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High efficiency biomass stoves included in Cash for Caulkers

High efficiency wood and pellet stoves and boilers will be eligible for up to a \$1,000 cash rebate as part of the national Home Star program, known as “Cash for Caulkers.” To be eligible, stoves need to be 75% and boilers 80% efficient, be third party tested and meet strict emission limits.

“Wood and pellet stoves are now being brought into mainstream appliance standards where they belong,” said John Ackerly, President of the Alliance for Green Heat, an independent non-profit that promotes cleaner and more efficient wood heat. “Inclusion in the Home Star program will help tens of thousands of low and middle-income families who rely on wood and pellets to lower their fossil fuel heating bills,” said Mr. Ackerly

The Home Star program sets a strict standard, as it does with other appliances, by only allowing the cleanest and most efficient stoves and boilers to qualify. Some experts believe only 10 – 20% of stoves and boilers on the market will qualify.

The EPA has never required efficiency testing for wood stoves and boilers, their emissions standards have not been updated in more than 20 years and they have not set up an Energy Star program for wood stoves or boilers. The EPA allows up to 7.5 grams of particulates per hour, but engineers today are making stoves that emit as little as 1 gram per hour. Home Star requires 4.5 or lower.

“Wood stoves may be one of the only surprises in the Home Star bill. However, wood and pellet stoves and boilers are making a comeback and are cropping up in more and more efficiency and renewable energy programs,” according to Mr. Ackerly. “New advances in technology are making wood and pellet stoves incredibly clean and efficient. The Home Star standard will finally set a more challenging bar for an industry undergoing rapid change and innovation.”

The Alliance for Green Heat provided expertise and advice the Technical Committee made up of groups such as ACEEE, Efficiency First and NRDC who were instrumental in crafting efficiency standards in the Home Star program.

Click here for more details about wood and pellet stoves and boilers in the Home Star program.

