

# NEWS



For Immediate Release  
January 22, 2008

Contacts: **Karen M. Schkolnick**  
**Bay Area Air District**  
415.749.4900 (office)  
415.816.5353 (after hours)

**Cathie Lou Parker,**  
**Huntington Assoc. Mgmt.**  
626.292.1095

## **Air District Announces Region-Wide Fireplace and Woodstove Change-Out Program** *New Program Designed to Reduce Harmful Wintertime Pollution*

**San Francisco, CA – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District)** has partnered with the Pacific Chapter of the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association (HPBA) to announce the new Change 4 Clean Air Program. This program will help reduce the cost of replacing high-polluting fireplaces and old wood-burning stoves with cleaner-burning alternatives.

“Particulate matter is the greatest airborne public health hazard in the wintertime,” said Air District Executive Officer Jack P. Broadbent. “The Air District promotes clean air choices and offers incentives to help residents make an investment in improving air quality.”

The Air District has committed \$100,000 to reduce particulate pollution in the Bay Area. The Change 4 Clean Air Program will run through March 31 on a first-come, first-served basis. As long as funding is available, residents who purchase new qualifying stoves or inserts from participating HPBA retailers will be eligible for discounts at the time of purchase.

The discounts from the Air District are, as follows:

### **Free Standing Stove**

\$600 - Gas Stove  
\$600 - Pellet Stove  
\$300 - EPA-Certified Wood Stove

### **Fireplace Inserts**

\$600 - Gas Insert  
\$600 - Pellet Insert  
\$300 - EPA-Certified Wood Insert  
\$300 - Gas Fire Log

Additional discounts are available for selected products in your local HPBA retailer store.

Older woodstoves and fireplace inserts that were manufactured before 1992 can produce 70 percent more smoke than newer appliances. Wood smoke is the major source of wintertime pollution in the Bay Area. The fine particles in wood smoke can be inhaled deep into the lungs, causing a wide range of health problems. Children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing cardio-respiratory conditions are most susceptible to its harmful effects.

For a list of participating retailers and further information about the Change 4 Clean Air Program, visit [www.change4cleanair.org](http://www.change4cleanair.org) and [www.sparetheair.org/changeout.htm](http://www.sparetheair.org/changeout.htm)

###