

# VALLEY AIR NEWS

October 2023



## Healthy Air Living Schools program wins national award

The District's Healthy Air Living (HAL) Schools Program was recently recognized by the national Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies.

During the association's 2023 Fall Business Meeting in North Carolina, Chief Communications Officer Jaime Holt shared key elements of the HAL Schools Program during the Best Practices in Air Pollution Control presentation.

The program focuses on protecting students from poor outdoor air quality. The HAL Schools team provides education and support to schools and school districts ensuring the following:

- Adjustment of outdoor activities based on real-time air quality data
- Adoption of no-idling initiatives
- Adoption of policy that addresses outdoor activity in relationship to air quality
- Active engagement of staff, students and parents on air-friendly activities
- Continuous communication regarding ever-changing air quality levels

To learn more, request a presentation or enroll into the HAL Schools program, visit [www.healthyairliving.com/schools](http://www.healthyairliving.com/schools) or contact [HALschools@valleyair.org](mailto:HALschools@valleyair.org).

## Winter program to limit wood smoke in neighborhoods starting

Enjoying the nice cool breezes in the evening? Thinking about lighting up the backyard fire pit or tossing some wood into the fireplace? In less than two weeks, Valley residents will have to check with the Valley Air District before they can do either of those activities.

During the Residential Wood Smoke Reduction season, which runs from November 1 through the end of February every year, the District releases daily, county-by-county, wood-burning declarations based on the air quality forecast. The declarations can be found at [valleyair.org/burnstatus](http://valleyair.org/burnstatus), on the Valley Air app or by calling 1-800-SMOG-INFO (1-800-766-4463). Residences with no other source of heat or no access to piped-in natural gas (even if you use propane) are exempt from these restrictions. However, outdoor wood-burning devices at all residences are still subject to the daily restrictions, regardless of exemption status.

Residential wood burning can be one of the Valley's largest sources of wintertime emissions and is shown to have a direct effect on neighborhood air quality. Valley residents are urged to heat their homes by other means than burning wood whenever possible, thus improving the wintertime air quality and quality of life in their community.

Residents who want to make the switch from wood-burning devices to electric heat pumps or gas inserts can utilize the District's Fireplace & Woodstove Change-Out program. The program offers incentives of up to \$5,000, depending upon your location. To take advantage of the incentives, residents can visit [valleyair.org/change-out](http://valleyair.org/change-out).

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