

POLICY:

County Council recognizes that dust suppression on gravel roads is both a public and private benefit and will assist residents with the cost of dust control applications.

APPLICATION TO VISION STATEMENT:

Dust control contributes to the safety of the travelling public, improves residents' quality of life, and enhances the County's image as "*a place to call home*".

DEFINITIONS:

- Main Collector Road: A road which funnels a high volume of residential or recreational traffic to a primary or secondary highway or other Main Collector Road.
- Short-Term Application: The application of dust suppression products (such as calcium chloride) that are normally applied on an annual or bi-annual basis.
- Sufficient Petition: A petition that meets all requirements for a sufficient petition in the *Municipal Government Act*.
- Long-Term Application: The application of dust suppression products (such as chip seal or similar product) that have a multi-year life span.

ELIGIBILITY:

This Policy applies to all residents of Beaver County.

GUIDELINES:

The following guidelines apply to both Short-Term and Long-Term Applications:

1. The County may provide dust control, at its own cost, in the following circumstances:
 - a) Consistent and continued use of a gravel road that provides access to a gravel pit actively used by the County;
 - b) Council has designated the road a Main Collector Road;
 - c) Other exceptional circumstances where Council deems it unfair or inequitable to require that the resident pay a fee for dust control.
2. The County reserves the right to determine the type of dust suppression product and length of application, taking into consideration the volume of traffic, density of the residential area, etc.
3. The County may charge a fee for Short-Term and Long-Term Applications, if a road does not meet the above Guidelines. If a new dust suppression product is being tested, Council may waive the fee in the first year of application.

4. The fee for Short-Term Applications will be imposed as a fee-for-service in accordance with the applicable Bylaw.
5. The fee for Long-Term Applications will be imposed as a special tax or local improvement tax. The tax will be calculated on the basis of 50% of the cost of the dust suppression product, divided equally amongst all benefitting landowners.
6. The County may, at its sole discretion, deny any application for dust control.

Dust Control (Short-Term Application)

The following guidelines apply to Short-Term Applications:

7. Short-Term Applications will be scheduled twice per calendar year.
8. Applications from residents for Short-Term Applications must be received by the County no later than April 15th of each year for the June application, or July 31st for the August application.
9. Residents who make arrangements for private Short-Term Applications must contact the County to ensure a qualified contractor is applying an industry-approved dust suppression product to the road. The resident will be solely responsible for the cost of private Short-Term Applications.
10. The County reserves the right to maintain all Short-Term Application sites so that the safety of the travelling public is not jeopardized. If the dust suppression product is removed for this reason, the County will not be responsible for replacing it.

Dust Control (Long-Term Application)

The following guidelines apply to Long-Term Applications:

11. The County will consider a Long-Term Application under the following circumstances:
 - a) If sufficient interest is expressed by the benefitting residents/landowners; or
 - b) Council proposes the project on its own.
12. Council, in its sole discretion, will determine whether an expression of interest is sufficient to proceed with an Open House or other public forum. The Open House will provide information regarding the project, probable cost, and an estimate of the local improvement tax that may be imposed.
13. If Council proposes the project on its own, an Open House or other public forum must be held before the project continues.
14. Following the Open House, a Sufficient Petition is required for the project to be considered by Council. Notwithstanding the sufficiency of a petition, Council may, in its sole discretion, decide whether to proceed with consideration of the project.
15. If a fee is charged for the Long-Term Application, it will not be charged for a period longer than the estimated life span of the dust suppression product.
16. The County reserves the right to maintain the Long-Term Application site so that the safety of the travelling public is not jeopardized.
17. The reapplication of a dust suppression project after its initial application will be considered a new project.

Administration will develop procedures to implement this Policy, which may be amended from time to time without compromising the intent of this Policy.

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PROCEDURES:

Dust Control (Short-Term Application)

The following procedure applies to Short-Term Applications:

1. Annually, the County will advise residents of the availability and cost of Short-Term Applications.
 - a) Interested residents must submit an application and payment for dust control no later than April 15th of each year for the June application, or July 31st for the August application. Applications for Dust Control will be received after the deadline, but in accordance with the *Dust Control Application and Payment Deemed Received Policy*.
2. Payment of the applicable fee must accompany the application.
3. The County will schedule Short-Term Applications so that the areas receiving dust control first will alternate from year to year to ensure an equitable program for all applicants.
4. Residents who make arrangements for private Short-Term Applications must contact the County in advance of the application to ensure a qualified contractor is applying an industry-approved dust suppression product to the road.
5. The County may permit Short-Term Applications along Secondary Highways with prior approval of Alberta Transportation.
6. The County will maintain all Short-Term Application sites on County roads so that the safety of the travelling public is not jeopardized. This may include grading through the sites to even out a rough surface.

Dust Control (Long-Term Application)

The following procedure applies to Long-Term Applications:

7. If a Long-Term Application project is initiated by Council, or if sufficient interest is expressed by the benefitting residents/landowners, Council will hold an Open House or other public forum to discuss the project, estimated project cost, and proposed local improvement tax.
8. Following the Open House or other public forum, a Sufficient Petition must be submitted before Council will consider the project.
9. If Council intends to impose a local improvement tax, a local improvement tax plan will be issued to benefitting landowners in accordance with legislation.

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10. a) If a Sufficient Petition objecting to the local improvement is filed in accordance with legislation, Council will not proceed with the project.
b) If a Sufficient Petition objecting to the local improvement is not filed, Council may, at its discretion, proceed with the project.
 11. When the life-span of the dust suppression product has expired, and the safety of the travelling public is in jeopardy, the County may remove the product if a valid request has not been received to reapply the dust suppression product in accordance with this Policy.