

## Western Massachusetts Changeout Program

**Description:** This project used rebate vouchers to replace uncertified wood stoves with cleaner, EPA-certified wood, pellet, or gas units. Priority was given to older woodstoves used as primary heating sources. One million dollars of SEP funding from Berkshire Power Company and Power Plant Management Services was used to replace a total of 404 stoves.

Title	Western Massachusetts Changeout Program
Location (City, Counties, Region)	Western MA Counties: Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden
Population/Number of homes covered by project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population: 822,326 (2019)</li> <li>• Housing Units: 361,692 (2019)</li> </ul>
Objectives (NAAQS attainment/maintenance, indoor air, visibility, air toxics, public education)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce fine particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) from wintertime woodsmoke.</li> <li>• Remain in attainment with daily PM<sub>2.5</sub> National Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).</li> <li>• Improve indoor air quality.</li> <li>• Provide rebates to replace non-EPA certified wood stoves and hydronic heaters with cleaner, more efficient EPA-certified wood heaters.</li> <li>• Educate the public on cleaner wood heaters and incentives available for purchasing new heaters.</li> </ul>
Milestones (Project time frame, number of changeouts, air quality goals, number of low-income homes targeted if applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changeout program launched August 2017.</li> <li>• Total: 404 stoves replaced: 181 wood, 166 pellet, 56 gas, 1 catalyst</li> </ul>
Budget (projected/actual cost )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1,000,000</li> </ul>
Funding Sources (Government funds, grants, Supplemental Environmental Project, fees, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint MassDEP and EPA investigation led to EPA Lawsuit and settlement.</li> <li>• \$750,000 in SEP funds from Berkshire Power Company.</li> <li>• \$250,000 in SEP funds from Power Plant Management Services.</li> </ul>
Partners (Government/private organizations involved)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EPA Region 1</li> <li>• Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP): <a href="https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-environmental-protection">https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-environmental-protection</a></li> <li>• American Lung Association of the Northeast (ALANE) (program administration): <a href="https://www.lung.org/">https://www.lung.org/</a></li> <li>• Woodstove dealers</li> </ul>
Incentives Offered (Rebates, discounts, vouchers, incentives for low-income homes, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Available vouchers range from \$300-\$5000.</li> <li>• \$3000 vouchers available for low-income qualified residents in eligible counties.</li> </ul>

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Ordinances/Regulations (Mandates for cleaner-burning hearth devices)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MassDEP regulates sale, installation, and operation of hydronic heaters (outdoor wood boilers). Hydronic heaters may be sold in Massachusetts that meet EPA emissions standards and whose manufacturers have filed compliance certifications. The state regulation for new units includes requirements for setback distances from property lines and neighbors’ dwellings, and smokestack height. See: <a href="https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massachusetts-certified-outdoor-hydronic-heaters">https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massachusetts-certified-outdoor-hydronic-heaters</a></li> <li>• State municipalities have authority to enact ordinances that prohibit or limit the use of hydronic heaters.</li> </ul>
Project Yardstick (Number of woodsheds constructed, number of stoves replaced with new stoves or other technology, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total: 404 stoves replaced: 181 wood, 166 pellet, 56 gas, 1 catalyst</li> </ul>
Outreach/Marketing (Radio/TV public service announcements, workshops, woodstoves expo, flyers, mailouts, social media)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Press release from MA Department of Justice. See: <a href="https://www.justice.gov/usao-ma/pr/western-massachusetts-power-plant-owner-and-management-companies-agree-plead-tampering">https://www.justice.gov/usao-ma/pr/western-massachusetts-power-plant-owner-and-management-companies-agree-plead-tampering</a></li> <li>• Announcements in local news and online. See: <a href="https://www.masslive.com/news/2016/03/berkshire_power_to_pay_85_mill.html">https://www.masslive.com/news/2016/03/berkshire_power_to_pay_85_mill.html</a></li> <li>• Promotional material provided by woodstove retailers. See: <a href="https://thefireplacema.com/n/46/American-Lung-Association-website-for-their-Wood-Stove-Change-Out-Program-for-Western-Mass">https://thefireplacema.com/n/46/American-Lung-Association-website-for-their-Wood-Stove-Change-Out-Program-for-Western-Mass</a>; <a href="https://thefireplacema.com/n/45/MassCEC-Wood-Stove-Change-Out-Program-for-Western-Mass">https://thefireplacema.com/n/45/MassCEC-Wood-Stove-Change-Out-Program-for-Western-Mass</a></li> </ul>
Air Quality Data/Other Results (Air-quality status of project area. Is improving indoor air quality part of project?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upon request from ALANE, EPA used GIS application (Valley Id Tool) to map changeout locations. See: <a href="https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=646ebe715800410d9e5c02aa3653546d">https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=646ebe715800410d9e5c02aa3653546d</a></li> <li>• Difficult to quantify air-quality trends due to changeouts. However, in general, EPA-certified hydronic heaters emit 70-90% less PM<sub>2.5</sub> than older units.</li> </ul>
Lessons Learned (What worked? What didn’t? Tips? How can project be improved?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnerships between local government and the private sector are key.</li> <li>• Important to maintain partnerships and agreements with specific dealers in response to requests from citizens.</li> <li>• Educational outreach on proper wood-burning practices is essential.</li> <li>• Consider seeking other funding opportunities in order to extend and expand program.</li> </ul>
Project Contact (Name, organization, phone number, email address, web link to project)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mass DEP Mark Cohen (<a href="mailto:marc.cohen@mass.gov">marc.cohen@mass.gov</a>)</li> <li>• EPA Region 1 Dianne Chabot (<a href="mailto:Chabot.Dianne@epa.gov">Chabot.Dianne@epa.gov</a>)</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.mass.gov/guides/heating-your-home-with-a-wood-burning-appliance">https://www.mass.gov/guides/heating-your-home-with-a-wood-burning-appliance</a></li> </ul>

