

# News Release

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>>City and assignment editors<<



**San Joaquin Valley**  
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

Central region  
**Jaime Holt**  
(559) 230-5850  
Northern Region  
**Anthony Presto**  
(209) 557-6472  
Southern region  
**Brenda Turner**  
(661) 392-5581  
Spanish-language contact  
**Claudia Encinas**  
(559) 230-5851

## **Annual wood stove change-out program kicks off** ***Larger incentive amounts, new low-income incentives*** ***highlight program's third year***

The annual Burn Cleaner Wood Burning Device Change-out Program starts earlier this year and with more financial incentive than ever, especially for low-income homeowners.

The program, in its third year, offers a substantial monetary incentive to change out older, dirtier wood burning devices for cleaner, more efficient models.

"We anticipate that because of our larger incentive amount, and for the first time, funds specifically earmarked for low-income residents, more people will be able to take advantage of this valuable program," said Samir Sheikh, director of the District's Emissions Reduction Incentive Program, which now administers the Burn Cleaner program.

This year, the program offers \$750 – and \$1,500 to low-income residents – toward the purchase of a cleaner-burning gas, pellet or certified wood-burning stove or insert, depending on what is being changed out.

Residential wood burning is the source of up to one-third of the air basin's dangerous particulate emissions during winter. Particulate matter (PM) has been correlated with serious health problems including bronchitis, lung infections, coronary attacks and even lung cancer. The Burn Cleaner program enables people to invest in newer, cleaner units that dramatically reduce these emissions and greatly improve winter air quality.

"The past two years have demonstrated that Valley residents are very committed to reducing these emissions and very interested in financial assistance to upgrade their home wood-burning devices. We are eager to help even more residents in this effort, especially low-income people who may not be able to do so without these funds," said Sheikh.

People interested in participating in the program can visit the Air District's website at [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) for a list of retailers and more information on Burn Cleaner. They can also call the Emission Reduction Incentive Program at (559) 230-5800.

The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and San Joaquin Valley air basin portion of Kern.