

NEWS RELEASE

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Woodstove Rebate Program Returns January 15

Nanaimo residents looking to upgrade their woodstove to a newer model that meets today's standards will have the opportunity to receive some financial relief from the City of Nanaimo starting Monday, January 15. Rebates of \$250 will be offered to residents who replace their old woodstoves with approved units at participating retailers.

"We're happy to bring this popular rebate program back for another year," says the City's Environmental Planner, Rob Lawrance, "Changing out your old woodstove for a new one will not only save you money by reducing the amount of firewood you will use, but can also improve Nanaimo's air quality in winter by cutting wood smoke emissions by up to 90 per cent."

To be eligible, homeowners must have an existing wood burning appliance or a non-EPA insert installed in an open-hearth fireplace that does not comply with current smoke emission standards - typically an appliance built and installed before 1994.

"Be smart about how you operate your woodstove," Rob Lawrance adds, "Some tips include burning seasoned wood that has been split and dried for at least six months, not allowing fires to smolder and never burning accelerants, chemically treated wood, plastics, rubber and other noxious materials."

There are limited quantities of rebates and participating retailers may offer additional discounts and rebates. For more information on the rebate program, a list of participating retailers and to see if you qualify, visit www.nanaimo.ca.

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