

2021 Woodstove Replacement Program Program Guidelines

A. Program Background

The Cowichan Valley Woodstove Replacement Program (the Program) is funded by the BC Lung Association (BC Lung) and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV). The program aims to improve air quality by encouraging cleaner heating appliances.

B. Program Objective

The Program strives to improve local air quality by reducing wood smoke and thereby fine particulate matter that is smaller than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5}). According to the BC Lung Association, communities within Cowichan Valley rank among the 20 worst in British Columbia for PM_{2.5} emissions.

Health Impacts

Because of its small size, PM_{2.5} can bypass our bodies' natural defenses and travel deep into our lungs. It can then cause structural damage and chemical changes that lead to a range of lung and heart diseases. Data from Island Health indicates that hospital admissions rates for children with respiratory diseases average 70% higher in the Cowichan Valley than in other places in the province. In addition, chronic respiratory illness for people over 45 are 50% more common than in BC as a whole.

C. How the Program Works

The Program offers financial incentives for replacing wood burning appliances with more fuel efficient and healthier heating appliances (for more details, see the replacement matrix on page 3 of this Guide).

The following incentives are available:

- **A \$2,000 incentive** is available for replacing a wood burning appliance (e.g. a certified or non-certified wood heating appliance) with a **heat pump** (\$1,850 is provided by the CVRD and a \$150 discount should be offered by participating retailers).
- **A \$350 incentive** is available for replacing pre-1994 woodstove for an EPA-certified wood stove. (\$300 is provided by the CVRD and a \$50 discount should be offered by participating retailers).

Rebate Conditions:

1. Only one (1) rebate is permitted per taxable residence per year.
2. Rebates are offered on a first-come, first-serve basis.
3. In order for the homeowner to qualify:
 - the homeowner must live within the Cowichan Valley (e.g. in an electoral area, member municipality); and,

- the wood appliance being replaced must presently be used as the primary heating source in a residential home.
4. The CVRD will issue a tracking number to participating retailers securing a rebate for their customers, subject to satisfaction of program requirements. Once the homeowner has satisfied all program requirements as verified by the participating retailer, a rebate from the CVRD will be issued directly to the customer.
5. The following deadlines are in place:
- The Program start date is January 15. To qualify for the rebate, the homeowner must purchase and install the new appliance after the program start date.
 - The Program end date is November 30. To qualify for the rebate, the homeowner must purchase and install the new appliance, dispose of old appliance for recycling and submit all completed required documentation before the program end date.
 - Homeowners with incomplete applications by November 30 will be considered ineligible for the current program year.
6. Retailers are authorized to sign off on each requirement listed in the Program brochure. As such, the retailer must provide confirmation of the following to the CVRD:
- the purchase and proper installation of the new heating appliance by providing an invoice showing:
 - the homeowner's name and address;
 - the make and model of the heating appliance being purchased (provide the AHRI number for heat pumps) and the model of the woodstove being removed;
 - the name, signature and certification of the retailer's installation WETT technicianⁱ certifying that the old woodstove has been removed and that the new heating unit has been installed and is functioning properly; and,
 - a picture of the new heating appliance installed at the homeowner's house. (If the new appliance is a heat pump, a picture of the outdoor unit should be provided).
 - the old woodstove has been permanently disabled and dropped off at a CVRD Recycling Centreⁱⁱ. Note that the Program brochure must be signed off by a CVRD recycling attendant and that before the woodstove is dropped off for recycling, the woodstove must be permanently disabled by completing the following steps:
 - remove the ash and brick liner;
 - remove the doors and bludgeon the door hinges; and,
 - bludgeon the flue collar.

The retailer may take in the homeowner's old woodstove, render it non-useable by carrying out the steps listed above and recycle it at a CVRD Recycling Centre. If the retailer provides this customer service, the retailer must ensure that the Program brochure has been signed off by a CVRD recycling attendant to enable the homeowner to qualify for the rebate. If the homeowner wants to deliver the old woodstove to a CVRD Recycling

Centre him/herself, the homeowner must provide the retailer with a copy of CVRD Program brochure signed off by a CVRD recycling attendant.

7. To participate in the Woodstove Replacement Program, **the retailer must:**

- advertise over and above what the CVRD does to promote the Program;
- work with the CVRD to distribute educational and promotional materials about the Program (the CVRD may share Program posters, social media messages, moisture meters and thermometers to be shared); and,
- sign the registration form acknowledging that the retailer and the retailer’s staff have read and understand the program guidelines and pledge to ensure that the old woodstoves are destroyed and paperwork completed in a timely fashion.

D. Old Wood Burning Appliances that Qualify for Rebate

- ✓ A free-standing non-EPA-certified “stove”.
- ✓ An EPA-certified stove that is older than five (5) years.
- ✓ A “homemade” or “barrel’ stove.
- ✓ An “airtight” non-EPA-certified fireplace insert or tube type heat exchanger with a face plate and door (like the ‘Free Heat Machine’ or Welenco) that is currently installed in an open-hearth fireplace.
- ✓ A non-EPA-certified “wood furnace” (ducted, forced air, home heating appliance) - may only be replaced by an EPA-certified wood furnace or pellet furnace or a non-polluting option such as a heat pump.
- ✓ A wood-burning cook stove.

Replacement Matrix

Old Wood Burning Appliance to be Replaced	New Heating Appliance Options
Wood Stove – Freestanding, uncertified ⁱⁱⁱ , homemade or barrel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA-^{iv} or CSA^v-certified wood stove or insert • EPA- or CSA-certified pellet stove or insert • Electric heat pump.^{vi}
Wood-burning Insert - installed in an open hearth, uncertified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA- or CSA-certified wood insert • EPA- or CSA-certified pellet insert • Electric Heat pump • Electric fireplace insert^{vii}.
Wood-burning Furnace - uncertified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA- or CSA-certified wood or pellet furnace, • Electric heat pump • EPA- or CSA-certified wood stove • EPA- or CSA-certified pellet stove
Wood Cookstove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA- or CSA-certified wood stove • EPA- or CSA-certified pellet stove • Electric heat pump • EPA certified cookstove^{viii}
Wood Stove – CSA- or EPA-certified but over 5 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heat pump only
Pellet Stove – CSA- or EPA-certified but over 5 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heat pump only
Open Hearth Fireplace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electric insert

E. Ineligible Replacement Appliances

Rebates will NOT be provided to install these appliances:

- ✘ A **new insert** to an existing open-hearth fireplace that does NOT currently have an insert installed in it. (A replacement of an existing wood appliance must take place).
- ✘ **Electric stoves or fireplaces**
- ✘ **Factory built** (“zero clearance”) **fireplace**
- ✘ **Outdoor appliances** (Replacement unit must be installed in an area with four (4) walls, ceiling and a door).
- ✘ **Tin heaters/tent stoves** - something NOT used in a residential application.

Learn more about this incentive program [here](#).

ⁱ All woodstove installation technicians must be Wood Energy Technician Training (WETT). Proof (i.e. documentation) of WETT certification must be included in the rebate application.

ⁱⁱ Bings Creek, Peerless Road or Meade Creek Recycling Centre

ⁱⁱⁱ **Uncertified** means an appliance without emissions certification from the CSA (B415) or the EPA (1990 or 2015 standards). Uncertified appliances may have safety certification from the CSA, ULC and/or other certification bodies.

^{iv} **EPA-certified** means an appliance that is certified to meet the emissions levels of the 1990 or 2015 EPA NSPS for Wood Heaters. A current list is found here: <https://www.epa.gov/compliance/list-epa-certified-wood-stoves>. More information on the NSPS is found here: <https://www.epa.gov/residential-wood-heaters/final-new-source-performance-standards-residential-wood-heaters>.

^v **CSA-certified** means an appliance that meets the emission limits of the CSA B415-1 standard. There is no central repository or database of appliances that meet this standard. B415.1 should not be confused with other CSA standard for safety and construction

^{vi} **Electric heat pump** means a heat pump that meets the criteria for BC’s Home Renovation Rebate and Efficiency BC Program <https://efficiencybc.ca/incentives/home-renovation-rebate-and-efficiencybc-program/>

^{vii} **Electric fireplace** insert refers to an electric fireplace that is not freestanding and is designed only to be installed and operated in an existing open hearth fireplace

^{viii} Most **cookstoves** are exempt appliances that do not meet EPA or CSA emission levels. These may not be installed as qualifying replacement appliances. However there are now some EPA-certified appliances on the market that are designed and marketed as cookstoves