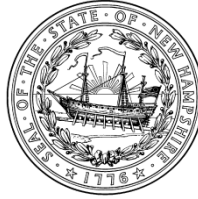


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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10  
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

TDD Access: Relay NH  
1-800-735-2964

Tel. (603) 271-2431

FAX No. 271-3878

Website:  
[www.puc.nh.gov](http://www.puc.nh.gov)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 21, 2016

Contact: Amanda Noonan, Director  
Consumer Services and External Affairs  
Public Utilities Commission  
(603) 271-2431

### **Public Utilities Commission Approves Increased Incentive for Residential Bulk Fuel-fed Wood Pellet Furnace and Boiler Incentive Program**

**Concord, N.H.** New Hampshire homeowners and businesses interested in installing high-efficiency wood pellet central boilers and furnaces will now be eligible to receive a little extra help. Two recent orders issued by the NH Public Utilities Commission increase the incentive level of the Commission's residential bulk fuel-fed wood pellet furnace and boiler incentive program to 40% of the total heating system and installation costs up to \$10,000. The incentive level for the commercial and industrial bulk fuel-fed wood pellet central heating system incentive program will also increase to 40% of total heating system and installation costs up to \$65,000. The prior incentive levels were 30% of system and installation costs up to \$6,000 for residential customers and 30% of total heating system and installation costs up to \$50,000 for commercial and industrial customers. The Commission also tightened the standard for emissions of particulate matter for eligible systems for both programs, lowering it from 0.32 pounds per MMBtu to 0.10 pounds per MMBtu.

The residential and commercial programs are funded through the Renewable Energy Fund established under state law and promote the use of renewable wood heat through the use of high efficiency wood pellet boilers and furnaces. The residential program has provided incentives to more than 294 homeowners since it began in April 2010 while more than 43 New Hampshire businesses have received incentives from the commercial program since that program began in 2013.

“Promoting a renewable energy heating option through the wood pellet furnace and boiler incentive programs helps New Hampshire residents and businesses looking for an affordable and efficient, renewable energy heating source and also supports the state’s forest-based economy,” noted Karen Cramton, Director of the Commission’s Sustainable Energy Division. The recommendation to increase the incentive level provided through the two programs was prompted by the recent decline in heating oil prices and the wood pellet industry market conditions. There will be an annual review of the programs going forward to determine if further adjustments and modifications are appropriate based on heating oil market conditions and the market for wood pellets.

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