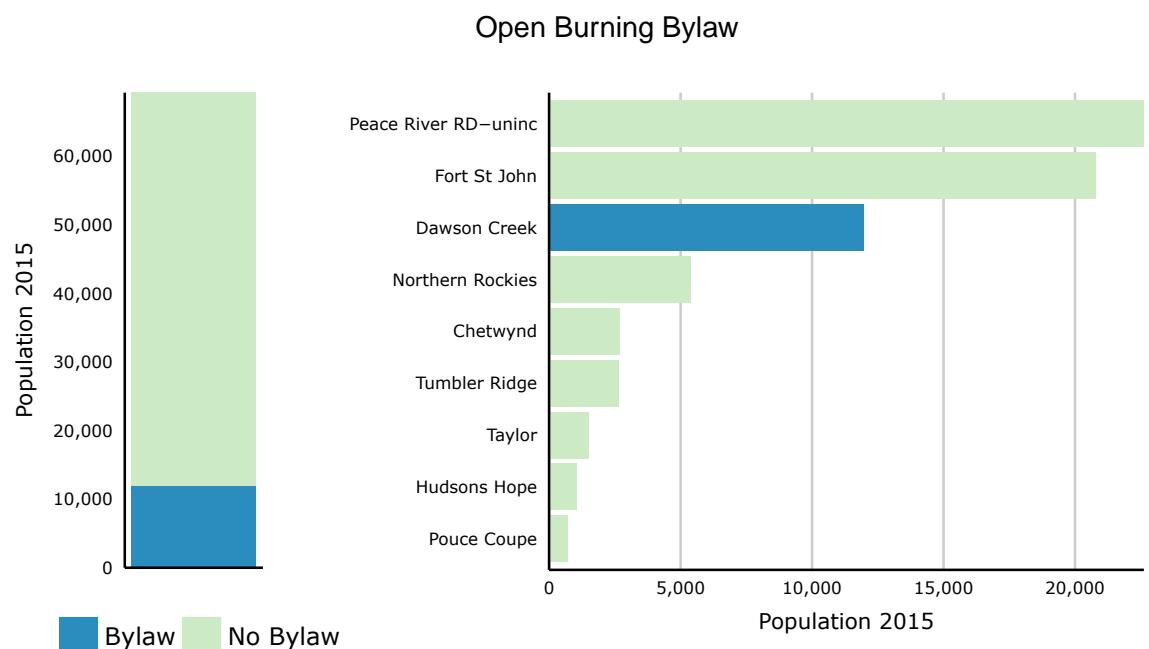
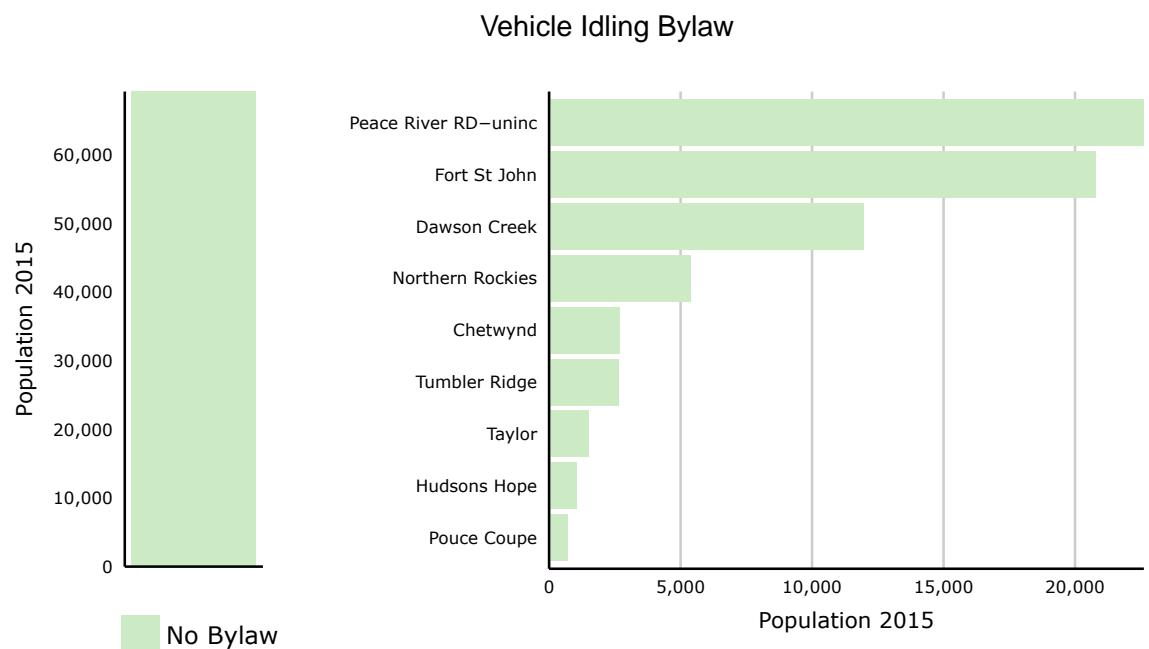
Open Burning Bylaw



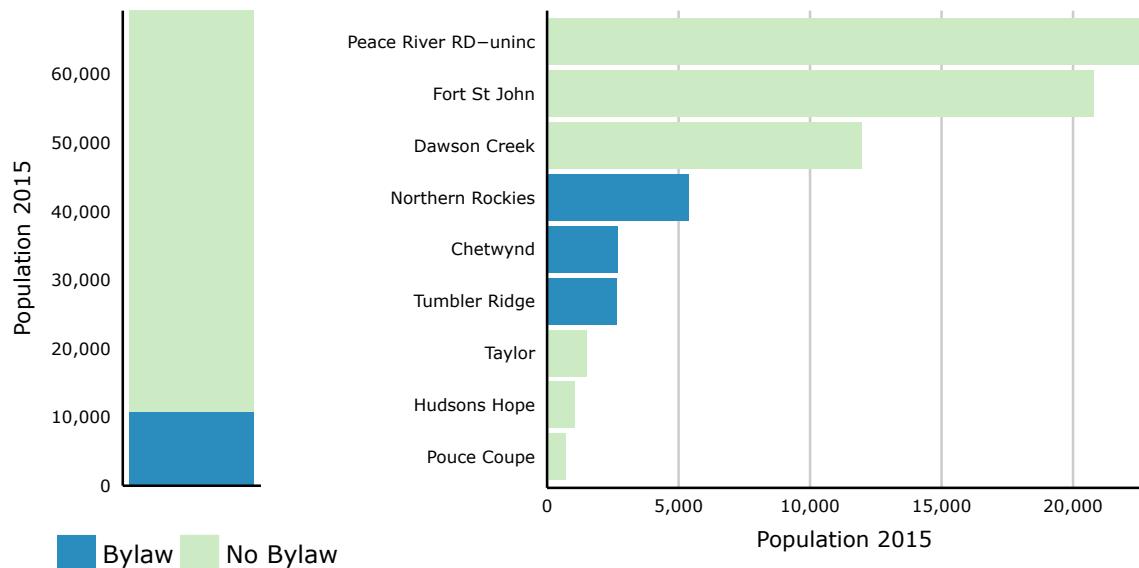
Solid Fuel Burning Appliances Bylaw



Peace River Regional District

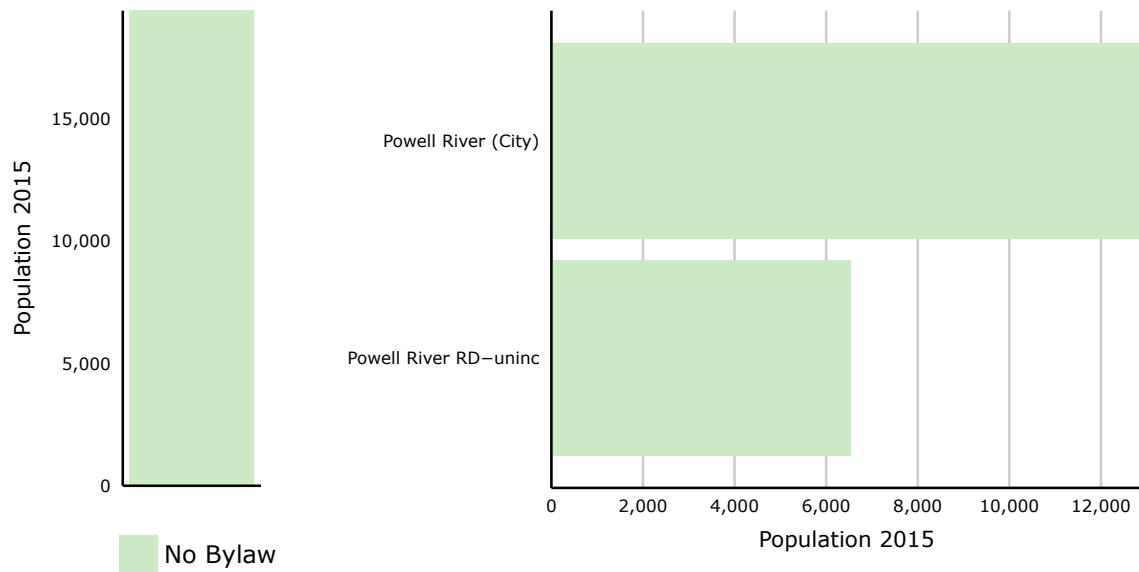


Solid Fuel Burning Appliances Bylaw

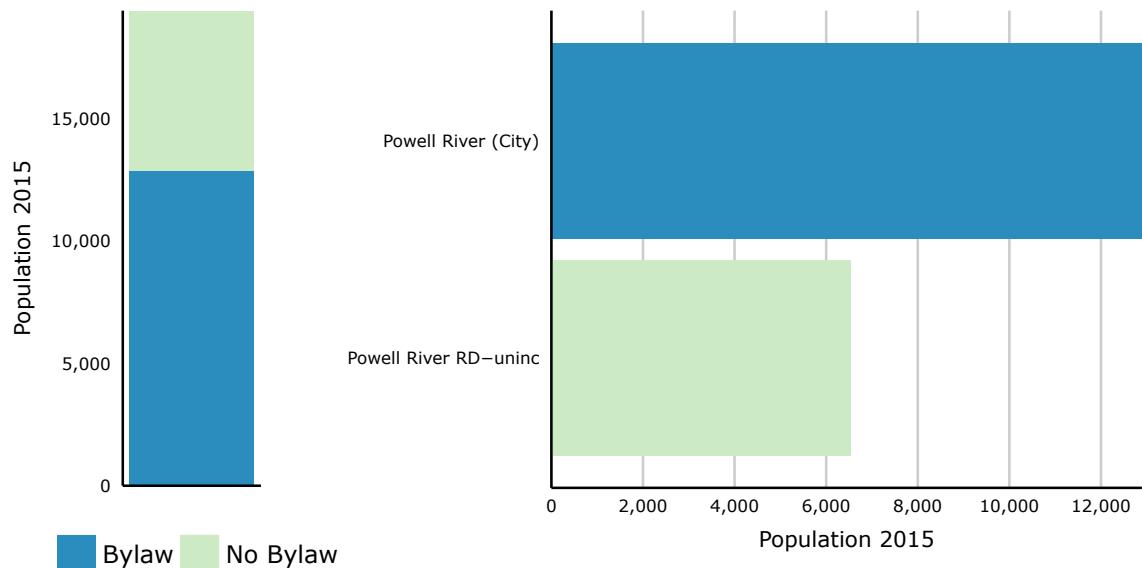


Powell River Regional District

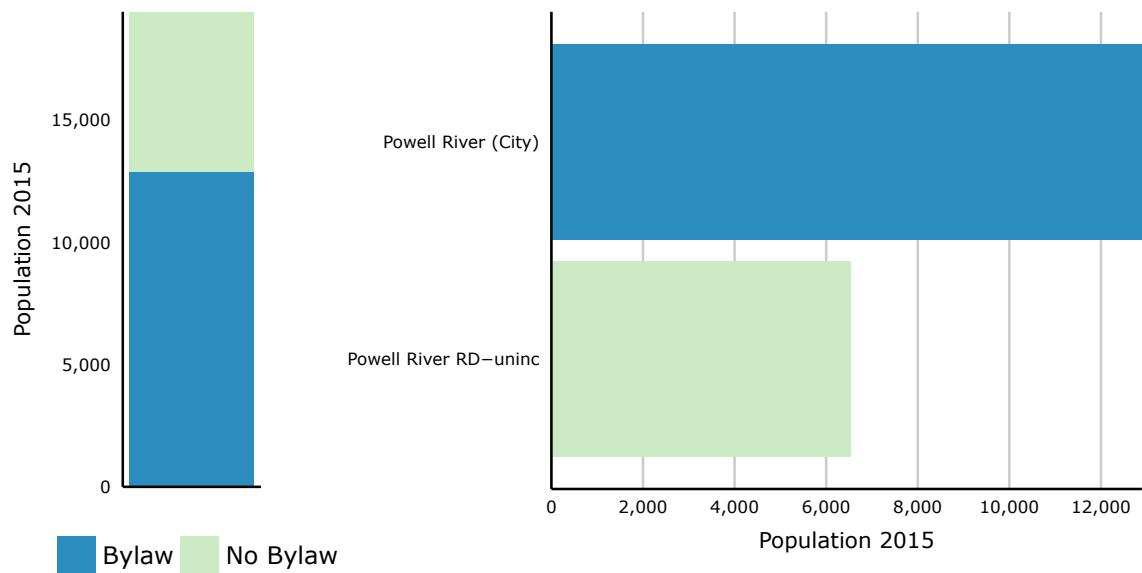
Vehicle Idling Bylaw



Open Burning Bylaw

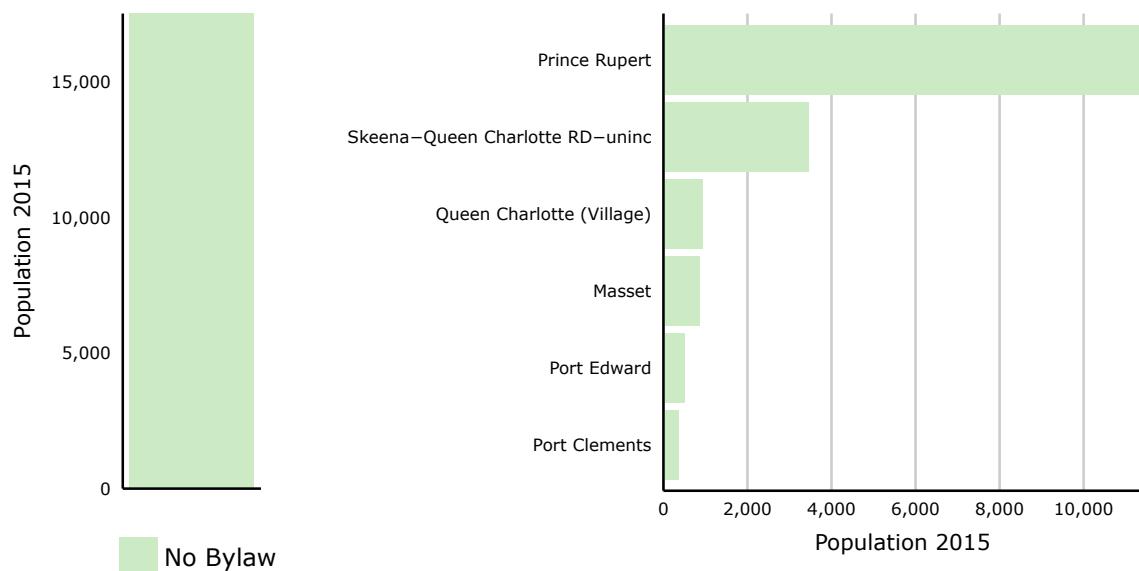


Solid Fuel Burning Appliances Bylaw

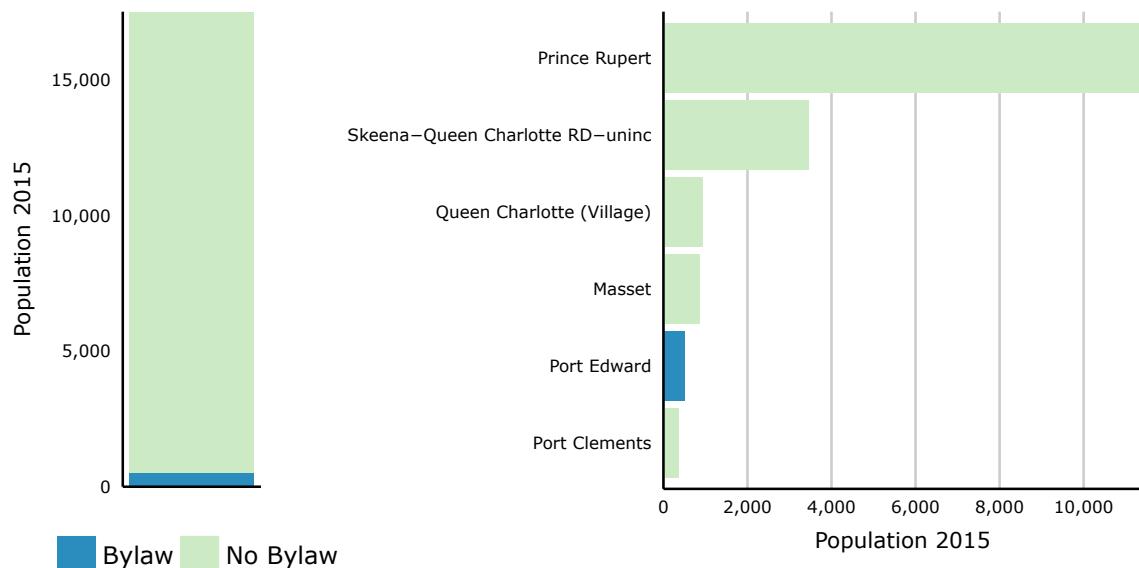


Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District

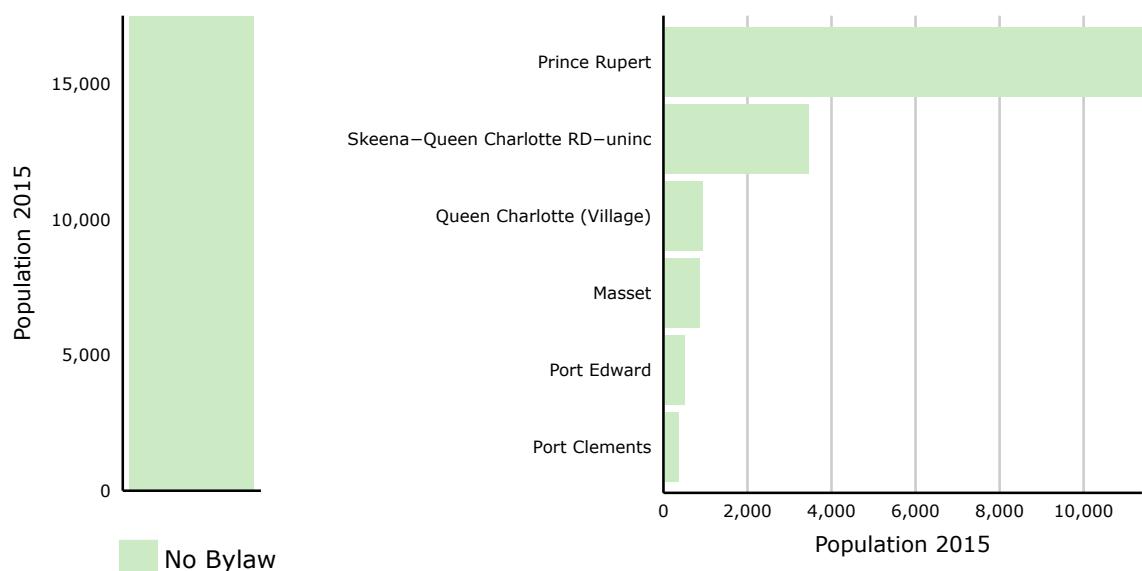
Vehicle Idling Bylaw



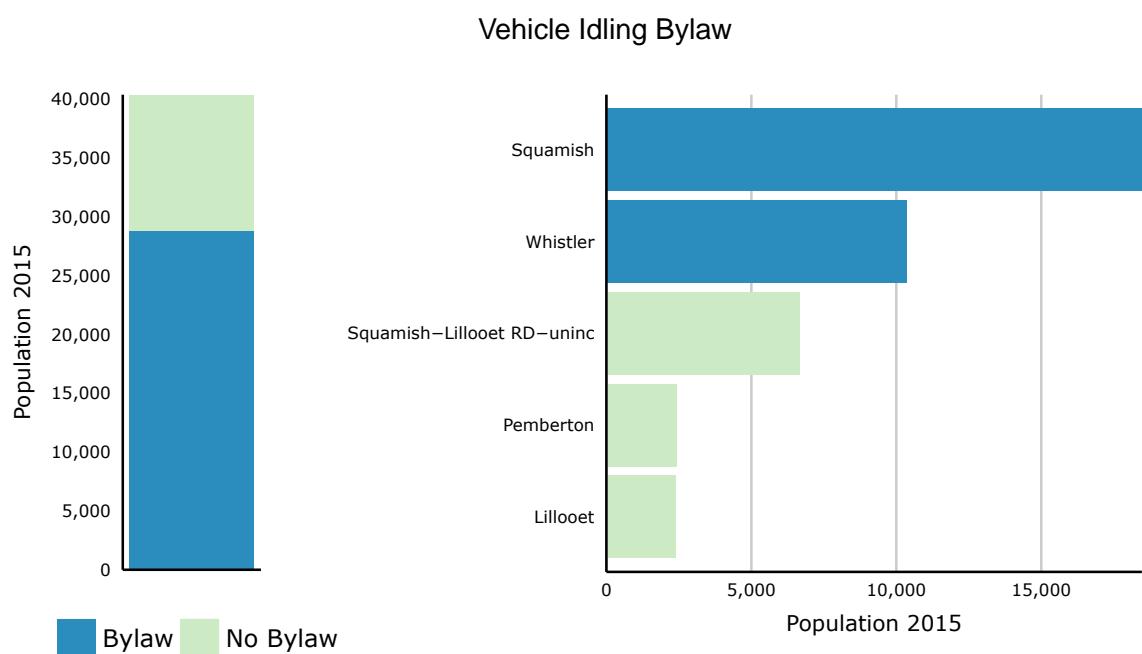
Open Burning Bylaw



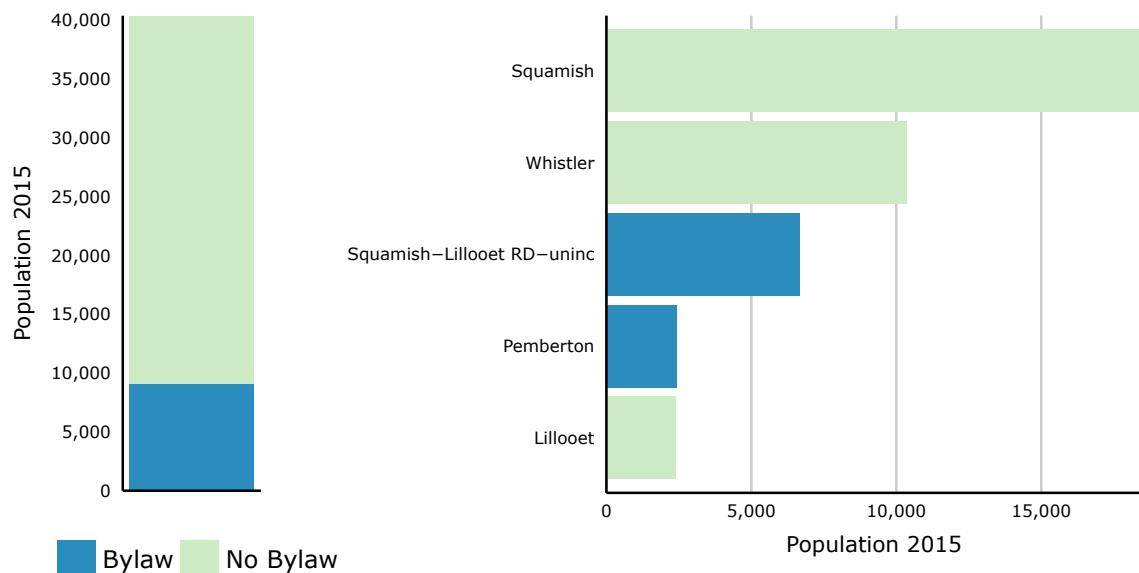
Solid Fuel Burning Appliances Bylaw



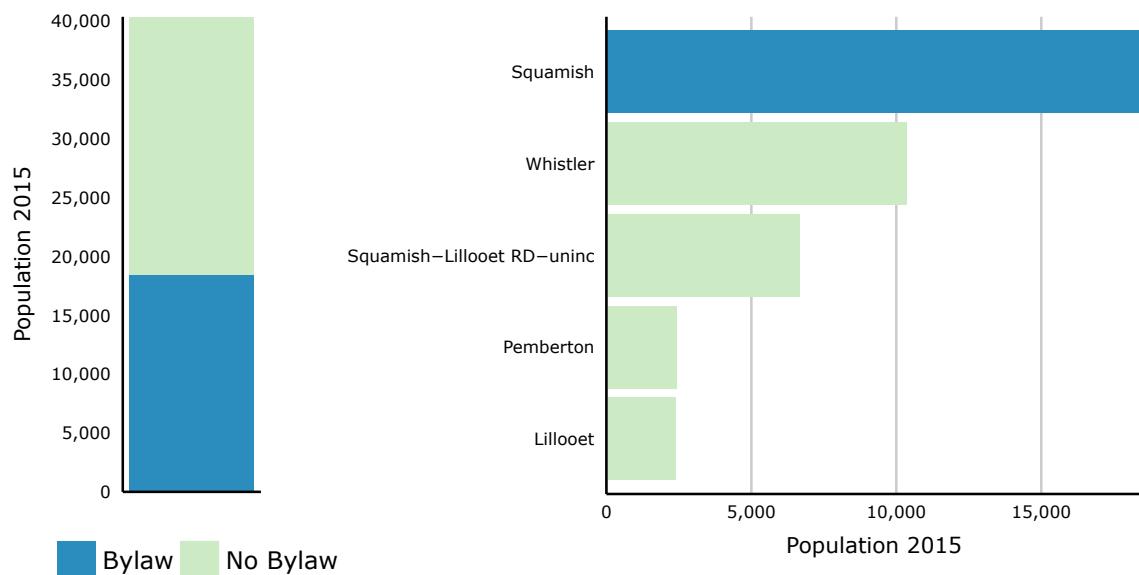
Squamish-Lillooet Regional District



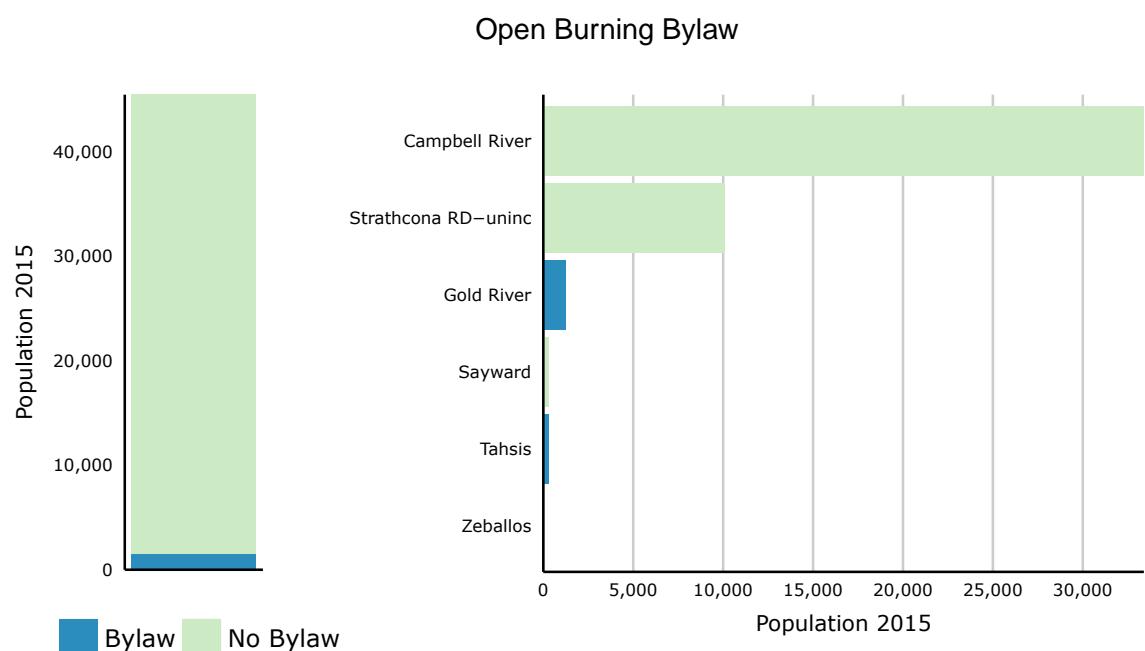
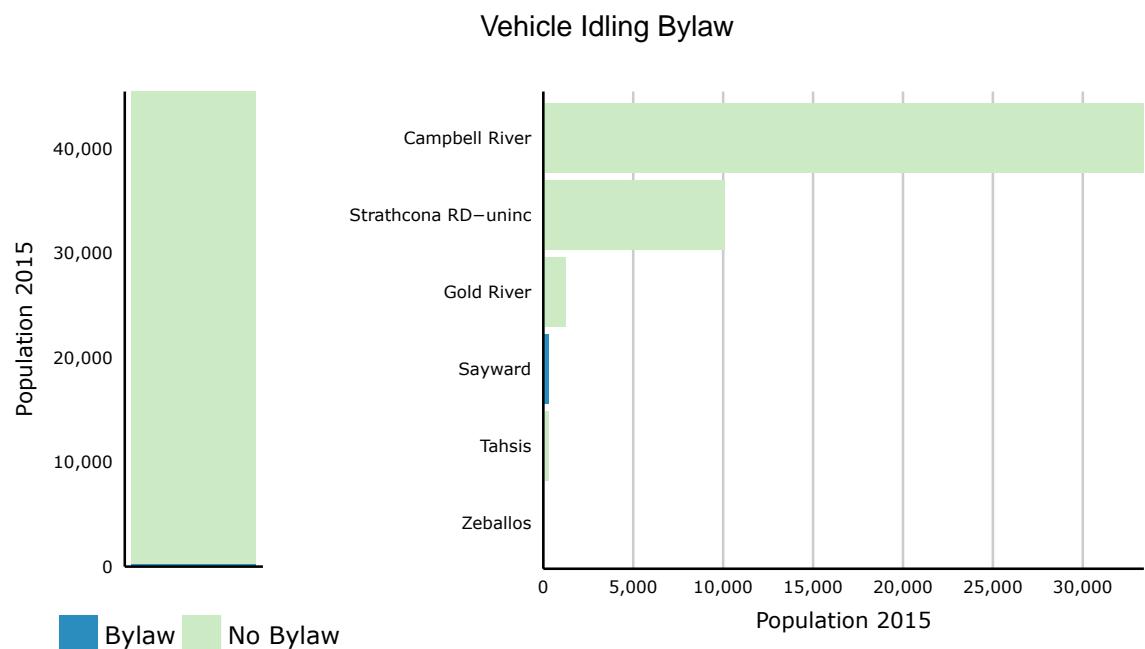
Open Burning Bylaw



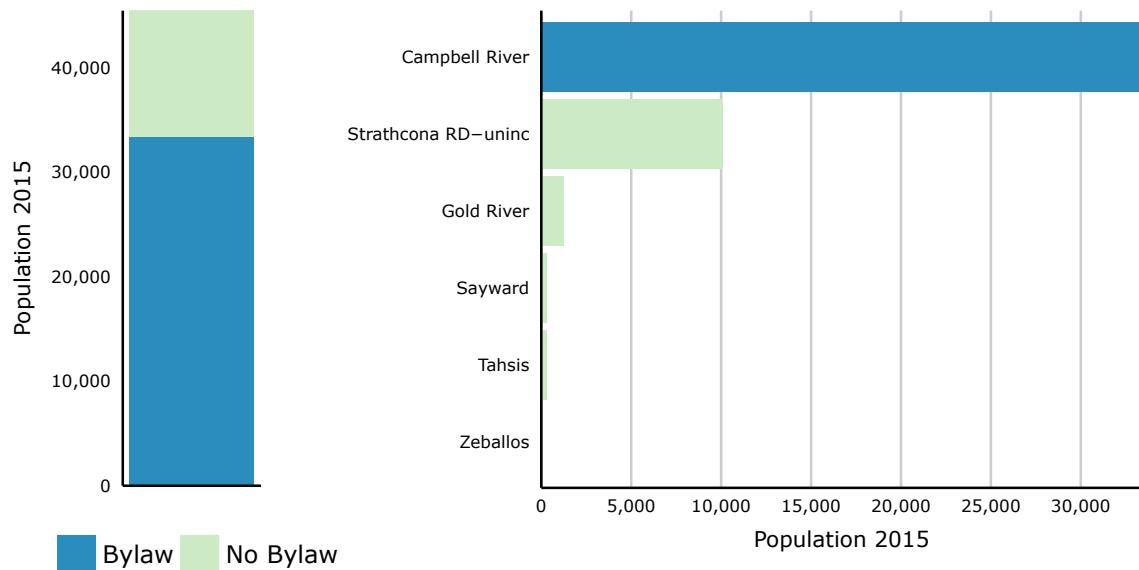
Solid Fuel Burning Appliances Bylaw



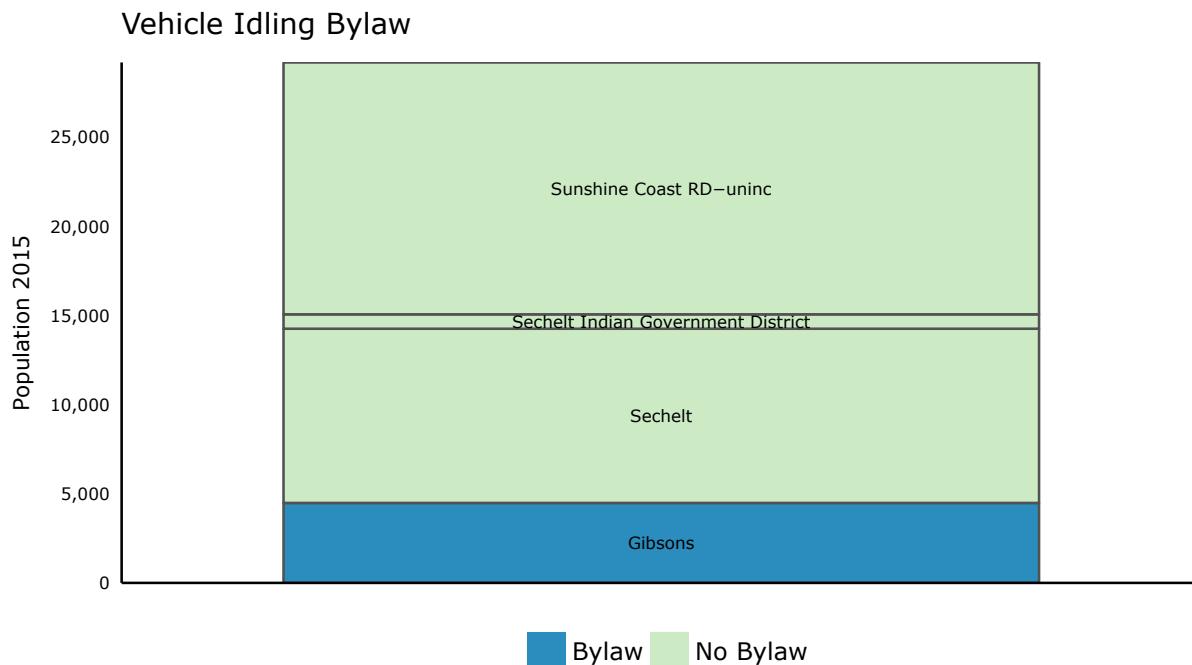
Strathcona Regional District



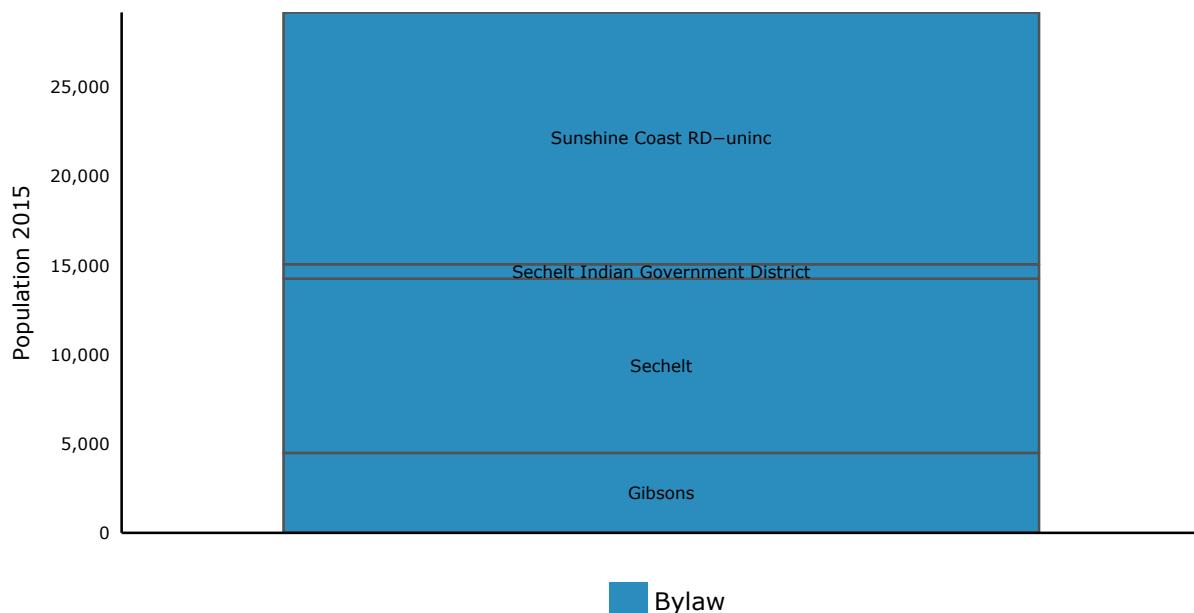
Solid Fuel Burning Appliances Bylaw



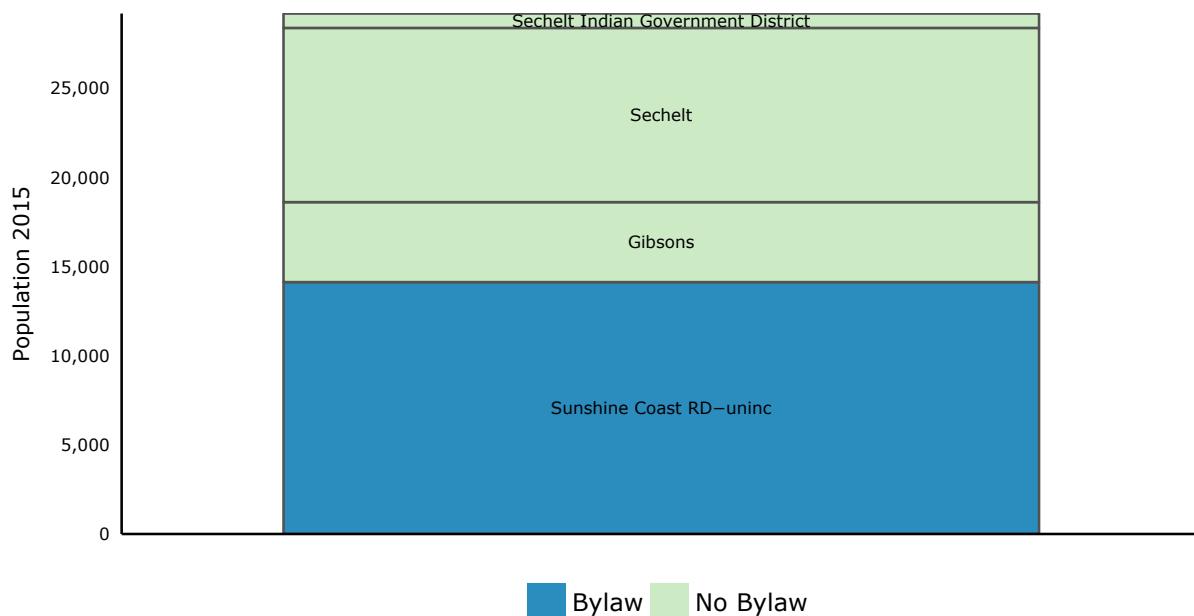
Sunshine Coast Regional District



Open Burning Bylaw

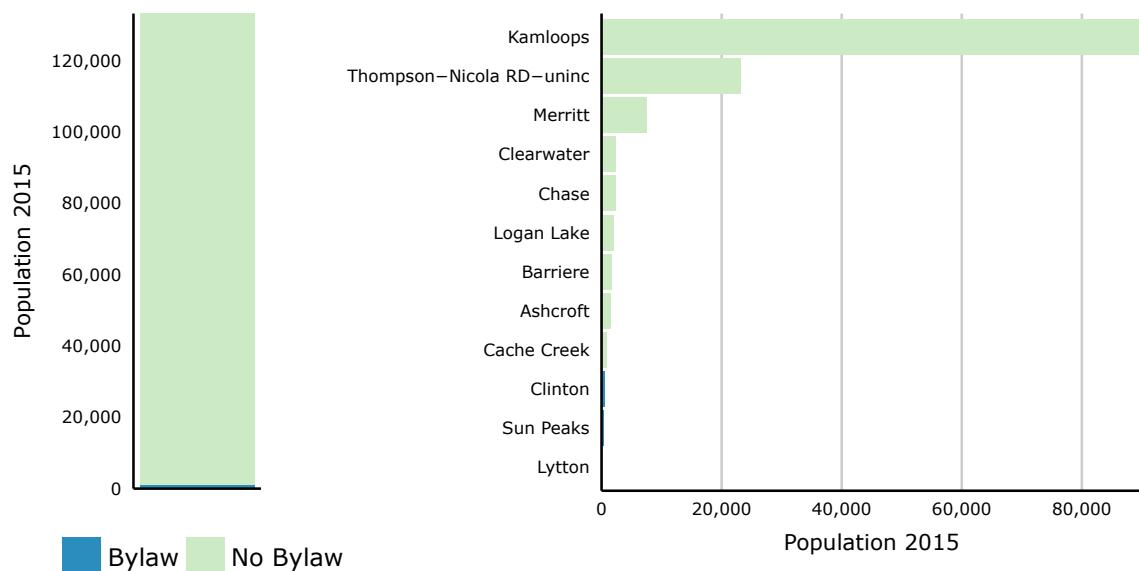


Solid Fuel Burning Appliances Bylaw

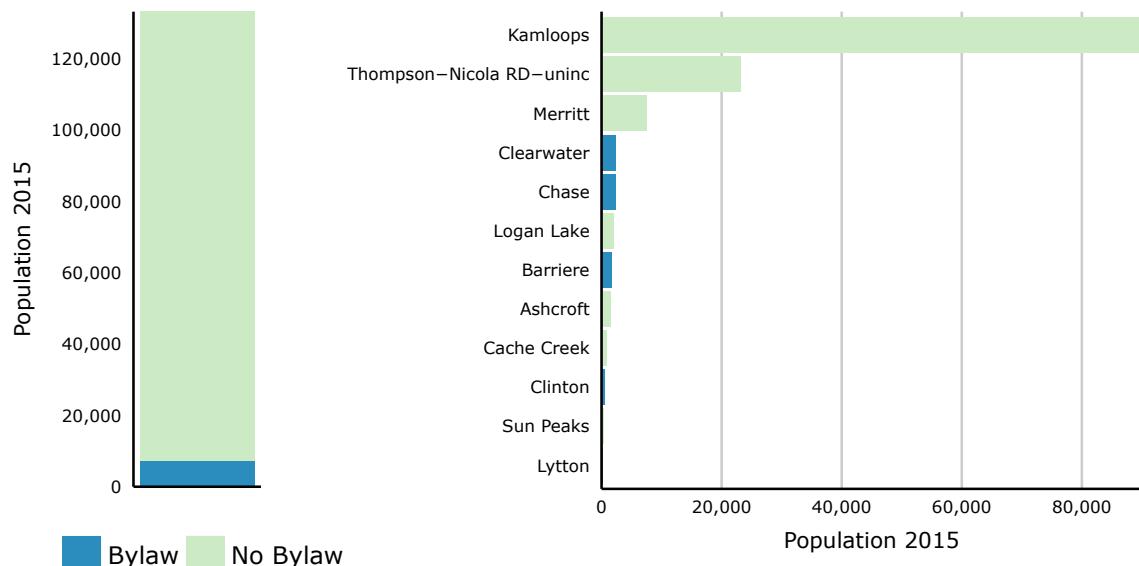


Thompson-Nicola Regional District

Vehicle Idling Bylaw



Open Burning Bylaw



Solid Fuel Burning Appliances Bylaw

