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## **Recovery Act helps fund wood stove change-out program in Oakridge**

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality awarded \$420,000 in federal funds to the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) to conduct a wood stove change-out project in the Oakridge/Westfir area. The project is funded through the Oregon Department of Energy's State Energy Program, utilizing federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars. LRAPA is using the funds to replace old, uncertified wood stoves with cleaner burning heating appliances in the Oakridge/Westfir area, which violates federal health standards for fine particulate, the major component of wood smoke. The U.S. Department of Energy administers the funds, approves the projects and reviews the state's progress.

"This funding has helped continue the work started by LRAPA through its Warm Homes, Clean Air program," said Sally Markos, LRAPA spokesperson. "Replacing uncertified wood stoves with new heating systems will provide clean, safe heating for Oakridge residents and reduce the level of fine particulates, which will benefit the health of the entire community."

"We are pleased to make this award to LRAPA," said Paul Egbert, acting manager of the Oregon Department of Energy ARRA team. "Not only will this project promote energy efficiency and cleaner air, but the funds will be used to put local contractors to work."

The Oregon Department of Energy received more than 1,100 letters of interest, representing a request of over \$2 billion in Recovery Act funding.

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*LRAPA administers the Warm Homes, Clean Air program developed in partnership with the City of Oakridge to help families with the costs of home repair, weatherization and heating upgrades. Assistance is also available through the Lane Electric Co-op, Housing and Community Services of Lane County, and United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development.*