

# LRAPA Board Report: Oakridge Air Program

## January 2023

### Coordination, Outreach & Project Management

- **Program management:** Good Company is pleased to share that we have joined Parametrix, a 100-percent employee-owned engineering, planning, and environmental sciences firm based in the Northwest. Our commitment to LRAPA/TAG remains unchanged and the same staff will continue to manage the program based out of our Eugene office.
  - Learn more here:  
<https://www.parametrix.com/who-we-are/news/2023/01/03/good-company-joins-parametrix>
- **EPA Targeted Airshed Grant program:** Despite EPA indicating that Oakridge would be on the list of eligible communities able to apply for the 2022-23 round of Targeted Airshed Grant funding, Oakridge was not ultimately on the list and we were unable to apply for a third round of TAG funding. This is due to the airshed achieving NAAQS (National Ambient Air Quality Standards) attainment status under the recently approved maintenance plan.
- **Cedar Creek wildfire & smoke response:** In total, the SWS/Oakridge Air team distributed **1,113** air purifiers from Oregon Health Authority, Lane County, and donations from local hardware stores to the Oakridge-Westfir community.

### Home Heating Upgrades

- **Program statistics**
  - Qualifications Questionnaires completed– 347
  - Homes in progress– 62
  - Homes with initial audits complete– 49
  - Complete– 13
  - After Action Reviews complete– 8
  - Homes where progress has stopped– 11
  - Homes with stopped progress that received pre-audit– 4
- **Change outs & upgrades completed to date:**
  - Wood stove– 21
  - Wood stove opt outs– 3
  - Electrical Heat– 27
  - Weatherization– 22
- **Chimney sweep vouchers and vendors:** Oakridge Air has partnered with 2nd Chance Roof & Chimney to pilot the chimney sweep voucher program and will be distributing 75 vouchers to eligible residents in the coming months.

### Community Firewood Program

- **Source stock for 2022-2023:** SWS/OA helped coordinate a commercial firewood deck sale with the Forest Service, hauled by Inbound. The deck provided an additional 20 cords that are processed and drying and SWS is working to identify additional Forest Service source stock opportunities.

### Code Enforcement

- The Oakridge Police Department reported the following activities beyond routine code enforcement in the month of October: 3 reports of illegal burn/1 unable to locate, 2 extinguished due to rules w/Cedar Creek Fire. We will report Nov-Dec activities at the next meeting.
- We are still in the process of collaborating with OPD to decide on potential changes to the diversion program and materials.
- The City of Oakridge is managing the Home Heating Exemption program for the 2022-2023 Wood Home Heating season and OPD will continue verifying sole source wood stoves that apply for exemptions.

## Education and Outreach

- **Woodshed program with Oakridge High School CTE:** The Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council is supporting the coordination of the woodshed program. In the previous quarter, 8 woodsheds were constructed by the High School CTE program and delivered to local residents.
- **University of Oregon research project continues:** In December, the Oakridge Air & UO team began installing PurpleAir monitors in the homes of residents in our Home Heating Upgrade Program for our indoor air quality research project. To date, 11 monitors have been installed and 24 additional monitors will be installed in the coming months. Additionally, the UO team will kick off the next phase of the communications and public perceptions research in Q1 of 2023 beginning with a thorough communication audit of all air quality and smoke related public messages shared by Oakridge Air and local partner organizations.
- **Readerboard project:** Oakridge Air is coordinating with the City of Oakridge and the Oakridge School District to install two readerboards in the community that will be used to display air quality and smoke information using a combination of funds from TAG 2.0, a DEQ grant, and the OSD.
- **Meetings and Events:**
  - Events were put on hold Sept.-Oct. due to the Cedar Creek Fire, but Oakridge Air hosted a successful Semi-Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 9th, which had a great turnout of community members and partner organizations.
  - On December 5th, SWS and the UO research team partnered to conduct an After Action Review (AAR) in Oakridge to gather lessons learned from the fire and extended smoke response event. A summary from the AAR is expected to be completed shortly.
  - SWS hosted two Community Conversations on the topic of Forests and Fires in late November and early December.
- **Firewise and Fuels Reductions updates:**
  - Laurel Butte Landscape Resiliency Project treated 170 acres with funding from ODF and DEQ. Approximately 120 acres of slash piles are scheduled to be burned over the next 4 months as burn windows allow.
  - Dunning Road Small Forestlands Grant projects will treat 120 additional acres in areas identified as the highest risk in the Oakridge Firewise Assessment.
  - SWFC was awarded \$130,000 total to contract Firewise fuels reduction in Oakridge and the surrounding area. The goal is to provide Firewise assessments and treat up to 45 of the highest risks properties.