



Fairbanks North Star Borough

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FNSB Works to Implement the Home Heating Reclamation Act

Fairbanks, AK – Mayor Karl Kassel is working closely with Borough staff to review the Air Quality program operations and what can be done to improve air quality within the confines of the voters' will as expressed in the recent election. Proposition 4, the Home Heating Reclamation Act, removes the Borough's ability to regulate, prohibit, curtail, ban, or issue fines or fees associated with, the sale, distribution, installation or operation of solid fuel heating appliances or any type of combustible fuels. The Act becomes effective upon certification of the election, which is anticipated to be on October 25.

"The issue is complicated and no decisions have been made regarding changes to the Air Quality program operations," Mayor Kassel said. "There are a number of details that need to be worked out. Those decisions need to be coordinated with our partners, including the Assembly, DEC, and the EPA." Meetings are scheduled with EPA and DEC officials later this month.

Borough staff has been discussing options and impacts to various programs, such as the Wood Stove Change Out Program, which was put on hold Wednesday October 3. Mayor Kassel said, "Our hope is to continue the Wood Stove Change Out Program, but we need to ensure compliance with the federal funding requirements and Proposition 4."

Due to the Borough's inability to administer a curtailment program, applications are no longer being accepted for No Adequate Sources of Heat (NOASH) or Stage 1 waivers. The "sniffer vehicles" will still be used to gather data regarding air quality throughout the nonattainment area. "Our intention is to gather data to support the Borough's position that the Air Quality Control Zone does not need to be expanded. The only way to do that is with more data," Kassel said.

More information will be shared with the public when it becomes available.