



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Woodstove replacement program getting results

SALEM — An Oregon woodstove replacement program paid for by federal stimulus funds has been getting more than its share of thank-you notes and comments from grateful rural homeowners as the heating season winds down.

- A couple in Oakridge who got a new pellet stove commented that they don't have to worry about hauling and cutting wood anymore.
- A homeowner in Klamath Falls installed a new woodstove that burns half the amount of wood their old woodstove used.
- A couple in Klamath Falls replaced their woodstove with a ductless heat pump and like the fact that heat now reaches their back rooms and they are warm on no-burn days.

The woodstove replacement program provides a rebate for woodstove homeowners – in targeted areas of the state with poor air quality – who purchase a more efficient, certified woodstove or a non-wood burning heating system. Some low-income homeowners can even qualify for a fully paid replacement unit. To date, the Oregon Department of Energy has helped almost 300 homeowners at a cost of \$532,628.

ODOE awarded \$2 million in stimulus money to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality for the program to assist homeowners in Klamath Falls non-attainment area, the Goose Lake basin in Lake County, Oakridge and the Burns/Hines area who currently use old, inefficient and uncertified woodstoves as a primary source of heat.

Woodstoves that are old and uncertified can waste up to 60 percent of the wood burned in them and are very polluting. This program is in areas that DEQ has targeted due to poor air quality and high use of uncertified woodstoves. DEQ expects to replace nearly 700 woodstoves with program funds.

The targeted areas vary on specific incentive amounts for the replacement program. In general, the partial rebate program offers:

- up to a \$1,000 rebate to any homeowner, regardless of income, who want to change out their uncertified woodstove for a premium-efficiency certified woodstove,
- up to a \$1,250 rebate for a pellet stove, and
- up to a \$2,000 rebate for qualifying ground or air-source heat pump, or a minimum 92 percent efficient gas, propane or oil heating device.

The cost of the appliance and installation are fully paid for those who qualify as low-income.

Applicants must verify that their old stove has been destroyed by having a signed certification from a recycling company.

The woodstove replacement program will continue until funds are depleted or February 1, 2012, whichever comes first.

DEQ Target Areas and Contact Agencies:

Klamath Falls non-attainment area.....South Central Oregon Economic Development District, (541) 884-5593

Goose Lake basin in Lake County.....South Central Oregon Economic Development District, (541) 884-5593

Oakridge.....Lane Regional Air Protection Agency, (541) 736-1056

Burns/Hines area.....Harney County Senior and Community Services, (541) 573-6024

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ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY: The Oregon Department of Energy provides tax credits, loans, technical assistance and energy information for homes, businesses, manufacturing, farms, ranches, schools and governments.

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