



Vermont's Outdoor Wood-fired Boiler Change-out Program

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Residential Wood Smoke Workshop
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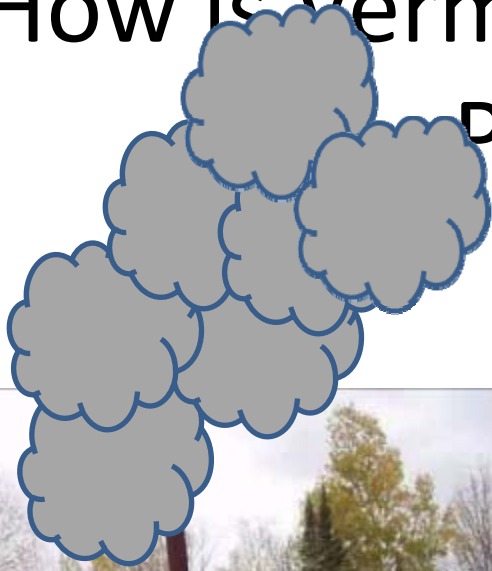


Background

- Outdoor wood-fired boilers (OWBs) installations in VT
- High smoke and PM emissions due to incomplete and inefficient combustion
- Numerous complaints



How is Vermont Addressing the Problem?



Regulations

- Setback requirements (1997)
- Mandatory reporting of new purchases and installations in VT to APCD Division (2008)
- Phase 1 emissions standards (2008)
- Phase II emissions standards (2009)

- AND..



How is Vermont Addressing the Problem, Part 2?



State-wide OWB Change-out Program

- Legislation
- Retire old units by December 2012
 - Valid complaints
 - Within 200 feet residence, school or health care facility



Legislation and Source of Funding



- AEP Money (\$500,000) directed to assist in change-outs for existing non-VT certified OWBs
- Mandatory retirement of OWBs not Vermont-certified by December 2012
 - Within 200' of residence, school or healthcare facility or
 - Resulted in valid complaints regarding emissions



VT OWB Change-out Program

Goal: Assist in the replacement of old, uncertified OWBs in VT with cleaner burning units, with a priority on units with valid complaints



Eligibility

- Rebate Match Program for all units not certified in VT
- Priority Units, with valid emissions complaints
- Other Units subject to retirement
- Rebate Match Round 2 (if funding is available)



OWB Change-out Program Details

- Eligible Replacement Units may include:
 - New VT-certified Phase II OWBs
 - Propane or natural gas furnaces or boilers
 - Indoor wood or pellet boilers
 - Sustainable heating systems (e.g., geothermal)

The specifics

- Rebate Match
 - December 2010-February 2011
 - \$1000
 - Phase II OWB only
- Full Program
 1. January 2011 – May 31, 2011
 - Priority units, with valid complaints
 - \$6000
 2. June 1, 2011- September 30, 2011
 - Other eligible OWBs located with 200 feet of a residence, school or health care facility not serviced by the OWB or have resulted in valid complaints
 - \$5000
- Rebate Match Part 2 (funding permitting)



OWB Change-out Program Details

(Similar to USEPA Woodstove Change-Out Program)

Application Process

- Application Timelines
- Application Requirements
- Voucher Expiration
- Installation Deadline

Participating Dealers

Verify existing and qualifying OWB

Retire and document the destruction of the old OWB

Deduct rebate from purchase price of new unit

Invoice state with documentation for reimbursement



Administrative Issues



- Development of Program
 - Devising program from legislation
- Working with Business office to develop contractual agreements with dealers (very time consuming)
- Working with potential participating dealers on the contract details
- Identifying eligible and interested participating retailers
- Identification of additional assistance for low-income households



Constraints



- Time! Slow process
- Inventory of OWBs that per Act 84 must be retired by December 2010.
- Identification of eligible units
- Slow adoption and participation by potential participating retailers
- New OWBs and other heating units are expensive



Moving Forward



- Participating Retailers
 - 2 in “Full” Program
 - 3 in Rebate only
- Launched rebate program December 26, 2010
 - 1 application
- Priority Unit program launched 2/25/11
 - 2 applications
- Press Release II
- Follow-up with priority units
- Continue to encourage and seek additional participating dealers
- Working to locate additional funding for low income applicants



Next Steps



Conclusions

- Long start-up time
- Difficulty attracting interested participating dealers
- Difficult to procure additional funding for low-income applicants
- Number of OWBs to be retired December 12, 2012 unclear
- So far, very interested and engaged applicant and potential applicant pool

