



Community Firewood Program & Woodshed Construction in Oakridge, OR

Presented by
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Overview

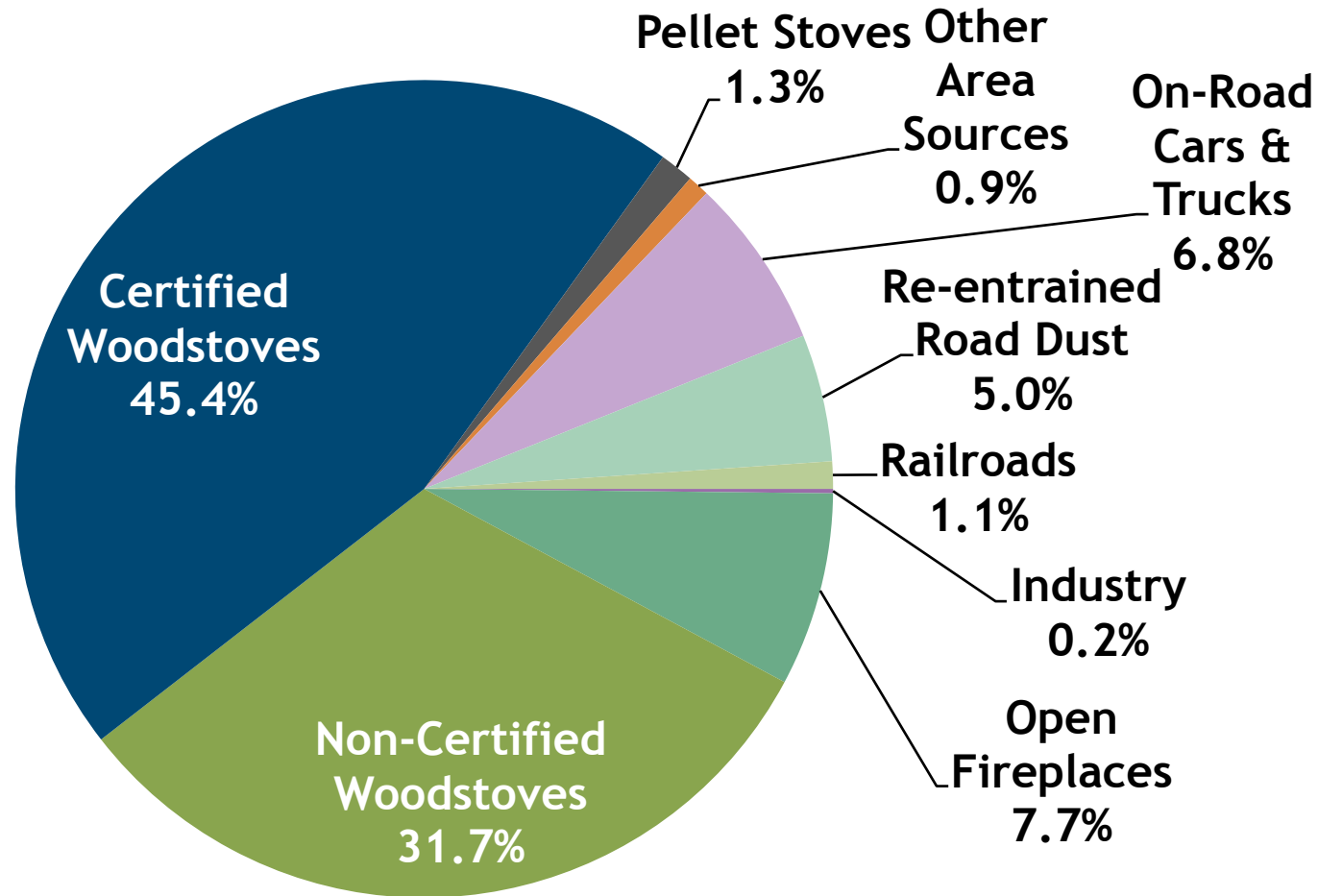
- Challenge with winter woodsmoke
- Concerted long-term effort for improvements
- History and evolution of Community Firewood Program
- Benefits of the firewood program
- Firewood sheds



- Product of location - topography, use of wood resources and weather conditions



Challenge with winter woodsmoke



Source: Oakridge PM2.5 Emission Inventory for Worst Winter Days ³

Concerted long-term effort & next chapter

- **Warm Homes, Clean Air:** 2004-2006 Lane Region Air Protection Agency
- **Mayor and multi-stakeholder effort:** 2015 to 2017
- **Oregon Solutions and Oregon DEQ support/funding:** Oakridge Woodsmoke Coordinator 2017-2019
- **EPA Targeted Airshed Grant funding:** Five year funding directed at multiple strategies

Origin of community firewood program

- **Resource available:** Community surrounded by wood resource in the National Forest and experience electricity outages in winter months.
- **Lack of local firewood sellers selling *seasoned* wood,** particularly to disabled, low-income and elderly residents.
- **Job creation in winter months** for wildland firefighting crew in low-income community.
- **Local partners seeing benefits:** City of Oakridge, Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative and Inbound LLC.

Evolution of firewood program

- Pure volunteer / bootstrap effort
- Did not operate in 2017–2018 winter season due to project management
- Brought the program back with Oregon DEQ support in 2018-2019 season.
- Program sold 70 cords of wood to 90 households (most to date) and built a reserve for this winter season.



Collaborative effort



- **Firewood sourcing partners:** Private companies (Seneca, Roseburg, Juniper Investments, Union Pacific), local contractors
- **City support for facility and transportation**
- **Local contractor volunteer for aggregation/hauling**

Feasibility study

- **Need consistent diverse supply**
- **Forest collaborative** key to success via SWFC and USFS
- **High handling and hauling costs** – every time touch firewood, lose money
- **Equipment investment similar despite production thresholds**

Oakridge Community and Commercial Firewood Program Feasibility Study



Prepared for:
Inbound, LLC
Oregon Department of Forestry
Lane Regional Air Protection Agency



Prepared by:
Good Company



CFP opportunities and challenges

- **Firewood is a low-cost product** that can have significant capital and operational costs – reference to ODF feasibility study.
- **Reduce fuel loading on National Forest:** Removing top wood and cull wood will reduce “jackpot” fuels near roads and improve visuals.
- **Higher utilization of wood resource** material that might just be burned in the forest.

Safety and resiliency of firewood program

- **Severe winter storm** cut electricity and isolated community for over a week.
- **Emergency assistance** from firewood program provided 12 cords of seasoned firewood to 40 households and two warming centers within the community.



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Community Firewood Program

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May 8 at 10:33 AM · 🌐

Hot, dry and windy conditions have temporarily suspended outdoor burning in Lane County starting TOMORROW, Thurs May 9th for one week.

Decision by Lane Fire Defense Board and Oregon Department of Forestry due to high fire danger.

<https://www.lrapa.org/Archive.aspx?ADID=471>

THU MAY 9 - THU MAY 16

OAKRIDGE & WESTFIR
Community Firewood Program

Local Service in Oakridge, Oregon

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ABOUT COMMUNITY FIREWOOD PROGRAM

Oakridge & Westfir Community Firewood Program

OAKRIDGE & WESTFIR

SEASONED FIREWOOD SALE

DEC 7TH & 8TH - INBOUND, LLC, 48224 E. 1ST ST. - OAKRIDGE, OR

SALE DATES

Friday, Dec. 7th
4:00 - 6:00 PM

Saturday, Dec. 8th
9:00 - 2:00 PM

Sales will take place at Inbound, LLC

FIREWOOD PRICE

Senior Citizen (65+), Disabled, or Oakridge Home Heating Exemption Participants*
\$125 per Cord

General Price
\$175 per Cord

Optional Delivery
\$25

*Oakridge residents can sign up for a home heating exemption at Oakridge City Hall. Preference and priority will be given to the subsidized program.

The sale will take place at Inbound, LLC 48224 E. 1ST ST, Oakridge, OR. Delivery or pickup will be scheduled at time of purchase.

The Community firewood program has approximately 50 cords of firewood.

Oakridge/ Westfir community members only.

This program is a result of the partnership between the City of Oakridge, Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative (SWFC), Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA), and Inbound LLC working together to reduce woodsmoke pollution in the surrounding Oakridge airshed. Additionally, this project would not be possible without the support of local companies and sponsors including Seneca, Jerry Swearingen, Roseburg, Union Pacific Railroad that have donated wood or materials to the program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION :541-521-5786 or staff@swfcollaborative.org

Woodshed pilot project

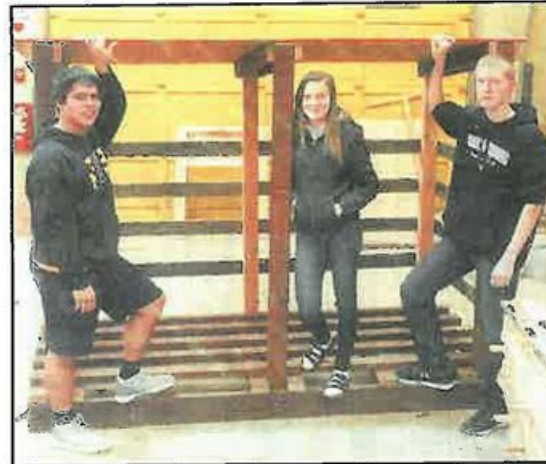
- Woodsheds function better than tarps (mold, moisture)
- Developed pilot woodshed effort with limited funding
- Collaboration with high school woodshop teacher and prospective Eagle Scout
- Construction of 24 sheds



Oakridge HS participation

- 12 sheds completed by three students.
- Career and technical education (CTE) opportunity, helping the community.

Wood shop students build wood sheds for those in need



Oakridge High School wood shop students help to build sheds for residents on the Wood Heat Exemption list; low-income, senior, or disabled. Shown here are Derrick Cano, McKenzie Probst, and Mason Ketch. These woodsheds are a part of a bigger effort to improve Oakridge's air quality by allowing residents to store dry seasoned firewood. Photo courtesy Trisha Maxfield

Providing dry firewood is part of larger project

Students from the Oakridge High School wood shop class are working to build woodsheds for individuals on the Oakridge wood heating exemption list, focusing on low-income, seniors, and disabled.

According to the Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative (SWFC), residential wood smoke contains PM2.5—fine particulate matter that is a concern for people's health when levels in the air are high—and other pollutants, which contribute to cancer and

other significant health issues.

Local climate and topography make Oakridge prone to wintertime temperature inversions, low wind speeds, and poor atmospheric dispersion. For this reason Oakridge has been in violation of federal air quality standards for some time, until recently.

The SWFC does have a Community Firewood Program, which offers low-cost firewood, but that good, seasoned wood still needs to be kept dry to stay

good.

Burning wet, green, or unseasoned firewood contributes to the air quality issues here, but many people do not have wood sheds to keep the wood dry. They are either unable to build one themselves or can't afford to buy one or pay someone to build it for them, prompting them to keep the wood under a tarp and coming in direct contact with the wet ground, further complicating the issue.

With the help and coordination from Oakridge High School,

wood shop teacher Ray Yarbrough, the City of Oakridge, Good Company and sub-contractor Trisha Maxfield, Upper Willamette Community Development Corporation, Oakridge Hardware, Boy Scout Nio Turtura, Inbound LLC, a grant from Union Pacific Railroad, and others, wood sheds are being provided to those who need them.

Burning dry, properly seasoned firewood helps the entire community. Because the city has been in violation of air qual-

ity standards, the violation affects some businesses moving or starting up in Oakridge, causing our community to miss out on much-needed jobs. Nonattainment also means that our community risks losing federal funding and limits industrial economic development here and throughout Lane County.

To learn more about the Community Firewood Program call Jody at Inbound LLC at 541-782-1814 to schedule an appointment.

Eagle Scout participation

- 12 sheds completed by Eagle Scout and fellow Boy Scouts.



Local volunteer effort for delivery

