



525 N. 1st Street
Lakeview, OR 97630



513 Center Street
Lakeview, OR 97630

December 11, 2012

Dear Lakeview Area Resident:

The Lakeview Town Council and the Lake County Board of Commission want to take this opportunity to update you on the current situation with regards to our air quality challenge in the Lakeview area. We also would like to ask for your help this winter to possibly keep the community under the threshold that would trigger a mandatory compliance/regulatory approach to meeting National Air Quality Standards we would all like to avoid.

As a user of a wood-burning appliance to provide at least some amount of your heat requirement, we are asking you to be especially aware of weather conditions and the daily air quality advisory information. The advisory is available by calling the **Air Quality Hotline at 541-947-5800**, on the website at **www.lakevieworegon.org**, follow us on **Facebook** or request to be added to the daily email or text.

When weather systems move through the area, there is very little need to curtail wood use, but when the air movement is near zero and the air is cold, an inversion exists which traps the smoke, and the particles within the smoke, near the ground level. Those particles are the problem and cause problems for people who have breathing challenges such as asthma, COPD, allergies and other health problems.

So please use alternative heating sources, if you have them available, especially during these challenging periods. Inversions usually don't last more than a few days and these are the times when the air quality exceeds the standard allowance.

We could bore you with numbers and statistics but we hope you accept our assessment. Our community sometimes does not stay under the standard and we have to find a way to do that **voluntarily**. If we don't meet the standard, we will be required to impose mandatory restrictions, including substantial penalties for violations, in the future. Those restrictions will make it nearly impossible for businesses that need to have State or Federal Air Quality Discharge Permits, to expand or locate in our area. We have businesses now that will be affected. That means our economy will be impacted not to mention our health if we do not comply.

Some thoughts about how you can help:

1. Burn dry wood. Cover your wood stack. Bring some wood inside to have to use when we have the inversions.
2. Read the instructions for your wood stove. The new certified appliances are efficient only when they are used according to the instructions. Many of us have been burning wood for years and really think we know how to build a fire! The new stoves require a different technique. Please learn how to best utilize your wood stove for maximum efficiency.
3. Do not burn anything other than clean, dry wood in your stove. It is against the law to burn garbage!
4. Check the Air Quality Hotline whenever there is a doubt about the conditions.
5. Observe the outdoor burning restrictions. Outdoor burning in the Lakeview Urban Growth Boundary, UGB, basically Hunters on the north to Redi-mix on the south and the foothill to the east and Roberta Avenue west. Open and outdoor burning including burn barrels is prohibited during November, December, January and February. Outside of Town but in the UGB, burning can be conducted **with a permit by calling the Fire Department, 541-947-2504, on a green day.**

We know that many citizens who burn wood, do so because they "like the feel of it", it may be inexpensive and it is available and natural. But as a community, the Lakeview area is at the point where we have to become more aware of this air quality issue because of the potential impact on our economy. We hope that people in the Lakeview area also agree that, in the long run, our health, whether our own, our family or our neighbors is the most important reason why we should care enough to contribute to the solution. In the future, you don't have to give up your wood heat, but you may want to consider having an adequate alternative for those cold, clear days that are our problem times.

Finally, there are various programs to assist property owners to make changes to their heating systems and structures including businesses. We have included a reference guide to some of them.

Thank you for taking time to read and consider this information.



Mike Patrick, Mayor
Town of Lakeview



Sandy Wenzel, Councilor
Town of Lakeview



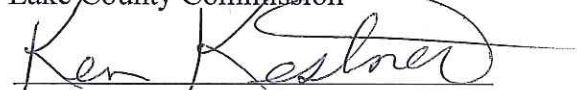
Sharon Faulkner, Councilor
Town of Lakeview



Mike Warren, Councilor
Town of Lakeview



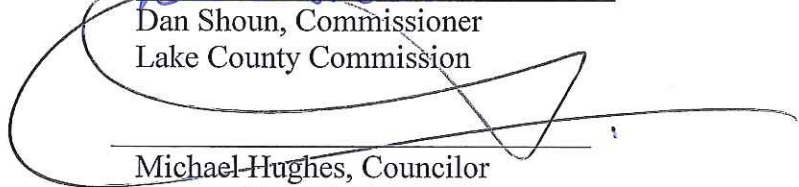
Brad Winters, Chair
Lake County Commission



Ken Kestner, Commissioner
Lake County Commission



Dan Shoun, Commissioner
Lake County Commission



Michael Hughes, Councilor
Town of Lakeview

AIR QUALITY RESOURCES

1. Town of Lakeview www.lakevieworegon.org 541-947-4957
2. Air Quality Hotline 541-947-5800
3. Lake County Commissioners 541-947-6003
4. South Central Oregon Economic Development District 541-884-5593
5. SCOEDD, Lakeview Office 541-947-6013
6. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
7. The official Lakeview Oregon page on Facebook

Various resources are available. They vary from air quality advisory information, loans and grant for wood stove change outs, learn to burn information and information about health and economic impacts to our community.

You can be added to a daily email or text