

September 30, 2014

**Mono County & Town of Mammoth Lakes
Woodstove Replacement Program
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

General Information Questions:

Q. Where did the funding for this program come from?

A. Following an agreement in early 2014 between the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District and Los Angeles DWP, Air District Board-member agencies were provided with settlement funds allocated on a per capita basis to pay for local air pollution prevention programs. Officials from the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mono County chose to spend their funds on reducing wood smoke emissions by encouraging the replacement of wood-burning systems throughout their districts.

Q. I live in Inyo County. Is there a Woodstove Replacement Program for Inyo County residents?

A. No. Inyo County officials have not chosen to fund a Woodstove Replacement Program for Inyo County residents. If you're interested, contact your Inyo County Supervisors and request that they fund this program with their Air District-provided 'Environmental Public Benefit Funds.'

Q. I signed up for the program a year ago, but funding ran out before I got my new stove. Do I still qualify for this program?

A. Yes. The retailer you previously signed up with should have your name on their 'waiting list,' and they should have contacted you already. They are required to take care of their waiting list customers FIRST before they move on to everyone else. If they haven't yet called you, contact them immediately. However, unlike the previous program, this program does not pay the entire cost of the new stove and some cost share will be required, with the amount dependent upon the new heating system.

Q. Can property owners use independent contractors to replace their woodstoves or do the work themselves and receive the payment directly?

A. No. All interested property owners must purchase new heating systems from local, contracted retailer/installers, who must also complete all installation work. Payments will be provided to contracted retailers only. Property owners must work directly with retailers for program participation.

Q. Can I keep my old woodstove after it's replaced?

A. No. All replaced stoves must be given to the retailer despite the stove's age, and open fireplaces that are replaced with free-standing stoves must be rendered inoperable.

Q. Can I sign up for the program now but wait until later to have the installation completed?

A. No. New stoves are provided on a first-come, first-served basis and funding will only be provided to retailers when installation is complete and permit is finalized. Once the funding is used up, the program will end. No funds will be held over.

Q. Do new heating systems need to be permitted with local planning departments?

A. Yes. Finalized permits from local authorities are required for all installs before payment will be provided to the retailer. On-site inspections are required. If the property is located on tribal lands, an official, authorizing document from a tribal authority must be provided in lieu of a permit.

Q. Can I replace/upgrade my old pellet stove or gas system through this program?

A. No. Old pellet stoves and gas heating systems do not qualify for replacement under this program.

Q. I live in local Forest Service housing. Can I get a new heating system under this program?

A. Maybe. You must provide the retailer with an official, authorization letter from the Forest Service.

Q. I have more than one wood-burning heater in my home. Can I replace more than one?

A. No. Whichever wood-burning heater that you use as your primary heating source is the one that qualifies for replacement under this program.

Q. I'm building a new home. Can I use this program to get a new stove for my new home?

A. No. New homes do not qualify for funding. This program is intended to replace existing, old woodstoves and open fireplaces with cleaner burning equipment.

Q. How do I sign up for this program?

A. You should IMMEDIATELY call your choice of the following contracted vendors:

Alpine Stove & Mercantile (760/934-4416); **Angelo's Stove & Chimney** (760/937-0860), **Clean Sweep** (760/934-3453); **High Country Lumber** (760/924-2720); **Manor True Value Hardware for Mono County only** (760/873-3106), and **Batchelder Enterprises for kerosene heating systems** (760/873-3800).

Mono County and Mammoth Lakes:

Q. My property currently has an EPA-certified wood-burning system (newer than 1990). Do I qualify for funding to upgrade it?

A. Yes, partially. EPA-certified (Phase I or Phase II) wood-burning systems (free standing stoves, inserts or fireplaces) may qualify for \$2,000 toward replacement with a pellet or gas heating system only because certified pellet and gas heating systems emit significantly fewer emissions even than new EPA-certified wood-burning systems.

Questions specific to Mono County:

Q. I live in Mono County and rely on an old, non-compliant woodstove or open fireplace to heat my home. Do I qualify for funding to upgrade it?

A. Yes. \$1,500 may be available toward a new EPA Phase II wood-burning stove or fireplace, or \$2,000 toward a new pellet stove or gas system.

Questions specific to the Town of Mammoth Lakes:

Q. *I have owned my home since 1990 (or earlier) and still have an old, non-compliant woodstove/open fireplace. Do I qualify for funding?*

A. Yes, but you will have to provide a copy of an official property document (i.e. deed or other county-recorded document) noting your address and property purchase date. \$1,500 may be provided toward the cost of a new woodstove or \$2,000 toward the cost of a new pellet or gas heating system.

Q. *I purchased my Mammoth Lakes property after 1990 and have not yet replaced my old wood-burning system with an EPA-compliant system. Do I qualify for funding?*

A. No (but see following question if you recently purchased your property). Because you were required by Town Code §8.30 to upgrade at time of purchase, you do not qualify for funding under this program. Available funding cannot be used to pay penalties or bring people into compliance with existing laws.

Q. *I purchased my Mammoth Lakes property within the last 3 months and have been notified that I must upgrade my old wood-burning system within 90 days per Town code. Do I qualify for funding?*

A. Yes, for a limited amount and a limited time. \$500 may be provided for a new pellet or gas heating system only. Documented proof of purchase date and submittal of building permit is required.

Additional Questions:

Q. *I recently upgraded my old stove to an EPA-certified heater before this program was offered. Do I qualify for any rebate toward the cost of my new system?*

A. No. Program funding can only be paid for new installations started and completed during the program's contract period. Retroactive funding is not available.

For more information, contact:

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Woodstove Replacement Program

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