

# Michigan United Conservation Clubs

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## **MUCC Kicks Off the “Michigan Great Woodstove Change-out Campaign”** *Rebate incentive advocates clean, safe, and efficient home heating technology using renewable resources*

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) today announced that Michigan residents may take advantage of a special discount program when upgrading their old woodstove to a more efficient, clean, and safe home heating appliance. “The Great Michigan Woodstove Change-out Campaign” (Change-out), a partnership between MUCC, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association (HPBA), may provide up to \$600 in rebates and discounts toward the replacement of a conventional wood-burning stove with a more efficient, cleaner wood, pellet, corn, gas, or electric stove or fireplace insert certified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

“Efficient stoves burn much less fuel, meaning they’ll burn a much smaller hole in the homeowner’s pocket,” said MUCC Executive Director Dennis Muchmore. “By upgrading to a modern efficiency stove, Michigan residents are also contributing to Michigan’s green economy by heating their homes with cleaner energy sources produced by Michigan’s vibrant forest products and agriculture industries. MUCC believes this Change-out is an ideal opportunity to lessen the cost of purchasing a modern home heating appliance, so we encourage Michigan

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residents take advantage of the \$290 rebate and additional discounts offered by participating retailers.”

Made possible by a MDEQ/U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant, “The Great Michigan Woodstove Change-out Campaign” will educate Michigan residents about the cost, safety, and environmental benefits of making the necessary transition to modern, EPA-approved home heating stoves. As a major incentive to consumers, a \$290 rebate will be issued to the first 500 qualified participating customers by MUCC, and additional discounts are being offered by stove manufacturers and participating retailers as part of the Change-out Campaign. The Change-out will run from May 8 until July 31, 2008.

The HPBA has also facilitated similar woodstove change-outs in different states but now appreciates this opportunity to partner with MUCC and DEQ to show Michigan consumers how far the technology in hearth appliances has come. "If you haven't looked at new hearth products lately, you'd be amazed at how much better the design, materials and operation of the appliances are today compared to twenty years ago," said Robert Huta, President of the MidStates Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association, a regional affiliate of the HPBA. "That's why you can get such high efficiency ratings now across multiple fuels and a great program like a change out gives homeowners an incentive to learn about these new products."

In order to promote environmental benefits of cleaner air through woodstove change-outs, MUCC procured this MDEQ grant from federal funds as part of the department’s Pollution Prevention program. “The MDEQ is excited about the opportunity to assist the people of Michigan install these clean and efficient stoves in their homes,” said MDEQ Director Steven E. Chester. “Through ‘The Great Michigan Woodstove Change-out Campaign,’ the MDEQ is also eager to promote the collective benefits of cleaner air, energy efficiency, and renewable resources.”

To be eligible for a rebate, participants must agree to replace their old wood burning stove or fireplace insert with an EPA-approved stove or insert of their choice from a participating retailer. Additionally, the “change-out” must be performed by a certified installer and the old stove must be rendered inoperable.

Michigan residents interested in changing-out their old stove through the Campaign may receive more information about participating retailers, stove brands, and rebate forms at [www.mucc.org](http://www.mucc.org). To learn more about this Change-out and others across the country, residents may visit [www.woodstovechangeout.org](http://www.woodstovechangeout.org)

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[Attachments: Photos, Logo]



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