

VALLEY AIR NEWS



Change-out Program Provides an Incentive to Burn Cleaner

Beginning February 1, residents of the San Joaquin Valley will be able to receive as much as \$800 off cleaner-burning stoves for their homes through a program offered by Operation Clean Air and the Valley Air District.

The "Burn Cleaner" program aims to upgrade wood-burning fireplaces and replace old, dirty-burning wood stoves with EPA certified, pellet-fueled, and natural gas devices.



As part of the Air District's efforts to reduce particulate matter pollution in the Valley, and support residential

wood-burning regulations, Operation Clean Air and the Air District hope to retire hundreds of non-certified wood stoves and inserts.

"There are many old wood stoves in the Valley that are emitting a lot of particulate matter (PM). We want to assist Valley residents in retiring those stoves and improve Valley air quality," said Jaime Holt, Public Information Administrator for the Air District. "Replacing just 20 old, dirtier devices with new ones can reduce PM emissions by one ton per year."

There are several discounts within the

program boundaries that residents may take advantage of:

- A propane fire-place insert or stove may receive a discount of as much as \$800.
- A natural gas fireplace insert or stove may receive a discount of as much as \$500.
- An EPA certified wood-burning or pellet-fueled stove or insert may receive a discount of as much as \$400.
- A gas log set for the fireplace receives a \$25 discount.

Residents can install any qualifying insert in their open fireplace or replace an old wood stove with a new wood-burning, pellet-fueled, natural gas or propane stove. The point of the program is to replace an older, inefficient device with a new, cleaner burning device.

To receive the discount, residents must work with a participating retailer for the purchase and installation of their new device. Old stoves will be removed from the home by the retailer and will be delivered to a scrap metal recycler for destruction. No retired devices will go into landfills.

To participate, download an application at www.valleyair.org beginning Feb. 1. Applications will be accepted through March 15 or until funds are depleted, whichever comes first.

Air District Offers Class through CSUF

This past December, the Valley Air District wrapped up an innovative partnership with the Division of Continuing and Global Education at California State University, Fresno (CSUF). With support from the Valley Air District, CSUF offered individuals throughout the Valley the opportunity to enroll in a 14-week Certificate in Air Quality Management Course. Valley CAN also joined the endeavor by offering need-based scholarships.

This program was designed for employees of businesses and agencies that deal with air-quality issues on a regular basis, local elected and appointed officials and community members and environmental groups.



The class toured the Tracy air monitoring site where Air Monitoring Instrument Tech Gary Stanford explained the process.

Fifty-nine Valley residents completed the course taught by District staff and other air-quality experts. The course included topics such as air-quality plans and rule development, monitoring and equipment, permitting, compliance and many others. The class, held in all three District offices via teleconferencing, also had the opportunity to tour an air-monitoring site and a major source site.

Presentations from each of the classes are available on the District's website under "Programs." Feedback from the students has been positive, and the District and CSUF are looking into potentially offering the class in fall 2007.

The Year Ahead 2007 is going to be a busy year here at the Air District. Look for these programs and feel free to get involved.

- The Burn Cleaner Woodstove Change-out program begins in February.
- Monthly Community Groups now meet at a new time: the second Tuesday of the month.
- The Lawn Mower Trade-In Program, Clean Green Yard Machines, will be back again in mid-spring.
- Spare the Air season will be here before you know it!

Call the Public Information Office at (559) 230-5850 or check the website to find out about these great ways to get involved in improving our air quality.