

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 13, 2025 CONTACT: <u>communications@baaqmd.gov</u>

Air District's Clean HEET Program now accepting applications

Incentives available to replace wood-burning devices with electric heat pumps

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air District's Clean HEET Program is now accepting applications for grants that can help to offset the cost of switching from wood-burning or pelletburning stoves, fireplace inserts or open-hearth fireplaces to an electric heat pump. A decommission-only option is also available for homeowners to remove existing open-hearth fireplaces or older, uncertified wood-burning stoves or inserts. Switching to an electric heat pump helps improve air quality in communities by replacing polluting wood-burning devices with cleaner heating options.

"Transitioning to electric heat pumps not only reduces harmful pollutants but also supports a healthier, more sustainable future for our communities," said Dr. Philip Fine, executive officer of the Air District. "By replacing outdated wood-burning devices, we can make significant strides in improving air quality and protecting the health of Bay Area residents."

Heat pumps offer a clean and energy-efficient alternative to wood devices. Similar to a refrigerator, heat pumps use electricity to transfer heat from outside air to heat a home. Most heat pumps can also cool a house by operating in reverse, removing heat from indoors.

Up to \$1.9 million in funding is available for the Clean HEET Program on a first come, first served basis. Individual awards range from \$1,000 to \$13,500 to replace or remove existing woodburning heating devices. All Bay Area homeowners are eligible to apply, with priority given to homeowners in the AB 617 communities and homes that are in disadvantaged and low-income communities identified by California's Climate Investments Priority Populations Mapping tool. The program does not provide reimbursement for work already performed.

The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. PDT on April 30, 2025.

The Clean HEET Program is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency's Targeted Airshed Grant Program, or TAG, which provides grants to improve air quality across the nation with emphasis on reducing PM_{2.5}, or fine particulate matter, ambient air concentrations, with match funding by the Air District.

For more information please visit: <u>www.baaqmd.gov/WoodSmokeGrant</u> or contact the Air District at <u>woodsmokegrants@baaqmd.gov</u> or (415) 749-5195 for more details.

The <u>Bay Area Air District</u> is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the ninecounty Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via <u>X</u>, <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u> and <u>YouTube</u>.

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