

Southwest Pennsylvania Woodstove Changeout

Much of the 10-county area surrounding Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is designated as nonattainment for EPA's national standards for fine particles (PM 2.5). One of the sources of fine particle pollution is residential wood smoke. Much of that smoke comes from more than 40,000 woodstoves across the area.

The Southwest Pennsylvania Air Quality Partnership is leading a campaign to reduce this pollution through voluntary woodstove changeouts – replacing old, dirty stoves with new, EPA-certified stoves or other appliances that are safer, more efficient and cleaner-burning. Changing out old wood stoves helps reduce exposure to fine particle pollution and air toxics contained in wood smoke, and deaths, injuries and property damage caused by chimney fires resulting from creosote buildup.

The goal of the changeout is to replace as many old woodstoves as possible. To start the campaign, the Partnership and the Hearth Patio & Barbecue Association have arranged special discounts on at participating retailers. The Partnership has established a fund to provide new stoves free of charge to low-income residents with old woodstoves. EPA and the Allegheny County Health Department have provided grants to support this public health campaign.

* American Housing Survey, U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000



Wood smoke
from **40,000**
woodstoves
contributes to
fine particle
pollution
in Southwest
Pennsylvania.

The Great American Woodstove Changeout Campaign



Stop Wasting. Start Saving.
Changeout Now!

The Problem: Old Woodstoves Pollute



The Solution: Woodstove Changeout!

Across the country, more than 10 million Americans use woodstoves as a primary or secondary source of home heating. Most of the stoves in use today – over 75 percent – are older stoves that emit a significant amount of pollution.

Wood smoke contains tiny particles known as fine particles, or particle pollution, which can harm both your lungs and your heart. Particle pollution also contributes to haze over large areas, obscuring vistas in some of the country's most treasured natural areas.

* About Particle Pollution

Wood smoke includes microscopic particles that can get deep into the lungs, potentially causing serious health problems. Exposure to these particles, also called fine particles, has been linked to a variety of health problems – ranging from burning eyes and runny noses, to illnesses such as bronchitis, to asthma attacks and heart attacks. Fine particle pollution also is linked to premature deaths in people with heart & lung disease.

For more information about particle pollution and your health, visit www.airnow.gov

EPA is working with stove manufacturers, state, local and tribal air quality agencies, and other organizations to encourage people to replace older, dirty woodstoves with EPA-certified woodstoves, pellet stoves, or fireplace inserts, or with electric or gas units. Stove changeouts benefit communities several ways:

- * **Health** – Replacing older “traditional” stoves with EPA-certified, cleaner-burning stoves can dramatically reduce wood smoke – by 70 percent, on average. That means less pollution in the air, both indoors and out.
- * **Savings** – Clean-burning stoves are more efficient than older stoves. They use less wood – and that can cut your cost of home heating.
- * **Safety** – Because they burn cleaner than traditional stoves, newer stoves reduce fire hazards associated with creosote buildup in chimneys.

Campaign Goals

EPA's goal for the changeout campaign is to develop a model program that any community can follow to change out a significant number of older stoves.

In the initial phase of the campaign, EPA will provide demonstration grants for stove changeouts in southwest Pennsylvania (the greater Pittsburgh area) and Lincoln County, Montana (Libby). Woodstove use is high in these areas. And both of these areas need to reduce pollution in order to meet EPA's national air quality standards for fine particle pollution.

In addition, EPA is providing technical support for local woodstove changeouts in other areas, such as the Dayton, Ohio region, and in Washoe County, Nevada.

* Want to know more?

For more information on clean-burning woodstoves and fireplaces, visit www.epa.gov/woodstoves

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