

New Wood-Stove Emission Standards in Effect in Minnesota

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Shopping for a new wood stove? Remember that new stoves and outdoor boilers must be certified to new 2020 emission standards to be sold or installed in Minnesota.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) adopted regulations for wood-burning appliances in 2015 that gave manufacturers five years to get their products certified to meet the new, stricter emissions standards. The standards had two "steps"- an initial standard for 2015 and the tighter one that took effect in May 2020. (The standards don't affect fireplaces or wood heating systems already in use.)

The EPA is delaying enforcement of the new requirements while it debates changing the compliance deadline. But Minnesota's own state law, which requires compliance with the new emission standards, also took effect in May. Regardless of what the EPA does, Minnesota's compliance deadline for 2020 certification will not change, meaning that residents shopping for new stoves this fall should look for proof of certification.

As of May 2020 in Minnesota:

- Only units that are 2020-certified by the manufacturer can be advertised, offered for sale, sold, or installed. Dealers selling models that aren't certified are violating the law.
- All 2020-certified units must have an ap-

proved, permanent label that is visible when installed.

Wood smoke is a significant source of fine-particle pollution, which is harmful to human health. Minnesota, with EPA's backing, has been a leader in helping to reduce these health effects by requiring manufacturers of wood-burning stoves and boilers to produce more efficient products that emit less pollution.

Some facts about wood burning in Minnesota:*

- Minnesotans burn about 1.45 million cords of wood in a year, enough to completely fill U.S. Bank Stadium.
- Nearly half of Minnesota households burn wood in either a heating appliance or recreational fires.
- There are an estimated 288,000 wood-burning units such as stoves, furnaces, and boilers in the state. About a third of them are pre-1989, which pollute much more than those certified to the 2020 standard.
- About 7 percent of households burn wood for primary heat; 46 percent of wood burned in Minnesota is for primary heat.

*From "Minnesota residential wood combustion survey results," May 2019
See the MPCA web site and the EPA web site for more information on wood burning.

Cook County Co-op Receives Best Emissions Rate Award



General Manager, Jennifer Stolz. (Submitted photo)

In striving to protect both the ozone layer and climate system, the Cook County Whole Foods Co-op's refrigeration practices have brought national attention to town again. For the second consecutive year, the Co-op was recognized for its achievements in reducing harmful refrigerant emissions. The United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) GreenChill Partnership presented the Co-op with the Best Emissions Rate award for achieving the lowest refrigerant emissions rate among small supermarket Partners. The announcement was made by EPA during its annual GreenChill Recognition Event, which was held virtually this year on September 24.

"We congratulate Cook County Whole Foods Co-op for their achievements as a GreenChill Partner," said Kirsten Cappel, GreenChill Program Manager. "This is the second year in a row that the Co-op has received this recognition, demonstrating their sustained commitment to environmental protection by reducing their refrigerant emissions. We applaud the Co-op for their environmental leadership."

Reducing the impact of harmful refrigerant emissions is important for protecting the environment and also benefits public health. If every supermarket in the United States met the GreenChill Partners' average emissions of refrigerants, the supermarket industry would save more than \$160 million in re-

frigerant replacement costs and reduce annual refrigerant emissions by 30 million metric tons carbon dioxide, equivalent to 3.4 million homes' energy use for one year. The Co-op is proud to be part of the group of supermarkets leading the industry in reducing refrigerant emissions and transitioning to environmentally-friendlier refrigerants.

Cook County Whole Foods Co-op strives to fulfil its goal of being a leader in environmentally sustainable practices in multiple ways: green refrigeration operation and maintenance practices, triple-glazed windows, more insulation than required by code, energy-efficient lighting, a system that recovers heat from refrigeration to heat water and the building, and solar panels. As a result of these practices, Grand Marais continues to be a more environmentally-friendly place. The Co-op wants customers and owners to be proud of the fact that it actively does its best to protect the environment.

EPA's GreenChill Partnership works with supermarkets to reduce refrigerant emissions and decrease their environmental impacts. The Partnership helps supermarkets transition to environmentally-friendlier refrigerants; reduce harmful refrigerant emissions; and adopt greener refrigeration technologies and environmental best practices. There are more than 12,600 GreenChill Partner stores throughout the nation.



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