

Projects that Reduce Residential Wood Smoke Emissions

Description: Initially, the Moisture Disclosure Program was developed as a statewide voluntary program to promote the recognition of wet/unseasoned wood versus dry/seasoned wood through written documentation of wood moisture content from wood sellers. ADEC also launched the voluntary program to ensure the program was effective and to ease the transition from voluntary to mandatory in the Nonattainment Area. A mandatory registration program was adopted into regulation in 2014 in 18 AAC 50.076(d) as a contingency measure to help bring the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) fine (PM2.5) nonattainment area into attainment. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reclassified the FNSB PM2.5 nonattainment area from moderate to serious effective June 9, 2017; Federal Register, Vol. 82, No. 89, 21711. As a result of EPA's reclassification, and pursuant to 18 AAC 50.015(b)(3) and 18 AAC 50.076(d)(1)-(3), commercial wood seller registration with ADEC became mandatory on August 15, 2017.

Title	Wood Moisture Disclosure Program/Registered Wood Seller Program
Location (City, Counties, Region)	Fairbanks Non-attainment area includes the cities of Fairbanks and North Pole, Alaska, and the surrounding area.
Population/Number of homes covered by project	The Fairbanks non-attainment area encompasses approximately 35,000 occupied residences. The population is roughly 80,000 to 100,000.
Objectives (NAAQS attainment/maintenance, indoor air, visibility, air toxics, public education)	The Wood Moisture Disclosure Program/Registered Wood Seller Program is designed to encourage communication between wood sellers and wood buyers about the moisture content of the wood being sold and to raise awareness about the importance of burning dry wood to increase efficiency and lower PM2.5 emissions

	<p>from wood burning heating devices. It also recognizes those 'legitimate' wood sellers versus those that may be selling black market wood. The program also attempted to eliminate the excuse 'the wood seller told me it was dry'. Using this excuse is much more difficult when the wood is delivered with a written documentation of the measured moisture content.</p>
<p>Milestones (Project time frame, number of changeouts, air quality goals, number of low-income homes targeted if applicable)</p>	<p>The program has tracked approximately 10,640 cords of wood since the project started in 2014.</p>
<p>Budget (projected/actual cost)</p>	<p>The project was incorporated into existing staff time. There is 1 staff person located in Fairbanks who implements all state programs. There was no additional funding for this effort. About \$2500 a year is spent on printing the tri-part form that is supplied to participants.</p>
<p>Funding Sources (government funds, grants, Supplemental Environmental Project, fees, etc.)</p>	<p>Staff time and printing cost were absorbed within existing efforts funded with EPA 105 grant and State match.</p>
<p>Partners (government/private organizations involved)</p>	<p>The initial voluntary program was released, and then modified to address concerns through user response. The main partner for DEC is the Fairbanks North Star Borough air quality staff. However, feedback and input from stakeholders is very important.</p>
<p>Incentives Offered (rebates, discounts, vouchers, incentives for low income homes, etc.)</p>	<p>Wood sellers who register, which is required by regulation within the FNSB nonattainment area but voluntary statewide, are given free three copy forms for moisture tracking, advertisement tools such as magnets and signs, and they get free advertising on ADEC's webpage for the wood moisture program referring them to prospective wood buyers. Periodically, DEC uses social media and radio to remind residence of how to find 'legitimate' wood sellers and that registered wood sellers will provide documented wood moisture measurements.</p>

<p>Ordinances/Regulations (mandates for cleaner-burning hearth devices)</p>	<p>18 ACC 50.076</p>
<p>Project Yardstick (number of woodsheds constructed, number of stoves replaced with new stoves or other technology, etc.)</p>	<p>The project has 17 active registered wood sellers including 4 recognized dry wood sellers. Among them is a wood kiln built and registered in 2020 for the production & supply of dry firewood to the local community.</p> <p>Another community, Matsu Borough, has had up to two voluntary registered wood sellers, who also sell dry wood.</p>
<p>Outreach/Marketing (radio/TV public service announcements, workshops, woodstoves expo, flyers, mailouts, social media)</p>	<p>This project has used radio and social media as means of outreach. ADEC staff also monitor social media and other advertisement posts for wood sales to recruit and educate prospective wood sellers.</p>
<p>Air Quality Data/Other Results (current project area's air quality status and is improving indoor air quality part of project)</p>	<p>Overall, the air quality status of the Fairbanks non-attainment area has been improving since the establishment of the program. Although, it is worth noting that other projects such as the wood stove change out run by the Fairbanks North Star Borough as well as the burning curtailment program implemented by the state have also contributed to this improvement.</p>
<p>Lessons Learned (What worked? What didn't? Tips? How can project be improved?)</p>	<p>Recruitment and implementation of this program has been challenging due to the concerns of local wood sellers and burners about being monitored.</p> <p>To help quell this concern, ADEC added a check box for buyers to avoid providing their name and to maintain privacy.</p>
<p>Project Contact (name, organization, phone number, email address, web link to project)</p>	<p>Steven Hoke Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Air Quality Nonpoint Mobile Source steven.hoke@alaska.gov 1-907-451-5172</p> <p>Wood Seller Information (alaska.gov)</p>