

Projects that Reduce Residential Wood Smoke Emissions

Description: The Community Firewood Program (CFP) provides dry, seasoned firewood to the community with priority to seniors, disabled and low-income residents. The CFP is evolving from a volunteer-based community effort to a self-sustaining program. The three primary partners that initially started the program – Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative, Inbound LLC and City of Oakridge – continue to be the stewards of this program that is now supported by the EPA-funded Oakridge Air program. The program converts logging slash to firewood and employs off-season Inbound LLC firefighters to process the firewood. The program has been highly successful providing dry firewood and sharing information about home heating advisories, clean burning practices, weatherization and home heating programs. The CFP is part of a larger set of Oakridge Air strategies to reduce impacts of particulate matter in the airshed.

Title	Community Firewood Program to Provide Dry, Seasoned Firewood to the Community
Location	City of Oakridge, Lane County, Oregon
Population/Number of homes covered by project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4470 population • 1,706 homes
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The primary goals of the Oakridge Community Firewood Program (CFP) are to: (1) help vulnerable members of our community, (2) create local jobs, (3) improve air quality by ensuring dry wood is available for our community, (4) repurpose logging slash into firewood, and (5) provide reputable, affordable, seasoned firewood • The Oakridge Air program is installing heating upgrades (certified woodstoves, alternative electric heat and weatherization), but the proper use and feedstock for wood heat is an important paired strategy to reduce outdoor/indoor fine particulate emissions.
Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFP started in 2015 • In 2020, CFP moved to Oakridge Industrial Park and purchased processing equipment to improve efficiency and safety. • The CFP has a goal of reaching 200 dry cords per year to local residents.
Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$533,524 (year 5 projected)
Funding Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA Targeted Airshed Grant has provided funding for: (1) yard equipment for the processing and transportation of wood – \$121,000; building retrofits for industrial facility upgrades – \$35,000; labor required to haul source stock \$69,500; administrative functions by SWFC – \$25,000; source wood purchase \$20,000; and delivery fees of dry cordwood to residents – \$30,000. • In 2018, a feasibility assessment was funded by Lane County, LRAPA and a Oregon Statewide Wood Equity Team grant for \$25,000 to assess the viability of a commercial firewood business by examining regional business

Title	Community Firewood Program to Provide Dry, Seasoned Firewood to the Community
	<p>markets, logical growth strategies, and costs and constraints to obtain feedstock.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donations from nearby private timber companies for source stock and loading • Commercial sales of firewood bundles at local businesses help to supplement program costs for providing cord wood to community members
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative • Inbound, LLC • City of Oakridge • U.S. Forest Service • Oregon Department of Forestry • Private forest owners and forestry related businesses
Incentives Offered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CFP provides cords of well-seasoned firewood at reduced rates for community members who meet low income or accessibility requirements. Standard cord price is \$175 and the subsidized price for seniors, low-income, disabled or sole source residents is \$125. Delivery is also subsidized for those in need.
Ordinances/Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Wood Heating Ordinance references 20 percent or less moisture for firewood and regulations on non-certified stoves is covered.
Project Yardstick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of cords sold and delivered annually by resident type • The CFP complements the heating upgrades which will install certified woodstoves, ducted/ductless heat pumps and weatherize 145 homes.
Outreach/Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media, Oakridge Air website, flyers, Oakridge Air office, partner websites, public events
Air Quality Data/Other Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality goals – Oakridge in a maintenance plan over the next 10 years, following positive trends in winter wood smoke reductions that has brought the airshed into attainment.
Lessons Learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The long-term sustainability of this program relies on a successful transition to a commercial firewood business that serves a broader market or other commercial biomass endeavors that increase the economies of scale. • Source stock is a key element of a viable operation as other firewood programs in the West haven’t been able to continue without consistent supply. The SWFC is working with the Forest Service to ensure a long-term feedstock source. Each year, the Willamette National Forest harvests tens of millions of board feet, but administrative constraints make it difficult for the agency to sell low value wood byproducts on a secondary market at an affordable rate. The SWFC is working with the Forest Service to implement stewardship contract projects near Oakridge. The SWFC continues to recommend that the Forest Service use stewardship projects to provide a reliable source of feedstock available for biomass utilization. • Forest Service procurement policies and guidelines and mandatory road deposits make it difficult and expensive to secure source stock that is otherwise burned as slash.
Project Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Altemus-Pope, Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative, 541-521-5786, director@swfcollaborative.org https://oakridgeair.org/firewood