



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: Tina Landis
415.749.4900

Air District launching incentive program for fireplace & wood stove upgrades

Funding will help to improve air quality in the region by reducing wood smoke

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is announcing the launch of an incentive program on August 26 at 10 a.m. for Bay Area residents to upgrade their wood-burning devices with cleaner heating options.

The Air District's Board of Directors approved \$3 million in funding for the incentive program earlier this year.

"The Wood Smoke Reduction Incentive Program will help reduce the health impacts of wood smoke in the Bay Area and will target the areas that need it most," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. "Funding is expected to go quickly, so we are urging Bay Area residents to apply when the program opens on August 26."

The funding will provide assistance for approximately 1,500 Bay Area households to replace older, more polluting fireplaces or wood-burning stoves with cleaner electric heat pumps, or natural gas or propane stoves or inserts. Residents also have the option to decommission their fireplace or wood-burning stove, permanently taking it out of service.

The program will open at 10 a.m. on August 26, 2016, on a first-come, first-served basis for homeowners and landlords to replace their wood burning device. Funding will be prioritized for low-income residents, residents located in areas highly affected by wood smoke, and households exempt from burn bans due to a wood-burning device being the sole source of heat. Starting November 1, 2016, anyone whose sole source of heat is a wood-burning device must use an EPA-certified or pellet-fueled device that is registered with the Air District to qualify for an exemption.

To be eligible, homeowners and landlords must own a residential property that is located within the Air District's jurisdiction, and must apply for approval of their project and receive a Notice to Proceed from the Air District. Projects that have been initiated or completed before receiving the Air District's approval are not eligible for funding.

Funding for a project can range from \$750 up to a maximum of \$12,000 depending on the type of project (device) and other qualifying criteria. A full breakdown of available incentives is shown below:

Funding by Device	Air District Incentive
Electric Heat Pump	\$3,500
Decommission Fireplace	\$750

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Gas-fueled Heating Stove/Insert (Natural Gas or Propane)	\$1,000
Enhanced Funding for Select Groups - Additional Criteria	
Low-Income Household	\$8,500
Exempt Household	\$1,500
Areas Heavily Impacted by Wood Smoke	\$1,500

Anyone interested in learning about this program can sign up at our website at: www.baaqmd.gov/WoodSmokeGrant or by calling 415-749-5195.

The Air District has offered incentive programs for wood burning fireplaces or stoves in the past, starting in 2008. Incentives ranged from \$200 - \$600 for new gas, pellet or EPA-certified fireplaces or wood stoves. The new program will only offer incentives for non-wood burning devices. Other air districts in California and Washington state also offer wood-burning device changeout programs with incentives ranging from \$1,500 - \$7,200.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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