

VALLEY AIR NEWS

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District strategy wins national recognition

The Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies (AAPCA) recently recognized the Valley Air District's Residential Wood Smoke Reduction Strategy as a Best Practice in Air Pollution Control. The annual award program recognizes groundbreaking technology, innovative practices and exemplary operations in the field of air pollution control throughout the nation.

The strategy includes the District's Rule 4901, the regulation that limits residential wood burning in the Valley, and the Fireplace & Woodstove Change-out program, which provides incentives to help residents to replace wood-burning devices with electric or gas options.



More funds now available to replace wood-burning devices

The start of the Residential Wood Smoke Reduction program is just around the corner, and residents who have been looking to replace their wood-burning devices for electric heat pumps or gas inserts now have more incentives to make the switch.

In September, the Valley Air District Governing Board unanimously approved to increase the dollar amounts for the Fireplace & Woodstove Change-out program. Valley residents can now receive up to \$5,000 to upgrade from older, higher-polluting wood stoves and open-hearth fireplaces to electric heat pumps or natural gas inserts.

During the Residential Wood Smoke Reduction season, which runs from November 1 through the end of February every year, the District releases daily, county-by-county, wood-burning declarations based on the air quality forecast. The declarations can be found valleyair.org/burnstatus, using the Valley Air app on any smart device or calling 1-800-SMOG-INFO (1-800-766-4463).

Residential wood burning can be one of the Valley's largest sources of wintertime PM2.5 emissions and is shown to have a direct effect on neighborhood air quality. Valley residents are urged to heat their homes by means other than burning wood whenever possible, improving wintertime air quality and quality of life.

To take advantage of the incentives, residents can visit valleyair.org/change-out.

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