

News Release

For immediate release

DATE 01-19-10

For: local news, assignment editors



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



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Annual wood-stove change-out begins *Burn Cleaner offers incentives for cleaner units*

Burn Cleaner, the Air District's annual wood-burning device change-out program, offers valuable incentives for upgrading wood-burning devices and continues a generous incentive for low-income homeowners.

It's the fourth year for the program, which encourages Valley residents to change out older, dirtier wood-burning units for cleaner, more efficient models by offering monetary incentives.

"We're pleased to once again offer Valley residents a valuable incentive to make one change in their daily lives to help improve air quality," said Samir Sheikh, director of the District's Emission Reduction Incentive Program.

The 2010 program begins Jan. 19 and continues until all funding is exhausted.

Residential wood burning is a major source of wintertime air pollution in the Valley and wood-burning emissions cause serious health problems.

The program offers varying incentive amounts, depending on the type of device being changed out and purchased:

- * \$100 to upgrade a non-certified wood-burning device to a an EPA Phase II-certified wood-burning device;
 - * \$250 to upgrade a wood-burning device to a pellet stove;
 - * \$500 to upgrade a wood-burning (including pellet stove) device to gas-burning device;
- and
- * \$1,500 to low-income residents for the purchase of any of the above devices (low-
- more-

Annual wood-stove incentive expands

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income status as verified by tax returns, pay stubs, unemployment or disability checks, or bank statements submitted with applications).

Eligible households must be located in the eight-county air basin. People interested in participating can visit the District's website at valleyair.org or call the Emission Reduction Incentive Program at 559-230-5800 to learn more. Applications will be accepted beginning Jan. 19.

"Changing out a dirtier, older wood-burning unit is a very effective way to reduce dangerous emissions, and the Burn Cleaner program is a valuable way to support people in making that change toward healthier air," Sheikh said.

For more information about the Valley Air District, call a regional office: in Fresno, 559-230-6000; in Bakersfield, 661-392-5500; and in Modesto, 209-557-6400.

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