

# **Chimney Smoke Reduction Incentive Program (Chimney Smoke RIP) 2017**

## **SUMMARY**

The El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) implements a Chimney Smoke Reduction Incentive Program (Chimney Smoke RIP) to encourage homeowners to permanently remove or replace older wood stoves or fireplaces with cleaner burning EPA Phase II certified devices. Removing older wood stoves and fireplaces significantly improves winter air quality through reduction of particulate matter (PM) emissions caused by inefficient residential wood combustion. Devices that emit the most wood smoke include:

- Older (pre1988) non-certified wood stoves
- Open-hearth fireplaces
- Older non-certified zero-clearance fireplaces

### **1. BEST Air Quality Improvement**

Removal of older higher emissions wood burning devices without replacement results in the **best** air quality improvement (PM reduction > 50 grams/hour). This is applicable to homes that currently have or are installing an electric, natural gas or propane furnace and will use the furnace for home heating. El Dorado County Government Offices will assist the homeowner by documenting the wood burning device removal with a building permit (or AQMD inspection) and listing removal in the Assessor's property description.

### **2. GOOD Air Quality Improvement**

Removal of an older higher emissions wood burning device and replacement with a with a new EPA certified wood-burning device, pellet, natural gas or propane burning appliance results in **good** air quality improvement (PM reduction  $\approx$  46-49 grams/hour).

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

This program is intended to encourage voluntary replacements by providing a monetary incentive. Incentive funding is available on a first come, first served basis. The program will continue until the allocated funds are depleted or replenished. Remaining amount of funds available may be obtained by contacting the AQMD, however, there is no guarantee of availability. When funds are depleted a notice will be posted on the AQMD web site.

The incentive is available only for remodel/retrofit of single or two family residences. New home construction (homes less than one year old) is not eligible. To qualify, the wood burning device being removed must have been in operation in the home within the past year. Only one incentive payment is available per person or per address.

Wood burning devices being removed must be permanently rendered inoperative. Fireplaces must be the only source of heat in the home to be eligible; a home with central heating, a wall heater, baseboard electric heating, etc. is not eligible. Fireplaces must be removed or disabled to the extent they are permanently incapable of reinstatement (installation of an EPA certified insert into a masonry fireplace will be assessed

on a case-by-case basis). Wood burning stoves must be recycled or permanently damaged such that they are inoperative and cannot be repaired. Photographic and detailed disposal facility documentation is required. Door removal and glass breakage do not sufficiently demonstrate permanent inoperability. The Air District staff will conduct on site compliance inspections and may provide supplemental documentation upon request. Incentive payment processing will commence upon the receipt, verification and approval of all required documentation including evidence of destruction from a licensed disposal facility.

The incentive funding shall be as follows:

Air Quality Improvement	Funding	Funding if in Tahoe
<b>BEST:</b> Removal of old wood burning device and use of existing or installation of a new electric, natural gas or propane furnace or appliance.	<b>\$600</b>	<b>\$900</b>
<b>GOOD:</b> Removal of old wood burning device and replacement with new EPA Phase II certified wood-burning stove, fireplace insert or pellet stove.	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$800</b>

#### **ADDITIONAL INCENTIVE FOR SOUTH LAKE TAHOE AREA RESIDENTS**

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) agreed to provide \$75,600 for an additional **\$300** for eligible removals in the South Lake Tahoe area (i.e., within TRPA’s jurisdiction). This additional incentive will expire on June 30, 2018, or when the TRPA funds are depleted.

In addition to the funding above, AQMD will reimburse the Applicant for the cost of the associated basic Building Permit (if one is required). AQMD will not pay for additional permits associated with the project beyond this basic permit, such as an additional electrical permit, permit to extend a gas line, etc. In June 2017, the approximate cost for this basic permit from all four jurisdictions (El Dorado County, City of Placerville, City of South Lake Tahoe, California Department of Housing and Urban Development) ranges from \$96 to \$240 and will incrementally adjust over time. Based on these incremental adjustments, AQMD will reimburse the Applicant for the Applicant’s full actual cost of the associated basic Building Permit.

Figure 1 provides an illustration of the incentive levels. All requests for funding are subject to approval by the Air Pollution Control Officer. Misrepresentation, circumvention or insufficient documentation is cause for immediate rejection of an application.

#### **PROCEDURE**

To be eligible, residents must discuss this program with AQMD staff and obtain application materials prior to replacing or removing an old wood stove or fireplace. If you are simply removing an old woodstove and using an existing furnace, a building permit may not be required. In all other cases a building permit is likely to be required.

1. Applicant submits RIP application to and schedules a site inspection with AQMD. **Applicant must obtain pre-approval authorization from AQMD.** Pre-approval is required so AQMD can ensure the project is RIP eligible and can set aside funds for future reimbursement.
2. Applicant applies for a new building permit with the appropriate local or state agency.

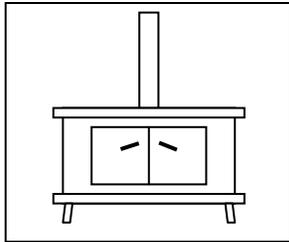
- a. Specify removal of old wood burning device
    - i. Application must specify type of wood burning device being removed/disabled
    - ii. Application must specify how the device will be rendered inoperable
  - b. If applicable, specify in building permit installation of new device
    - i. Installation of new furnace, or
    - ii. Installation of pellet, electric, gas appliance, or installation of new EPA certified wood stove.
  - c. Building Department issues new building permit
3. Applicant removes and renders inoperative the old wood burning device or recycles the unit and obtains an item-specific receipt from the recycler verifying unit is recycled and not being resold.
  4. Applicant installs new heating device (if not applicable proceed to 7)
  5. Applicant calls for Final Inspection from Building Department.
  6. If OK Building Department issues final inspection
  7. Applicant submits original RIP pre-approval application and following supporting materials to AQMD.
    - a. Before and after pictures (AQMD will take before photos during pre-approval inspection)
    - b. Item-specific receipt from metal recycler or licensed disposal facility.
    - c. Item-specific receipt for the new device
    - d. Building Permit with Final signoff and Building Permit receipt.
  8. AQMD requests check for applicant, check comes to applicant in the mail.
  9. If applicable, AQMD notifies Appraiser of wood stove removals for update of “Property Characteristics” table of their web site.
  10. Once preapproval is granted, AQMD funds are allocated for the project. For projects not completed within six months of receiving pre-approval, the allocation will be released to be used by other applicants. Applicants wishing to implement a project more than 6 months after the pre-approval date must reapply for funding, subject to availability.

## **OUTREACH AND PROGRAM EXPANSION**

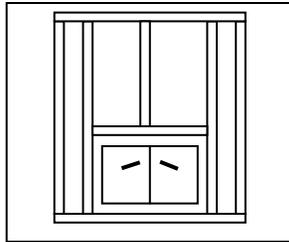
1. The AQMD will continue to promote the program in the local media and at [EDCCleanAir.org](http://EDCCleanAir.org). The program flyer will continue to be distributed.
2. There are over 10,000 old non EPA certified wood stoves and fireplaces in use in El Dorado County. The AQMD will continue to seek funding sources and grants to continue with additional phases of the Chimney Smoke RIP program.
3. In line with the General Plan Policy 6.7.4.6, the AQMD will consider promulgating a new rule requiring that only (Phase II) EPA-certified wood combustion devices shall be installed in new residential construction.

Figure 1

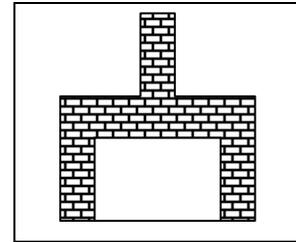
Remove and destroy one of these:



Uncertified  
Wood Stove



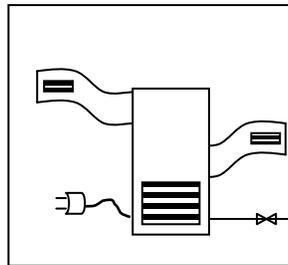
Zero Clearance Fireplace



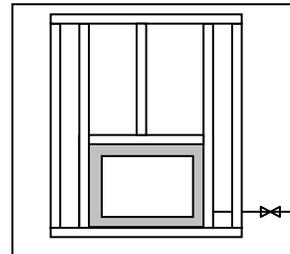
Fireplace  
(if only primary source  
of heat)

And the El Dorado County AQMD will pay you to use one of these:

\$600  
(\$900 in  
Tahoe)

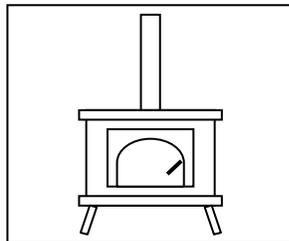


Electric, Propane or  
Natural Gas Furnace

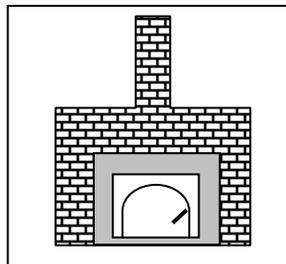


Propane or Natural  
Gas Appliance

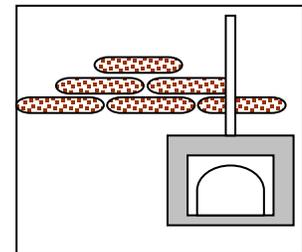
\$500  
(\$800 in  
Tahoe)



EPA Certified  
Wood Stove



Fireplace w/EPA  
Certification

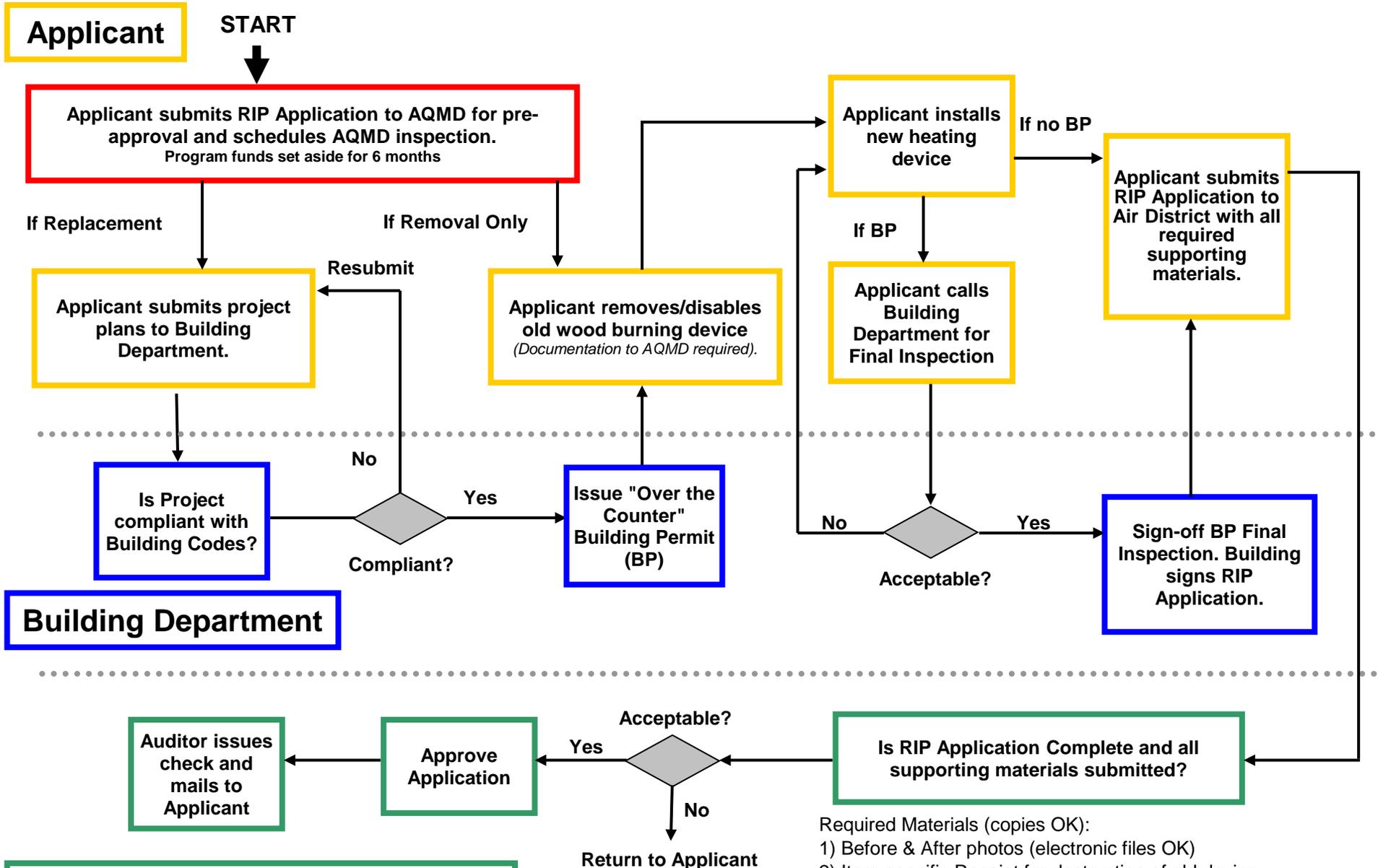


Pellet Stove or  
Insert

AQMD will also reimburse Applicant for the cost of a basic Building Permit (if required).

Program rules and restrictions can be found in the El Dorado County Chimney Smoke Reduction Incentive Program (Chimney Smoke RIP) available at the El Dorado County AQMD offices and on the web at [EDCCleanAir.org](http://EDCCleanAir.org)

# EDCAQMD Chimney Smoke Reduction Incentive Program (Chimney Smoke RIP) Procedure



- Required Materials (copies OK):
- 1) Before & After photos (electronic files OK)
  - 2) Item-specific Receipt for destruction of old device  
*(Contractor notes are **not** acceptable!)*
  - 3) Receipt for new device (if applicable)
  - 4) Finalized Building Permit & Receipt (if applicable)

## Air Quality Management District

330 Fair Lane, Placerville, CA 95667  
 Phone: (530) 621-7501 Fax: (530) 295-2774  
 (6/16/2017)

Detailed program information available at AQMD office or: [EDCCleanAir.org](http://EDCCleanAir.org)