Northern Indiana Wood Stove Changeout Program

Overview

1. The Northern Indiana Wood Stove Chang-out Program ("Program") is sponsored by Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) in order to minimize the effects of particulate air emissions and hazardous air pollution in northern Indiana. The program is one of several Environmental Mitigation Projects that are a part of a consent decree between NIPSCO, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM).

2. The Program provides financial incentives for residential customers who replace, retrofit or upgrade their inefficient, higher polluting wood-burning stove or outdoor boiler with appliances that provide for cleaner burning, lower emissions and higher energy efficiency.

3. Two types of incentives are available:
    a. *General* Residential Voucher – Administered by the American Lung Association of Indiana (ALAIN)
    b. *Income Qualified* Residential Voucher – Administered by the Indiana Housing Community Development Authority (IHCDA)

4. NIPSCO is providing funding for a total of $452,500 toward incentives, with $332,500 allocated to General Vouchers and $120,000 allocated to Income Qualified Vouchers.

5. The Program originally was targeted to retrofits and/or installations within the 7 counties of Lake, Porter, La Porte, St Joseph, Elkhart, Allen, and Starke. On January 14, 2013, NIPSCO received approval from EPA to expand the program to the 25 additional NIPSCO service territory counties, bringing the total to 32 northern Indiana counties.

6. The Program is available from November 26, 2012 through the earlier of June of 2013 or when funding is exhausted.

7. The Program is only offered through retailers who agree to the terms and conditions of the Program. These retailers are classified as "Participating Retailers".

Program Requirements

1. Installations and/or retrofits must be within one of the 32 northern Indiana counties noted below:

Adams	Clinton	Huntington	Lake	Porter	Tippecanoe	White
Allen	DeKalb	Jasper	Marshall	Pulaski	Tipton	Whitley
Benton	Elkhart	Kosciusko	Miami	St Joseph	Wabash	
Carroll	Fulton	La Porte	Newton	Starke	Warren	

Cass	Howard	LaGrange	Noble	Steuben	Wells	

2. The wood stove or outdoor wood-burning boiler being replaced must be a non-EPA certified or non-qualified appliance (typically one manufactured over 8 years ago).

3. The applicant must replace, retrofit or upgrade an inefficient, higher polluting wood-burning stove or outdoor boiler with one of the following appliances:
    a. EPA-certified energy efficient wood-stoves, or cleaner burning and more energy-efficient hearth appliances (wood pellet, gas, or propane stove)
    b. EPA Phase 2 hydronic heaters that burn biomass wood pellets and have continuous feed fuel (or retrofit kit)
    c. Natural gas boiler of 90% or higher AFUE
    d. Natural gas furnace of 92% or higher AFUE
    e. Energy Star qualified Geothermal Heat Pump

    Note: The Program is not applicable to fireplaces, which are typically not used as the sole source of space heating.

8. Customers with wood stove or outdoor wood boiler change-outs must surrender their old appliance to be properly disposed of at a program approved recycling facility.

9. Installations and/or retrofits must be done in accordance with any applicable city or county codes/ordinances.

10. New appliances must be installed by a certified professional, such as a certified electrician, Registered Gas Installer (RGI), National Fireplace Institute (NFI) Professional or Chimney Safety Institute of America (CSIA) professional.

General Residential Voucher

1. The General Residential Voucher provides residential customers with an instant in-store credit toward the replacement, retrofit or upgrade of inefficient, higher polluting wood-burning stove or outdoor boiler with Energy Star qualified geothermal heat pumps, EPA Phase 2 hydronic heaters that burn biomass wood pellets and have continuous feed fuel, hydronic heater retrofit kits, natural gas boilers of 90% or higher AFUE, natural gas furnaces of 92% or higher AFUE, EPA-certified energy efficient wood-stoves, or cleaner burning and more energy-efficient hearth appliances (e.g., wood pellet, gas, or propane stove). The instant credit can be applied to the costs associated with the replaced or retrofitted appliance, installation cost, and/or any recycling cost (if applicable).

2. The amounts of the financial incentive (instant credit) for General Residential Vouchers are noted in the table below.

	Type of Appliance	Instant Credit
1	EPA certified energy efficient wood-stoves: a) New chimney installation required b) New chimney installation not required	 Up to $1,500 Up to $1,000
2	Gas or wood pellet energy efficient hearth appliances: a) New chimney installation required b) New chimney installation not required	 Up to $2,000 Up to $1,200
3	Hydronic heater retrofit kit • *Heaters must be less than 7 years old*	Up to $2,000
4	EPA Phase 2 hydronic heaters • *Only applicable to biomass wood pellets; continuous feed fuel*	Up to $5,000
5	Natural gas boilers of 90% or higher AFUE	Up to $2,000
6	Natural gas furnaces of 92% or higher AFUE	Up to $2,000
7	Energy Star qualified Geothermal Heat Pumps	Up to $5,000

Income Qualified Residential Voucher

1. The Income Qualified Residential Voucher is available to residential customers who are at or below 150 percent of the poverty level or currently receive assistance from: Food Stamps, Medical Assistance, Women, Infants, and Children's Program, and/or Income-qualified Home Energy Assistance Programs.

2. Income Qualified customers will be able to receive up to $4,000 per home for the actual replacement of their old, inefficient, high polluting wood-burning stove or boiler.

Additional Incentives for NIPSCO Natural Gas Customers

1. NIPSCO natural gas customers who replace their wood burning appliance for one of the qualified natural gas appliances are able to take advantage of the additional incentives offered under NIPSCO's Residential Gas Appliance Rebate Program.

2. The additional financial incentives applicable to natural gas appliances are noted below:

Appliance		Additional Incentive (Rebate)
1	Natural gas boilers of 95% or higher AFUE	$450
2	Natural gas boilers of 90% or higher AFUE	$300
3	Natural gas furnace with ECM of 95% or higher AFUE	$300
4	Natural gas furnace with of 95% or higher AFUE	$200
5	Natural gas furnaces of 92% or higher AFUE	$150

3. To receive the additional incentive, customers will need to make a separate "rebate" request under NIPSCO's Residential Gas Appliance Rebate Program.

Voucher Application Process:

1. **General Residential Vouchers:**
    a. Customers will work directly with Participating Retailers to apply for General Residential Vouchers.
    b. Participating Retailers will provide customers with a detailed cost estimate which itemizes all cost components of the installation or retrofit. *(This cost estimate must be attached to the customer's application and be approved by the General Program Administrator before the actual work is performed.)*
    c. Participating Retailers will submit the customer's application to the General Program Administrator to determine the customer's eligibility and to reserve funding.
    d. Within two business days, the General Program Administrator will notify the Participating Retailer if the customer's application is eligible for the General Residential Voucher and assign a voucher number to the application.
    e. Applicants who are approved to receive a voucher must purchase and install their qualifying stove or insert by the expiration date (30-day window) associated with their voucher.
    f. Participating Retailers will work directly with the General Program Administrator to receive payments associated with the General Residential Voucher.
    g. Customers who can also take advantage NIPSCO's Residential Gas Appliance Rebate Program will need to make a separate "rebate" request under that Program.

2. **Income Qualified Vouchers:**
    a. Customers will work directly with the Income Qualified Program Administrator to apply for Income Qualified Vouchers.
    b. To be "Income Qualified" customers will be required to provide documentation to Income Qualified Program Administrator showing that they are at or below 150 percent of the poverty level or are currently receiving assistance from one or more of the programs below:
        i. Food Stamps
        ii. Medical Assistance

iii. Women, Infants, and Children's Program; and/or
iv. Income-qualified Home Energy Assistance Program

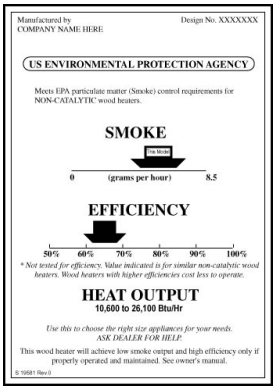
c. Applicants will be notified either by phone, email, or ground mail regarding their eligibility under the Income Qualified Program.
d. The Income Qualified Program Administrator will work with eligible customers and Participating Retailers to determine the most appropriate and cost effective installation or retrofit for the customer.
e. If necessary, the Participating Retailer will contact the Income Qualified Program Administrator to confirm that the customer is eligible for the Income Qualified Program.
f. Participating Retailers will provide the customer with a detailed cost estimate itemizing all cost components of the installation or retrofit. (This cost estimate must be attached to the customer's application and be approved by the Income Qualified Program Administrator before the actual work is performed.)
g. Participating Retailers will submit the customer's application to the Income Qualified Program Administrator to determine eligibility of the installation or retrofit and to reserve funding.
h. Within two business days, the Income Qualified Program Administrator will notify the Participating Retailer if the customer's application is eligible for the Income Qualified Residential Voucher and assign a voucher number to the application.
i. Applicants who are approved to receive a voucher must purchase and install their qualifying stove or insert by the expiration date (30-day window) associated with their voucher.
j. Participating Retailers will work directly with the Income Qualified Program Administrator to receive payments associated with the Income Qualified Residential Voucher.
k. Customers who can also take advantage NIPSCO's Residential Gas Appliance Rebate Program will need to make a separate "rebate" request under that Program.

Participating Retailer Requirements

1. Promote the Program according to the requirements established by NIPSCO and the program administrator(s).
2. Agree not to refuse or to do business based on income status.
3. Ensure that that all appliances installed meet the requirements of the Program.
4. Ensure that all installations or retrofits are done in accordance with any applicable city or county codes/ordinances.
5. Ensure that new appliances are installed by a certified professional, such as a certified electrician, Registered Gas Installer (RGI), National Fireplace Institute (NFI) Professional or Chimney Safety Institute of America (CSIA) professional.
6. Ensure that the wood appliance that is being replaced is a non-EPA certified or non- qualified appliance and that the new appliance complies with all requirements of the Program.
7. Ensure that the old appliance is removed from the premise and is properly disposed of so that it cannot be re-used.
8. Ensure the recipient of the new appliance reviews/demonstrates proper operation of the new appliance.
9. Provide educational materials to the customer (e.g., Burn Wise fact sheet, brochures) and explain the benefits (e.g., lower emissions, better efficiency) of proper wood burning techniques, including the use of dry seasoned wood for an EPA-certified wood stove.
10. Address and resolve any unanticipated issues within 5 business days with the appropriate Program Administrator.
11. Work directly with the appropriate Program Administrator to receive payment of incentives.
12. Provide a detailed cost estimate to both the customer and the appropriate program manager, itemizing all cost components of the installation or retrofit. (Note: This cost estimate must be approved by the program administrator before any work is performed.)
13. Submit the following forms and/or items for payment to the appropriate Program Administrator:
    a. Participating Retailer Certification Form - Signed document which (a) certifies that the customer's wood hearth appliance that was replaced was a non-certified wood hearth appliance and that the new hearth appliance installed complies with all requirements of this program, (b) provides information regarding the customers old appliance as well as the newly installed hearth appliance including type, manufacturer, and model, and (c) certifies that the old appliance was properly disposed of at a Program approved recycling facility.
    b. Color photos of the old hearth appliance and the newly installed appliance.

c. Customer invoice which must show any retailer and/or manufacturer discounts.

EPA Certified Wood Stoves and Heating Appliances

1. An EPA certified wood stove or wood heating appliance has been independently tested by an accredited laboratory to meet a particulate emissions limit of 7.5* grams per hour for noncatalytic wood stoves and 4.1* grams per hour for catalytic wood stoves.

2. An EPA certified wood stove can be identified by a temporary paper label attached to the front of the wood stove and a permanent metal label affixed to the back or side of the wood stove