



**Popular Mechanics**

**CONTACT**

**Wood Stove Design Challenge**  
*John Ackerly: (301) 841-7755*

**Popular Mechanics/People's Choice Award**  
*David Agrell: dagrell@hearst.com*

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**POPULAR MECHANICS MAGAZINE TO HOST PEOPLE'S CHOICE  
AWARD FOR WOOD STOVE DESIGN CHALLENGE**

*People can vote for the Wood Stove Design Challenge finalist they think is the most innovative via Popular Mechanics' website and through paper balloting during the Wood Stove Decathlon*

NEW YORK—Popular Mechanics magazine has launched an online ballot that allows people to choose which Wood Stove Design Challenge finalist they think is the most innovative.

The Wood Stove Design Challenge was launched by the Alliance for Green Heat to help promote innovation in the field of renewable energy home heating, and winners will be selected by leading experts after a series of engineering tests. The People's Choice award complements this program and is intended to encourage public involvement in the contest. The People's Choice award winner will be revealed in conjunction with the announcement of the official winners of the Wood Stove Design Challenge.

"If next-generation woodstoves lack compelling benefits or are simply unappealing to consumers, then the innovation won't make much of an impact on the market," Popular Mechanics editor-in-chief Jim Meigs said. "That's why we'll present a separate People's Choice award to the stove the public deems the most innovative—and desirable. Maybe they'll value user-friendliness most—or perhaps functionality, practicality, cost, automation or connectivity. Here's a chance for the public to help shape the next generation wood stove."

The finalist who receives the most votes will be named the People's Choice winner during the Wood Stove Decathlon, which will be held at the National Mall in Washington, D.C., this November.

Each website visitor will be allowed one online vote confirmed by IP address. Visitors to the Wood Stove Decathlon will also have the chance to cast a paper ballot.

To vote, visit [www.popularmechanics.com/woodstove](http://www.popularmechanics.com/woodstove)

During the Wood Stove Decathlon, a team of stove, air quality, and combustion experts will select an official Grand Prize winner and several second-place winners, based on five criteria: emissions, efficiency, affordability, innovation, and ease of use.

Most of the participating teams represent established woodstove companies, but five are independent inventors and engineering students who have never brought a stove to market. Some are looking to sell their inventions to manufacturers and others are looking for recognition so they can ramp up production.

The 14 finalists are: Dragon Heaters, The Firemaster, Helbro Stoves, Hwam, Intercontinental, Kimberly, Mulciber (University of Maryland), Ofenbau + Feuerstein, SmartStove, Travis Industries, Tulikivi, Walker Stoves, Wittus, and Woodstock Soapstone.

Wood stoves remain extremely popular in rural America, but old technology and poor operator habits still often result in too much smoke. This technology challenge seeks to drastically reduce the potential for smoke, increase efficiency—and get the wood stove ready for the renewable energy revolution. Popular Mechanics magazine is a partner and a judge in the challenge.