How to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint at Home this Winter



(StatePoint) When temperatures drop, household use of fossil fuels rises in order to keep homes warm and comfortable. But it doesn't have to be that way.

In fact, more than one million households nationwide already heat with biomass pellet stoves rather than burn more expensive and damaging fossil fuels like oil - and such stoves can even be retrofitted into existing fireplaces as an insert.

If you're not familiar with pellet products, here's what you need to know:

What's a Pellet Stove? Pellet stoves burn uniform cylinders of composite biomass fuel to create a steady, warming fire. Pellets are loaded into the stove hopper and automatically fed into the stove burn pot.

Pellet composition varies depending on regional resources, but is typically comprised of a mix of sawdust, waste paper, residual forest waste and agricultural by-products.

How They Help

Pellet stoves are great for the environment and your wallet in many ways. A few include:

- Pellet stoves are already saving 4.5 million tons of carbon emissions, according to the Pellet Fuels Institute.
- Each installation of a pellet or wood appliance in a single-family home in a cool climate can displace between four and seven tons of carbon emissions annually, estimates the Alliance for Green Heat – about three

hybrid car, for roughly half the cost.

- Biomass fuels are constantly replenished and reforested and absorb nearly as much carbon growing as they give off when burned. The result is a virtually invisible carbon footprint.
- Pellet stoves cost 64 percent less to operate than heating your home with oil, 47 percent less than propane and 54 percent less than electrical heat. For those thinking long-term, this represents a two to five year payback.

What to Know

Pellet stoves are available both as a freestanding appliance or an insert in an existing fireplace, making most homes a candidate for source.

New models are environmentally responsible and also easily fit into busy lifestyles. The Harman Absolute43 features an intuitive Easy Touch Control that tells you when to add fuel, perform maintenance, and much more, making heating with pellets easier than ever. To learn more about heating your home with renewable materials, visit www.harmanstoves.com.

To reduce your home's carbon footprint, look to heating alternatives that burn renewable materials rather than precious fossils fuels. With a pellet or woodburning stove, you will be able to lower your utility budget while adding ambiance to your living spaces.



ment of Education Team Nutrition Program are cooperating to provide an interactive curriculum to teach South Dakota's Kindergarten thru fourth-grade students about the five food groups which make up the USDA's Choose MyPlate food

"We're also using this opportunity to explain how the foods from each group are produced," said Karlys Wells, SDSU Extension Family Nutrition Program/Team Nutrition.

Developed by SDSU Extension with Team Nutrition funds, Wells explains that the Farmers Grow MyPlate Curriculum provides school and outside of school time programs with an interactive and unique opportunity to teach students how to eat a healthy, balanced diet while exploring the steps of how those foods are produced.

"For example, in the vegetable lesson, children learn about vegetable subgroups and how to properly read the nutrition label facts located on frozen and canned vegetable packages. But this lesson also provides children with an opportunity to help prepare 'Cowboy Salad,' a salsa-like salad that contains a variety of different colorful and nutritious vegetables that the children will get to chop and prepare themselves with the help of a supervisor," Wells said.
Apply for a \$600 Sub Grant Today

A grant from USDA's Team Nutrition, through the S.D. Department of Education Child & Adult Nutrition Services, funded the development and supported the materials needed

for implementation of the Farmers Grow MyPlate Curriculum.
Those qualifying agencies who wish to implement the Farmers Grow MyPlate Curriculum can apply for a \$600 subgrant from South Dakota Team Nutrition.

"The sub-grant will pay for field trip transportation, food for lessons and staff time beyond the normal work day," Wells

The program also provides print copies of the curriculum, all appropriate visuals, and a toolkit of supplies for food preparation and crafts.

Applications can be completed now for the implementation period, beginning January 1, 2016 through August 30, 2016 and will be accepted until all available funds are commit-



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'03 Sunflower 1434 Disc 26' Harrow, All New Blades	\$41,500		
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