

## Wood Smoke Reduction Program

The purpose of the Wood Smoke Reduction Program is to minimize the impact of residential wood burning on air quality in communities throughout the Comox Valley.

### \$1,800 Rebates Available

The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) has \$1,800 rebates available on a first-come, first-serve basis to homeowners who are exchanging a 5+ year old **residential wood burning appliance** for an **electric heat pump**.

Increase your rebate amount by also applying for the Clean BC rebates for a combined amount of up to \$3,800 (Visit <https://betterhomesbc.ca>).

CVRD rebates are available for homes in the City of Courtenay, Town on Comox, Village of Cumberland, K'ómoks First Nation and the CVRD Electoral Areas A, B and C, Denman and Hornby Island.



### Eligibility and How to Apply

Visit: [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/woodstove](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/woodstove)

- Eligibility checklist
- Application form
- Instructions on how to apply
- Required documents

### Questions and More Information

To contact the program coordinator:

- Email: [planning@comoxvalleyrd.ca](mailto:planning@comoxvalleyrd.ca)
- Call: **250-334-6006**

### Our Partners

Funding support for the Comox Valley Wood Smoke Reduction Program has been provided by the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the BC Lung Foundation.



[comoxvalleyrd.ca](http://comoxvalleyrd.ca)



## Reducing Wood Smoke Pollution In the Comox Valley

## Your Health

- Wood smoke contains small particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and chemicals that can have a direct impact on respiratory and cardiovascular health.
- Small particles and pollutants in wood smoke can trigger asthma attacks.
- Exposure to wood smoke can cause watery eyes, stuffy noses and chest tightness. Everyone may experience symptoms but children and seniors are especially vulnerable.
- Research has shown that there is no threshold below which smoke has no health effects. This means it is important to minimize the amount of smoke produced and humans' exposure to it.
- Burning wet or green wood produces more smoke, making it more dangerous to your health, and the health of your neighbours.



## Your Home

- 1** A well-sealed, well-insulated and properly ventilated home will reduce your energy needs.
- 2** If you are planning to install a new heating device, choose cleaner and more efficient heating (non-wood burning) devices. Natural gas and electricity are much cleaner ways to heat a home.
- 3** If you have to use wood, improve efficiency and reduce pollution by installing a high-efficiency EPA-certified wood burning appliance.
- 4** High-efficiency units allow you to burn 30 per cent less wood and get the same amount of heat. Advanced technology stoves mean less smoke, less work and big cost savings. Natural gas stoves or electric heat pumps provide even greater air quality and financial benefits.
- 5** Most insurance companies require confirmation of proper installation of your wood burning appliance by WETT professionals in order to offer you competitive home insurance rates.

## Your Choice

If you burn wood, save money and reduce pollution at the same time! Burn only clean, dry firewood.

### Four easy steps to dry wood:

#### Split

Split into pieces 10-15 cm in diameter. Pieces should be about 6 cm shorter than the firebox size.



#### Stack

Stack wood in a single row with the split side down.



#### Cover

Cover the top of the stack to protect it from rain or snow. Make sure there is space between the cover and the stacked wood; don't let the cover rest directly on the wood.



#### Store

Allow enough time for wood to dry. Soft woods take a minimum of six months, hardwoods take a minimum of 12 months.



## Is Your Wood Dry?

Properly dried wood is lighter, has cracks in the grain on the ends, and sounds hollow when knocked against another piece of wood. It is illegal to burn firewood with a moisture content greater than 20%. Moisture meters allow you to test the moisture level in wood, are available at the CVRD office at 770 Harmston Avenue, Courtenay.