

Provincial Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program 2026/2027 Program Guidance

The Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program (CWSRP), previously known as the Wood Stove Exchange Program (WSEP), will continue in 2026/2027 with a focus on achieving the program's three primary goals:

- Encourage the public to change out old, smoky wood stoves for cleaner heating options, including heat pumps, pellet stoves, and U.S. EPA or CSA emissions certified wood stoves.
- Raise awareness about good burning practices.
- Educate the public about wood smoke and its health effects.

The Ministry of Environment and Parks (ENV), in partnership with the BC Lung Foundation, has introduced the following key program updates since 2025:

- Launched a pilot woodshed project available to all interested First Nations communities.
- Developed an educational platform, which entered its operational phase in early 2026.
- Revised funding eligibility criteria due to budget constraints, with a new focus on:
 - Red Zone communities working towards achieving national air quality standards.
 - First Nation (FN) communities submitting applications.

The changes outlined above will remain in effect for the 2026-2027 program cycle. Existing participants should continue operating their program according to their agreement with the program. Existing participants who have money remaining at the end of 2026 may elect to roll the funding over to 2027 with the agreement of the program. For this option, they must submit a brief program plan, outlining their continuation strategy.

BC Lung and ENV will continue to support all active CWSRP-related programs. Additional details regarding program operations are provided in the sections below. For comprehensive information on eligible appliances, funding applications, and related resources, please visit the ministry [website](#). For program questions or to submit reports, please email: wsep@gov.bc.ca.

Incentive Structure (2025-2026)

An exchange from an uncertified wood stove to:	Incentive Amount ^{a,b,c} (\$)		
	First Nation Communities ^g	Red-Zone Communities	All Other B.C. Communities
EPA or CSA certified wood stove	1200	600	600
Pellet Stove	2000	1500	1000
Heat Pump ^d	3000	2000	1500
Bounty Option ^e	300	300	300

Notes:

- a. The incentive for a new electric insert for all communities is \$400.
- b. The incentive can be combined with CleanBC and federal incentives where applicable.
- c. The maximum total rebate must be less than the cost of the appliance.
- d. For uncertified wood stove to heat pump exchanges, an additional \$300 incentive may be offered if the wood stove is removed and demolished.
- e. A \$300 incentive (Bounty option) is available for applicants to remove existing uncertified wood appliances without committing to a new heating appliance.
- f. OWB incentives for all communities:
 - OWB to new OWB that meets legislated setbacks and is CSA or EPA certified: \$600.
 - OWB to certified pellet boiler that meets legislated setbacks: \$1000.
 - OWB to indoor heating appliances: refer to the incentives in this table accordingly.
- g. Eligible First Nations communities include indigenous communities in British Columbia falling into one of the following categories:
 - A First Nation “band” as defined by the Indian Act (Canada);
 - A First Nation governing body, representing exclusively one or more First Nations.
 - Treaty First Nation governments and Nisga’a Government.

Definition of Red Zone Communities

Red Zone communities are those that have exceeded the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) for PM_{2.5} in the current reporting period (2022-2024) or at least one of the reporting periods in the past 10 years. Details are available on the ministry [website](#).

Red Zone community incentive levels would be applicable for the following communities in 2026:

- Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (includes Port Alberni)
- District of Vanderhoof
- Bulkley Valley and Lakes District (includes Houston and Smithers)
- Comox Valley Regional District (includes Courtenay)
- Cowichan Valley Regional District (includes Duncan)
- Village of Valemount
- Quesnel
- Grand Forks
- Golden

Existing program participants and representatives from interested local governments, nonprofit organizations, and other stakeholders are encouraged to contact the CWSRP for further information on designated red-zone communities.

First Nations Collaboration

ENV and BC Lung maintain an ongoing collaboration with First Nations housing managers, the First Nation Health Authority, and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation to develop strategies promoting and implementing the program within First Nations communities.

To further support this initiative, a dedicated incentive category has been established specifically for First Nations communities, as indicated in the incentive table. First Nations may apply for funding directly from BC Lung using a simplified application form. Additionally, the program encourages existing CWSRP coordinators to include First Nations communities that are within their geographic area.

Woodshed Pilot Project

A woodshed pilot project is available for interested First Nations communities. The CWSRP will collaborate with participating communities to support the construction of woodsheds. The primary objectives of the pilot project are to:

- Raise awareness about the benefits of using properly seasoned wood to reduce wood smoke.
- Encourage the adoption of clean-burning technologies.

The Application Process

First Nations communities interested in initiating a woodshed pilot project should contact B.C. ENV and B.C. Lung to begin discussions. A brief, standalone proposal, either submitted separately or integrated within the main CWSRP proposal, is required to access funding for the woodshed pilot project.

An application template is provided by ENV and BC Lung. While there is no limit on the number of woodsheds a First Nations community may request, the total rebate amount per woodshed installation, including the cost of the woodshed itself, must not exceed \$1,000.

Please contact wsep@gov.bc.ca for any questions or support in completing your proposal.

After Proposal Submission

- The CWSRP Steering Committee evaluates all applications based on funding availability, community impact, and feasibility.
- B.C. Lung contacts the successful applicant to sign the funding agreement and release the funding.
- The applicant completes the installation of woodsheds within the agreed timeline.
- The applicant must submit a final report upon project completion.

Submission of Final Report

At the conclusion of the agreement, the participant is required to submit a report with the following details:

- Proof of completed work, including addresses (or locations) and photographs of each completed woodshed (photos provided upon request)
- Detailed breakdown of expenditures
- Description of any training, education sessions, or outreach activities provided to community members regarding dry wood storage and usage
- Feedback from community members involved in or impacted by the project.

The final report for the woodshed pilot project may be submitted as a standalone document or integrated into the main CWSRP final report.

Guidance for Heat Pumps

The Ministry of Environment and Parks continues to encourage exchanges of uncertified wood stoves to electric heat pumps. Heat pumps must be an exchange option in every participating community.

Applicants installing a new heat pump will have the option to keep their existing wood stove if the following requirements are met:

1. The local community has chosen to adopt this option in some or all of their areas (this must be specified in the application or program operation plan).
2. The applicant signs a clean burning pledge and commits to:
 - Apply clean burning practices.
 - Only use the wood stove under specific conditions (i.e., power outage and/or during cold weather when supplementary heat is required).
 - Provide the wood cord usage data to the local program for at least two years (before and after installation of the heat pump).
3. The applicant lives either in a First Nation community or an area designated by the local program that meets one or more of the following criteria:
 - A rural or remote area where power outages are frequent.
 - A cold climate area where a back up heating system is recommended in conjunction with a heat pump.
 - A priority area defined by the local program.
 - A low-income community according to local social services or other vetted information sources such as the Canadian Index of Multiple Deprivation (CIMD) Index where supplemental wood heating is viewed as

economically essential (Here is an [example](#) for McBride/Valemount CHSA).

For local programs that prefer to have an option for participants to keep their existing wood stove, the application or program operation plan must contain this information, including covered area and requirements.

Bounty for Removing Old Wood Appliances with No Exchanges

The CWSRP provides an incentive for applicants that remove any operational uncertified wood appliances without committing to a new heating appliance. The incentive is \$300 per stove and limited to one stove per household. The removal, disposal, demolition and/or recycling of the wood appliance **must** be verified to claim the bounty.

For local programs that want to have the bounty option, this detail must be indicated in their application or program operation plan.

Outdoor Wood Boilers

The program permits the exchange of outdoor wood boilers (OWBs), subject to compliance with the B.C. Solid Fuel Burning Domestic Appliance Regulation (SFB DAR) and local government bylaws. The local communities retain the flexibility to determine the eligibility of OWB exchange.

Fossil fuel-fired Appliances

As of January 1, 2023, the CWSRP no longer supports the replacement of appliances with fossil fuel-fired models. This change aligns the program with the climate targets outlined in the [Clean B.C. Roadmap to 2030](#).

Program Continuous Improvement and Education

Program Survey

Communities participating in the CWSRP are required to conduct a short survey. The purpose of this survey is to better understand program participants, their motivations, and their expectations. B.C. ENV and B.C. Lung will use the survey results to help improve the program.

Participating communities are required to ensure:

- Each person who exchanges an appliance and applies for the rebate completes the survey
- Survey results are compiled into the annual report

Peer to Peer Learning

To foster collaboration, peer-to-peer learning, and program enhancement, B.C. Lung and B.C. ENV will organize at least one annual meeting or webinar for program coordinators. These events will serve as engagement platforms for program participants to exchange knowledge and share best practices. Participation is mandatory for communities in the CWSRP.

Educational Package

BC Lung and ENV have developed a suite of outreach materials, including a brochure, infographic, and door hanger to support local education efforts. These resources are available on the ministry and B.C. Lung websites, and hard copies can be provided upon request.

For the 2026-2027 program cycle, participating communities may choose to:

- Use their own existing education program, or
- Adapt the recently distributed CWSRP [educational platform](#) to inform the public or the rebate applicants about the health effects of wood smoke and promote clean burning practices.

The proposal or program operation plan should clearly indicate the type of education that your program will use for your community.