

actsmart[®]

wood heater replacement program

FAQ

WHAT IS THE AIM OF THE PROGRAM?

The Wood Heater Replacement Program aims to reduce winter air pollution from wood smoke by offering financial incentives to replace an old wood heater with a new electric reverse cycle system, or upgrade an old reverse cycle system with a more efficient one.

WHO RUNS THE PROGRAM?

This is an ACT Government run program.

The Environment, Planning & Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) provides funding for the electric reverse cycle systems and the rebate for recycling your old wood heater.

There is a limited amount of rebates available each year.

WHAT STEPS ARE INVOLVED?

A \$100 rebate is available to households for removing and disposing of a wood heater or permanently disabling an open fire place only.

The first step is to submit a wood heater replacement application form. Once submitted, an officer from the Actsmart Household team will contact you and arrange a time to view your existing wood heater. At this appointment, the officer will advise if your application is approved and provide you with a claim form.

Additional rebates are available (eligibility conditions apply) to install replacement heating systems, or to upgrade inefficient heating systems.

Complete the claim form to receive the rebate. The heating system must be:

Ducted electric reverse cycle system
Electric reverse cycle split system (min 3 star)
Upgraded electric reverse cycle system (min 3 star)

Any replacement heating system **must** be new and must adequately heat the same area as your existing solid fuel heater. The household must be replacing either an open fireplace or a controlled combustion heater in the primary living spaces such as lounge rooms and living areas. Non living areas such as garages, sheds and workshops are excluded from the rebate.

Once installed, the electrician is required to sign the wood heater claim form as proof of installation. Rebates cannot be claimed from EPSDD without removing and disposing of a wood heater. You are required to take the system to Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre. It is free to drop off. The weighbridge operator is required to sign the wood heater claim form as proof of disposal. If you are replacing an open fireplace, you need to permanently disable it to the satisfaction of EPSDD.

Once the claim form is completed by all parties, you need to lodge it within three months of your application being approved to receive your rebate.

IS THE REBATE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS?

Yes. To be eligible for the rebate, certain conditions must be met. These conditions are listed on the application form.

HOW LONG DOES THE PROCESS TAKE?

Once we receive your application, you will be contacted within three business days to arrange a home visit. If your application is approved, you will be given a claim form at the time of your appointment. There can be significant delays in having your wood heater removed and disposed of, and your new system installed. Applicants are encouraged to leave sufficient time to undertake this work to ensure they can submit their claim form within three months from the date their application was approved.

Processing the claim form and arranging payment of the subsidy will depend on how you choose to be paid and whether or not a second home visit is required. Extensions may be granted by EPSDD if contacted prior to the three month end date.

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HOW LONG IS THE PROGRAM OPEN?

The program is open all year. Completed claim forms must be lodged within three months of application approval.

WHAT REBATE IS OFFERED UNDER THE PROGRAM?

Electric reverse cycle systems attract a rebate.

Wood heater removal - \$100

Ducted electric reverse cycle system - \$1000

**Electric reverse cycle split system
(min 3 star) - \$500**

**Upgraded electric reverse cycle system
(min 3 star) - \$500**

There are no additional funds for low income earners or pensioners.

WHY ARE REVERSED CYCLE SYSTEMS REBATED?

Reverse cycle systems are the most efficient type of electric heating. Other electric heating systems such as electric in slab and electric resistance heating can be expensive to run and are not included in this rebate.

WHAT TYPE OF ELECTRIC SYSTEM IS BEST FOR CANBERRA?

Because reverse cycle systems are often sold for their cooling capabilities, not all systems will operate well in a Canberra winter. To find out if the system is suitable for the Canberra climate, check the H2-COP value for heating. Buying a system that has a minimum 3 star rating on the heating cycle is a good indication the system will perform when the outside temperature is around 2°C or below.

WHERE CAN I GET APPLICATION AND CLAIM FORMS?

Application forms are available on the Actsmart website or by calling 13 22 81. The applicant will be provided a claim form at the home visit if the application is approved.

WHERE DO I LODGE MY APPLICATION AND CLAIM FORMS?

Post forms to:

**Actsmart Household
Wood Heater Replacement Program
Environment, Planning & Sustainable
Development Directorate
GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601
or email to:
actsmartadvice@act.gov.au**

DO I NEED TO NOTIFY CONSTRUCTION OCCUPATIONS SECTION, OR GET APPROVAL FOR INTERNAL WORK?

This question is best directed to the Construction Occupations Section. Their enquiries number is 6207 1923.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Call the Wood Heater Replacement Program officer through Access Canberra 13 22 81 or email actsmartadvice@act.gov.au