



Date: November 21, 2005

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Oakridge Media: 05-19

Participants needed for Oakridge clean air planning meeting

Oakridge residents interested in participating in a public education planning session on air quality for the city of Oakridge are invited to attend a meeting next Wednesday, November 30th, 6:30 to 8:00 PM, at the Fire Hall.

The meeting, sponsored in part by the city of Oakridge and the Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority, is intended to develop outreach strategies for a local home weatherization and home heating upgrade campaign, to encourage Oakridge residents to participate in available home improvement programs that reduce the consumption of wood for heat. The campaign will be designed to match homeowners with grant and loan programs available through participating federal, state and local agencies.

“We’re looking for local input from citizens of Oakridge to help design the actual campaign outreach strategies,” said Kim Metzler, of LRAPA. “We believe the local residents know the best ways to reach their community and want to access that knowledge for getting information out about the campaign.”

Oakridge has made significant progress over the last few years in reducing particulate emissions. Several programs have contributed to the success of the effort so far including LRAPA’s daily home wood heating advisory, a grant administered by the City of Oakridge to replace old wood-stoves, free tarps distributed to keep wood dry, an automated calling system to inform residents when air quality is deteriorating, and other numerous public education campaigns on the subject. This campaign effort will be the most recent addition to strategies to keep the air clean in Oakridge.

Residents interested in participating in the planning effort of the campaign are encouraged to attend this planning meeting. Or, for more information, should contact Kim Metzler or Sally Markos at LRAPA, 736-1056, ext. 217 or 218.

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