

Woodstove Exchange Program – our Clean Air Plan solution.

The BVLD Clean Air Plan identifies offering economic incentives and public education programs as key strategies for reducing emissions from space heating appliances.

In 2004, we introduced the Skeena-BVLD Woodstove Exchange Program and proved that this strategy can work. A total of 35 old stoves were traded in, thanks to partnerships with local retailers, credit unions, BC Lung, Ministry of Environment, and wood burning appliance distributors.

Building on the success of last year's program, the Airshed Management Society is adding general home energy efficiency to our project goals. In partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Energy Centre of the North, and AmericSpec/Energide for Homes, we will be announcing a 2006 Wood Stove Exchange early in the new year. This program will dovetail with a Residential Retrofit Program to offer homeowners even more savings when an energy efficiency audit and retrofits are done at the same time as old woodstoves are changed out.

Please contact us for more details.

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From super cheap to super stove...



Wood heat remains a favourite space heating choice in the Bulkley Valley – Lakes District.

At the Bulkley Valley Lakes District Airshed Management Society, we recognize and celebrate the many benefits to heating our homes with wood:

- it's often more affordable, and more available, in rural areas than alternatives like natural gas
- it's an appropriate backup to electric heat in the event of a power failure
- properly managed forests are a renewable resource

But done improperly, heating with wood can be problematic. Thanks to this region's topography and a natural phenomenon called thermal inversion, cold air and smoke frequently settle close to the valley bottom, trapped under a blanket of warm air. When this happens, smog levels can exceed those of the Lower Mainland.

This has significant impacts for

- **Health:** wood smoke commonly includes microscopic particles called particulate matter, and other toxic substances such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds such as benzene, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, formaldehyde, hydrocarbons, dioxins, furans, and acroleins. By inhaling these through

smoke, we increase our risk of lung diseases, aggravate existing lung diseases and lower the mortality of lung disease sufferers.

- **Health costs**, associated with increased doctor visits and treatment of complex diseases
- **Quality of life and visibility**, as smoke permeates the atmosphere
- **Real estate values**, as some neighbourhoods become known for pervasive smoke
- **Community relationships**, as polluters face disapproval from other residents
- **Global warming**

Improperly used wood stoves are a significant source of the harmful pollutants that comprise smog. But as residents in many other jurisdictions have shown, **we can make huge, measurable differences** to the quality of our air by implementing changes to our wood-burning practices. How?

- **Burn less:** Look for ways to improve the energy-efficiency of your home.
- **Burn responsibly:**
 - **Upgrade your stove** to a fuel-efficient, CSA B-415 or US EPA-certified appliance. Besides
 - making a huge positive difference to air quality, you'll save 60 to 90% in fuel costs.

- **Burn only wood that has been seasoned at least six months.** It produces more heat, saving you money, and less smoke. Don't burn garbage, pressure-treated or painted wood, particle board, plywood, or chemically treated wood.

- **Build smaller, hotter fires using smaller pieces of wood and more air**, instead of long-smouldering fires. Check the smoke emanating from your chimney: if you can see it, you're polluting. If you can't, your stove is operating correctly!
- **Store wood outside**, covered and off the ground to reduce humidity and allergy-inciting mould growth in your home.
- **Clean your stove regularly**
- **Support regulations** designed to curtail unnecessary burn use during high-pollution periods.

The BVLD Airshed

Management Society is a registered non-profit association comprised of individuals from government, industry, organizations and the general public. We provide a multi-sectoral, consensus based forum to jointly develop clean air solutions we can *all* work with. Our five-year strategy for improving air quality in the Bulkley Valley / Lakes District is available at www.cleanairplan.ca.