



REGIONAL AIR POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

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NEWS RELEASE

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EPA's Woodstove Changeout Coming to Greater Dayton

Grants will help people upgrade older, polluting woodstoves

DAYTON, Ohio – As part of Air Quality Awareness Week, the Regional Air Pollution Control Agency today announced it will join forces with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association in encouraging people to replace older woodstoves and fireplace inserts with cleaner burning versions before next winter. The Greater Dayton Woodstove Changeout program, part of EPA's Great American Woodstove Changeout campaign, will initially be funded through a \$75,000 grant from Cargill, the international provider of food, agricultural and risk management products and services that operates a corn mill in Dayton.

Specifics of the program are still being developed, but the program will provide consumers with "Clean Air Coupons" to defray the cost of replacing older, inefficient stoves with newer, cleaner-burning, EPA-certified models. Hearth product

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manufacturers and participating retailers from the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association will kick in an additional rebate. The program will be open to residents of Clark, Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery and Preble Counties. Details for how to participate will be announced in mid-July.

“Today’s cleaner-burning woodstoves are about 70 percent cleaner than the old, dirty woodstoves still in use in many American homes,” said Steve Page, director of EPA’s Office of Air Quality Planning & Standards. “Replacing these older stoves with EPA-certified stoves helps reduce particle pollution. That’s good for the health of our communities, and it can help areas like Dayton in their efforts to meet EPA’s air quality standards for particle pollution.”

Smoke from woodstoves contains fine particle pollution, which can aggravate lung diseases such as asthma and bronchitis; and heart diseases, such as congestive heart failure and coronary artery disease. Woodstove smoke also may contain air toxics, such as benzo (a) pyrene, formaldehyde and dioxins.

Though Cargill is the first corporate donor to the local effort, other contributors to the fund are anticipated in order to make the Clean Air Coupons available as widely as possible. RAPCA and Cargill will be meeting with local industrial leaders over the next month to seek their participation in the campaign.

“There are as many as 20,000 inefficient woodstoves in Greater Dayton,” said John Paul, RAPCA supervisor. “If we replace just *one percent* of them, we remove 10 tons of particulate matter from the air. But we want to do much better than that. With the help of additional corporate contributors, we can make a real difference in the air quality of Greater Dayton.”

For more information on clean-burning woodstoves visit RAPCA’s website at <http://www.rapca.org/specialevents/woodstove.htm> or USEPA’s website at: <http://www.epa.gov/woodstoves>.

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