

Wood Stove and Fireplace Change-Out Voucher Incentive Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



What is the AQMD Wood Stove/Fireplace Voucher Incentive Change-Out Program?

As part of the Healthy Hearths initiative the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Governing Board approved funding to help reduce the cost to purchase and install cleaner hearth products (stoves, inserts, gas logs and retrofit kits) through a voucher program. Under the program, eligible residents will be provided a voucher that can be taken to a participating retailer that will discount the price to purchase and install a qualifying device.

Can I participate in the Wood Stove/Fireplace Change-Out Program?

At the present time, only households/businesses with existing wood-burning devices in the following zip codes can participate in the program:

Area Description	Eligible Zip Codes
Boyle Heights area	90022, 90023, 90033, and 90063
Chino/Ontario/Corona area	91708, 91709, 91710, 91761, 91762, 91764
City of San Bernardino area	92313, 92316, 92324, 92335, 92336, 92337, 92346, 92354, 92376, 92377, 92401 through 92415, 92418, 92423, 92424, 92427
City of Riverside area	91752, 92501, 92503, 92504, 92505, 92506, 92507, 92508, 92509, 92518, 92521
Norco/Corona area	92860, 92879, 92880, 92881, 92882

If I live in an eligible zip code what are the qualifying devices that can be installed?

Current Condition - Wood-Burning Device with:	Your replacement options
Gas Service Available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas Logs, • Gas or Electric Fireplace/Stove/Insert, or • Alcohol Fueled Fireplace Insert.
No Gas Service Available OR Wood Used as a Primary Source of Heat <i>(with or without gas service)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas Logs, • Gas or Electric Fireplace/Stove/Insert, • Certified Wood Stove/Insert (replacing non-certified stove¹ or open fireplace) • Alcohol Fueled Fireplace Insert, or • EPA Qualified Fireplace Retrofit Kit.

¹ An additional \$250 is provided for removal and destruction of wood or pellet stoves/insert

What are the incentive* amounts?

Current Condition - Wood Burning Device with:	Your replacement options	General Incentive	Low Income Incentive ²
Gas Service Available	Gas Logs	\$200	\$400
	Gas or Electric Fireplace/Stove/Insert	\$800	\$1,600
	Alcohol Fueled Device	\$300	\$600
No Gas Service Available OR Wood Used as a Primary Source of Heat (with or without gas service)	Gas Logs,	\$200	\$400
	Gas or Electric Fireplace/Stove/Insert	\$800	\$1,600
	Certified Wood Stove/Insert (replacing uncertified stove ³ or open fireplace)	\$600	\$1,200
	Alcohol Fueled Device	\$300	\$600
	EPA Qualified Fireplace Retrofit Kit.	\$100	\$200

*The voucher incentive amount is taken off the total price (including sales tax) to purchase and install a device.

NOTE: Additional discounts may be available from the manufacturer or retailer. Check with participating retailers.

What are the steps involved in the voucher program

1. Obtain an application from the SCAQMD by one of the following methods:
 - o Download the [Voucher Application](#) (PDF)
 - o Call (855) 396-3833 and one will be sent to you
 - o Send email request to fireplacevoucher@aqmd.gov
 - o Visit SCAQMD at 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765

² Check the voucher application for a description of how to qualify for the low income incentive

³ An additional \$250 is provided for removal and destruction of non-certified wood or pellet stoves/inserts

2. Completely fill out and return the voucher application to SCAQMD by one of the following methods:
 - o Send fax to (909) 396-3811
 - o Send email with completed forms and supporting documents as an attachment to fireplacevoucher@aqmd.gov
 - o Mail or deliver to:

Wood Stove/Fireplace Incentive Program
SCAQMD
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

The AQMD must verify the residence address before a voucher is issued. As described on the voucher application, submit a copy of a utility bill (gas, electric, water, telephone bill) as acceptable proof of residency with your voucher application.

3. The SCAQMD will verify your eligibility and issue a voucher if you qualify. The voucher will expire four weeks from the date of issuance. Please visit one of the [participating retailers](#) at least one week prior to the expiration date on your voucher.
4. Take the voucher to a [participating retailer](#), select a device and purchase it. The participating retailer will reduce the purchase and installation price by the amount of the voucher and will notify the SCAQMD. Make sure that purchase takes place before the voucher expires.
5. After device installation, the retailer notifies the SCAQMD and submits appropriate documentation so that the SCAQMD can reimburse the retailer for the voucher amount.

How can I qualify for the low income incentive?

There are many ways to qualify for the low income incentive amounts. Please review the [voucher application](#) for details.

How many vouchers are available?

Up to \$800,000 in funding has been made available but SCAQMD's voucher incentive program is available on a first-come, first-served basis to properties in the specified zip codes.

Can I buy my own device, install it myself and apply for a rebate?

No. This program is only offered through participating retailers and verified installation is required to ensure that the product is installed safely and into an eligible household.

Can I upgrade more than one device at my household or business?

Yes, but please submit a separate voucher application for each device that is proposed to be upgraded.

Can I use a voucher for an outdoor device?

Yes, but under this program only a permanently installed outdoor wood-burning device can be upgraded to a gaseous- or alcohol-fueled device.

How is sales tax calculated?

This program does not alter the overall price of the device; therefore sales tax should be based on the total purchase price before the voucher discount is applied (see examples below).

Scenario	Purchase and Installation Price (Including Taxes)	Voucher Amount	Customer Pays	Retailer Reimbursement
1	\$500	\$800	\$0	\$500
2	\$800	\$600	\$200	\$600

If the price to purchase and install a device is less than the voucher amount can I receive the difference as a cash payment from the participating retailer?

No. The voucher amount cannot exceed the total price to purchase and install a device, including applicable sales tax.

I have already installed a gas log set. Am I eligible for a rebate?

Unfortunately, the program is only for future purchases and installations made through participating retailers at the time of sale. There are no rebates available for previous installations.

If I participate in the program do I still have to comply with the mandatory Check Before You Burn program that occurs November 1st through the End of February each winter?

Yes. It is important to remember that all indoor and outdoor solid fuel burning is prohibited when a no-burn day has been called for a specific area. Additional information on the Check Before You Burn program can be found [here](#).

If you would like additional information on SCAQMD efforts to reduce public exposure to wood smoke, including SCAQMD Rule 445 (Wood Burning Devices), please review the following web site links:

[Healthy Hearths Web Site](#)

[Detailed information for Builders and Local Government staff](#) (PDF, 153kb)

[Copy of SCAQMD Rule 445](#) (PDF, 23kb)

The SCAQMD thanks you for your assistance to help clean the air.