



NEWS

For Immediate Release

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COMING SOON:

Air District to Offer End of Season Rebates

\$600 to Switch from Burning Wood to Using Less Polluting Natural Gas

SAN FRANCISCO – Making the right clean air choice just got easier. Beginning April 7, the Bay Area Air District will offer \$600 rebates to Bay Area residents to reduce the cost of switching to natural gas fireplace inserts and gas stoves.

“Wood burning is the largest single source of wintertime particulate pollution in the Bay Area, and the easiest for residents to control,” said Air District Executive Officer Jack Broadbent. “Switching to a natural gas insert or stove instead of burning wood can significantly reduce air pollution inside your home and neighborhood.”

Wood burning emits approximately 30 percent of the Bay Area’s wintertime air pollution, including fine particulate matter that is especially dangerous to health. In valley areas, pollution from wood burning can even exceed emission levels from vehicle exhaust. Wood smoke also contains high levels of toxins and carcinogens such as benzene, formaldehyde, and dioxin. Switching to a gas fireplace or stove can reduce these emissions by up to 99 percent.

The Air District has committed \$400,000 to fund the program. It will begin on April 7 and run through July 6 on a first-come, first-served basis. Funding is limited. Go online to www.sparetheair.org to find more information and download a voucher. Call 1-800-HELP-AIR if you don’t have an Internet connection, and one can be sent to you.

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