

Information pertaining to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Woodsmoke Grant Program

Dear Dealer,

We've put together a list of frequently asked questions that we are coming in regarding the upcoming change out program.

When will the program start?

The date for the opening of the Wood Smoke Reduction Incentive Program was pushed back to August 26, 2016 at 10 a.m. The promotional material being used in the program is on the last page of these FAQ's. More details and answers to frequently asked questions can be found at

www.baaqmd.gov/WoodSmokeGrant. Additional information about the program will be published on the website as it becomes available. You can also sign up at that page to get information about the program as soon as it is published.

Who will administer this program?

The Air District is administering this program. Job completion verification will be through both a certification form signed by a California licensed contractor and through photos of the completed project. Applicants will need to take a clear photo and upload it for review in order to be eligible to receive funds.

How will consumers obtain funding and what is the timeline on the payment?

Consumers interested in grant funding must apply for pre-approval through the Bay Area website. If approved, they will have 90 days to complete their project and submit a reimbursement request. If the reimbursement request is approved, checks should be issued within 30 days.

What does the registration component entail?

Completing an online form and providing documentation of EPA certified device, such as a picture of the installed device or a sales receipt.

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Are there any limits on the amount of funds that one product group can capture?

Incentives will be available for heat pumps and natural gas or propane stoves or inserts. No limits are placed on one product group. Incentives range from \$750 up to \$12,000 maximum depending on the type of new device, income level, location and if the household is exempt due to a wood-burning device being the sole source of heating. One million dollars of the total grant funds available have been set aside for highly impacted residences which include low income, exempt households, and high wood smoke areas (zip codes listed below).

What are the targeted zip codes for the additional funds?

The ZIP codes that qualify for the high wood smoke area additional funds are:

94019	94924	94965
94020	94933	94970
94021	94937	94973
94060	94938	95006
94074	94940	95008
94508	94946	95431
94515	94950	95442
94567	94956	95452
94702	94963	95472

Is there a cap on the funds that go towards gas inserts?

Natural gas or propane fuel units have a base grant award of \$1,000. Residents enrolled in PG&E's CARE program, in areas highly affected by wood smoke, or are on the Air District's sole source exemption list may qualify for additional funding up to a maximum amount of \$12k or the full cost of the device.

If a homeowner chooses to render their open fireplace "in-operable" will they also qualify for an incentive rebate if they add a freestanding gas heating stove to their home?

This would likely be eligible for the “Replace a wood-burning device with a natural gas or propane fueled device” option, and would qualify for up to \$1,000 in incentive funding.

How is the program being marketed?

A multimedia marketing approach has been deployed and involves newsletters, flyers, door-hangers, social media, advertising, and community message boards.

Other questions?

Call Tom Flannigan at the Air District: 415) 749-4748

As of 8/17/16, here is what is on the BAAQMD Website:

On cold winter nights in the Bay Area, wood smoke is the second-hand smoke of topmost concern, filling neighborhoods with fine particle pollution that is as harmful to your health as cigarette smoke.

To address this health hazard, the Air District will be allocating \$3 million in funding this fall for the replacement of wood-burning fireplaces and wood stoves with cleaner heating options.

Program Information

The Wood Smoke Reduction Incentive Program will provide funding to help Bay Area homeowners and landlords replace their residence’s wood-burning heating device with a qualifying electric heat pump or a natural gas or propane fueled device. Incentives will also be available to help residents decommission their fireplace.

To be eligible, homeowners and landlords must own a residential property that is located within the Air District’s nine-county jurisdiction. They must apply for approval of their project and receive a Notice to Proceed from the Air District before any work can begin. Approved projects will receive a reimbursement rebate *after* the project is successfully completed and verified. *Applicants who have had any work related to their project performed before the Air District issues a Notice to Proceed will not be eligible for funding.*

Incentives *cannot exceed the actual cost of the project*, and will range from \$750 to a maximum of \$12,000, depending on the type of project selected (see below for more information). Funding will also be prioritized for low-income residents, residents located in areas highly affected by wood smoke, and households exempt from Winter Spare the Air Alert burn bans because their wood-burning device is their sole source of heat.

Applicants may apply for funding for one of the project options listed below:

Project Option	Base Rebate
Replace a woodstove or fireplace with an electric heat pump	\$3,500
Replace a woodstove or fireplace with a natural gas or propane-fueled device	\$1,000
Decommission (render inoperable) a fireplace	\$750

UPDATED 8/15/2016

In addition to the base rebate funding, projects may be eligible to receive additional funding if the applicant or property meets one or more of the following eligibility conditions for Highly Impacted Residents:

Highly Impacted Resident (HIR) Conditions	HIR Funding*
Applicant qualifies for income assistance (e.g., enrolled in PG&E's CARE program or an equivalent program)	+ \$8,500
The property is currently exempt from Winter Spare the Air Alert No Burn days (i.e. its sole source of heat is a compliant wood-burning device that is registered with the Air District)**	+ \$1,500
The property is located in an area that is highly impacted by wood smoke (the Air District will provide qualifying zip codes)	+ \$1,500

UPDATED 8/15/2016

**The maximum funding per project is limited to \$12,000 and cannot exceed the actual cost of the project.*

***Upcoming [compliance deadline](#): 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.*

Timeline

The details of the Wood Smoke Reduction Incentive Program are still being worked out, and more information about how to apply will be forthcoming later this summer. Please provide your contact information for our [mailing list](#) if you are interested in receiving program updates.

In the meantime, if you are interested in this program, we encourage you to review the options for electric heat pumps and natural gas or propane fueled heating devices, to determine which device option best fits your needs. You may also request quotes from contractors and vendors to learn about the costs associated with each project option. We also encourage you to visit your local permit office to learn about permitting requirements in your area.

Thank you for your interest in helping to Spare the Air!

REPLACE YOUR WOOD STOVE OR FIREPLACE AND HELP SPARE THE AIR!

SIGN UP TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION AT
www.baaqmd.gov/WoodSmokeGrant.

The Air District is launching a Wood Smoke Reduction Incentive Program in late August to help improve local air quality by reducing wintertime pollution from wood burning. The program will offer funding for residents to replace a wood-burning device with a qualifying cleaner device, or to decommission a fireplace.

To qualify, applicants must own a property that is a residential unit located within the 9-county Bay Area with an operational wood-burning device, such as a wood stove or fireplace, used for heating purposes.

Projects must be approved by the Air District and applicants must have received a Notice to Proceed before any work on the project can commence. **Applicants who have had any work performed that is related to their project before the Air District issues a Notice to Proceed are not eligible for funding.** Applicants may apply for funding to replace a woodstove or fireplace with an electric heat pump, natural gas or propane fueled device or decommission a fireplace.

Incentives range from \$750 up to \$12,000 maximum depending on the type of new device, income level, location and if the household is exempt due to a wood-burning device being the sole source of heating. Incentives will be available for heat pumps and natural gas or propane stoves or inserts.

Upcoming compliance deadline: Non-EPA-certified wood-burning devices that are a residence's sole source of heat will no longer be exempt from burning bans on Spare the Air days, starting November 1, 2016. Upgrade your device with the help of program funds!

THE PROGRAM WILL OPEN AT 10AM AUGUST 26, 2016.
Visit www.baaqmd.gov/WoodSmokeGrant for more information.