



# MONTEREY BAY

Unified Air Pollution Control District  
serving Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties

Air Pollution Control Officer  
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## 2011 Wood Stove Change-Out Program

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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**Q: How much are the discounts for the change-out program?**

A: Available Discounts for 2011:

ELIGIBILITY	DISCOUNT
Property owners in Monterey, San Benito, & Santa Cruz Counties	\$500
Property owners along the San Lorenzo Valley/Highway 9 corridor	\$1,000
Additional for property owners in all areas when switching from wood burning to a natural gas, propane or pelletized system.	\$250
Additional in all areas for income qualified property owners. Subject to confirmation by Central Coast Energy Services	\$750
For installation in all areas.	\$500

Individual discounts range from \$1,000 up to \$2,500, depending on the specifics of the change-out.

**Q: Why are larger discounts available for property owners of the San Lorenzo Valley?**

A: Natural gas is not available in the San Lorenzo Valley of the Santa Cruz Mountains, and wood heating is very common. In recent years, the population density has steadily increased. Wintertime inversions often trap wood smoke in neighborhoods. This has led to localized smoky conditions, increased particulate matter pollution, and nuisance complaints.

**Q: What communities are in the San Lorenzo Valley/Highway 9 Corridor?**

A: Felton, Ben Lomond, Brookdale, and Boulder Creek. The Zip Codes are 95005, 95006, 95007 and 95018.

**Q: How can I participate in the program?**

A: First locate a participating hearth products dealer and decide on the particular stove you wish to obtain. After deciding on the stove and dealer you need to obtain a Reservation Number from the Air District. The Reservation Number needs to be written at the top of the Application for 2011 Wood Stove Change Out form, which can be filled out with the assistance of your dealer and then sent to the Air District.

**Q: How can I obtain a Reservation Number?**

A: A Reservation Number can be obtained by calling the Air District starting at 10 am on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to be pre-qualified for the program. A Reservation number will not be given out prior to this time. The discounts will end when the funds are exhausted. The District will post a notice on the website when the program ends. The Air District cannot guarantee anyone a discount.

The call-in numbers are:

**(831)647-9411 x 226** - San Lorenzo Valley residents, Zip Codes **95005, 95006, 95007, 95018**  
**(831)647-9411 x 204 or 245** – For all other areas.

During the call, you will be asked questions about your planned change-out so you can be pre-qualified for the program. If you pre-qualify, you will be issued a Reservation Number which is used on your application. Qualification will be confirmed during a pre-installation site visit scheduled with your Dealer. The Reservation Number can only be used once so make sure you are decided on your stove and dealer before filling out the application. Only customers, and not the Dealers, can call for a Reservation Number.

**Q: Are the discounts available to renters?**

A: Not directly. The District suggests that renters request their landlord to apply. Once installed on the premise, the new system remains with the property.

**Q: Can I get the discount for installing a wood, pellet or gas-burning device in an open hearth fireplace?**

A: Yes. The discounts now apply to fireplace upgrades, provided the replacement insert is EPA-certified or a gas heating insert.

**Q: Will switching to an EPA-certified stove really save me money?**

A: Yes. With an EPA-certified wood stove, you can expect to use up to one-third less firewood than you would use using an older, less efficient stove. The smoke that you see coming out of the chimney is really lost energy. In an EPA-certified stove, most of the smoke is burned, resulting in more heat for your home from the same amount of wood and less smoke. It will also save you time because you will need to haul less wood.

**Q: What types of old wood heating devices qualify for the program?**

A: Wood stoves/inserts that are not currently EPA certified (“non-certified”).

**Q: How can I find out if my wood stove is EPA certified or non-certified?**

A: EPA maintains a list of all certified wood burning devices at:

<http://www.epa.gov/Compliance/resources/publications/monitoring/caa/woodstoves/certifiedwood.pdf>

If your stove is on the list, then it is EPA certified. The Dealer will confirm whether or not existing device is certified during a pre-installation visit.

**Q: What types of new heating devices can I install to replace the old wood stove?**

A: New, gas/pellet/EPA certified wood stoves and inserts, gas furnaces, and electric heating systems installed by a licensed contractor or National Fireplace Institute Certified Installer.

**Q: Why does the new gas, pellet, or wood stove have to be installed by a licensed contractor or National Fireplace Institute Certified Installer?**

A: Primarily for fire safety and quality control. Also, see EPA's "Installation Affects Efficiency". For more details, visit <http://www.epa.gov/woodstoves/efficiently.html>

**Q: Can I keep the old wood stove?**

A: No. The old stove emits significant pollution and must be scrapped. The installer will remove the old unit and provide the District with a Certificate of Destruction from the recycling center.

**Q: Aside from the cost of replacing the stove, are there other costs I should consider?**

A: Yes. EPA certified systems are much more efficient and burn hotter than older wood stoves. Homeowners should be aware that there could be additional costs for the installation, such as upgrading the flue or stove pipe to current codes.

**Q: I already replaced my wood stove prior to the October 13<sup>th</sup> start-up date. Am I eligible for the discount program?**

A: No. Devices purchased and installed prior to the start-up date are not eligible for the discount.

**Q: How do I qualify for the income qualified discount?**

A: Income eligibility is determined by Central Coast Energy Services, Inc. (CCES) who uses income criteria from PG&E's California Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). If you are not already participating in PG&E's LIHEAP you will need to contact CCES at 1-888-728-3637 to request an application.

**Q: Should I buy and install the new heating device right away?**

A: No. In order to be eligible for a discount, you must first obtain a Reservation Number from the District and also comply with the program requirements. The new heating device **may not be installed** until after the applicant receives notification from the Air District indicating the device meets the discount program guidelines.

**Q: Do the discounts apply to fireplace gas heating inserts?**

A: Yes, in most cases. However, discounts don't apply to change-outs when there is already a fireplace gas heating insert present nor if there is a currently an EPA certified wood stove fireplace insert present.

**Q: Do the discounts apply to decorative fireplace gas log sets?**

A: No. Decorative gas log sets are not effective for home heating purposes and are not included.

**Q: What if my expenses are less than my total eligible discount?**

A: The discount amount will be the cost of the stove and installation.  
(Example: Total eligible discount \$1,750. Stove costs and installation \$1,550. Applicant will receive funding for \$1,550.)

**Q: I have a currently EPA Certified wood stove and would like to change to another certified device. Is this eligible in the current program?**

A: No. Changing from a currently certified to another certified device does meet the program objective of maximizing emission reductions. Please do not submit an application for this type of change-out.

**Q: Can Non-Hearth Patio and Barbeque Association (HPBA) dealers participate in the program?**

A: Yes. Although the District is coordinating the program through HPB A dealers, other dealers may participate as well. They must simply comply with the same requirements as the HPBA dealers, which includes providing the discounts, following the program guidelines and signing a Dealer/District Agreement.

**Q: Are there any other incentives for changing to a cleaner heating device?**

A: Yes! The Internal Revenue Service is offering a consumer tax credit (up to about \$300) for purchasing and installing energy efficient "biomass stoves". For more details, please visit [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=tax\\_credits.tx\\_index](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=tax_credits.tx_index).

**Q: Who do I call if I have more questions or want more information?**

A: Please visit [www.mbuapcd.org](http://www.mbuapcd.org) or call (831) 647-9411 and ask to be connected to the Wood Stove Change-Out contact.