

6. Implement "Bear Smart" bylaws prohibiting the provision of food to bears as a result of intent, neglect, or irresponsible management of attractants. Implement a compliance strategy for these bylaws to ensure that there is full compliance with them. Bylaws may:

Make it an offence to discard or store waste, food, or other attractants in non-bear proof containers, either intentionally or unintentionally,

Require that garbage be stored in a bear proof container and/or location and that curbside placement before the morning of pick-up not occur,

Include community composting requirements in high-risk attraction areas of the community.

Bylaws to Promote "Bear Smart" Actions

The primary goal of the "Bear Smart" program is to diminish the rate and intensity of human-bear conflicts, which will thereby increase public safety and reduce the number of bears that are killed. Using proactive management, communities can reduce conflicts between humans and bears by identifying and eliminating the root causes of the conflicts. The "Bear Smart" Community Program provides communities with options for addressing their own unique situation and helps them reach the objectives of the program.

The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection will provide technical advice to communities that are seeking to obtain "Bear Smart" status. Several British Columbia communities have been proactive in reducing bear conflicts and have already met one or more of the criteria required to be "Bear Smart". A background report providing detailed information on each of the criteria and including examples of their successful application has been prepared and is available to communities that are interested in pursuing this initiative. The Report entitled the "Bear Smart" Community Program: Background Report can be found on the Internet at http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bearsmart_bkgdr.pdf.

For further information on the "Bear Smart" Communities program please contact your local office of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

