



# Eligible Biomass Heating Systems For PowerSaver Loans

**Biomass heating systems** are fueled by pellets of sawdust, wood products, and other biomass materials pressed into manageable shapes and sizes. These systems are furnaces, boilers, and wood or pellet burning stoves, and may be financed by FHA PowerSaver Loans when they meet FHA's requirements as follows:

1. The system must include a bulk fill system that would provide continuous heat without human intervention for 2 weeks (estimated at 1 ton pellet capacity), or have a permanently installed back-up heating system (electric, oil, natural gas) that provides continuous heat to the home if the biomass heating system runs out of pellets, **and**
2. The new system or existing back-up system (when one exists) must provide heat in areas of plumbing, which will maintain the temperature of at least 50 degrees Fahrenheit for an extended period of time (2 weeks or longer) without human intervention, **and**
3. Meet applicable Federal, state, and local requirements, including but not limited to emissions limits, nuisance limits, and siting limits, **and**
4. The property appraisal (if required by the PowerSaver program) must reflect that the heating system has market acceptance within the subject's marketplace, **and**
5. The system relies upon a fuel source which is readily obtainable within the subject's geographic area.

## **Biomass Furnaces or Boilers**

To meet PowerSaver energy efficient standards, biomass furnaces or boilers must be:

1. Listed as a White Tag pellet model on EPA's List of Qualified Cleaner Hydronic Heaters at <http://www.epa.gov/burnwise/owhlist.html>. This ensures that these heaters have been tested by an EPA accredited laboratory using test method M28 WHH \*, and reviewed and qualified by EPA, **or**
2. A European biomass boiler that has been certified under EN 303-5 1999, Class 3\*, or higher, as evidence by the European certifying agency's compliance label attached to the unit, **and**

*\*Note: Efficiencies calculated using European method EN 303-5 test method are not comparable to EPA's M28 WHH efficiencies. EN 303-5 calculates efficiencies based on maximum outputs whereas M28 WHH represents the efficiency of a boiler over the entire heating year. HUD reserves the right to revise the eligibility of all biomass heating types, or modify the minimum standards to newer standards, based on its consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, and others.*

3. Installed according to the manufacturer's recommendations including but not limited to chimney height, proximity to other structures, sizing, and proper thermal storage. This applies to both White Tag and EN 303-5 boilers, **and**

4. Aligned with EPA requirements for a certification of the destruction of the old wood-burning hydronic heater when the new hydronic heater will replace an existing hydronic heater that does not meet standards described in the all bullets above.

Note: HUD does not require destruction when existing unit will be kept to provide back-up heat in order to maintain home heat at minimum 50 degrees Fahrenheit for an extended period of time.

## **Wood and Pellet Burning Stoves**

PowerSaver Loans may also be used to finance new wood and pellet burning stoves that are installed with a dedicated outside combustion air intake; **and**:

1. Are listed in the United States Department of Environmental Protection Agency List of EPA Certified Wood Stoves **or**

2. Are listed in the Oregon List of Qualifying Wood Stoves or the Oregon List of Qualifying Pellet Stoves by the Oregon Department of Energy, **or**

3. Have a certificate of performance from a currently US EPA certified wood stove testing laboratory. The certificate must show all of the following:

A non-catalytic wood stove with emissions of 4.5 grams of smoke per hour or less; **or**

A catalytic wood or pellet stove with emissions of 2.5 grams of smoke per hour or less, **and**

All stoves must be installed with dedicated outside combustion air intake. The outside combustion air requirement may be satisfied with one of the following options:

- Duct directly connected to the stove (preferred)
- Duct terminates at the hearth with barometric or manual damper
- Duct with barometric damper within the room

4. For all stoves, the stove and damper installation must be in compliance with building code requirements.

5. Homeowners financing new wood or pellet burning stoves are required to have a permanently installed back-up heating system (electric, oil, natural gas, or biomass heating system that meets PowerSaver requirements listed above.)

*Note: Though not required, the Department recommends that wood or pellet burning stoves be installed by a Chimney Safety Institute of America (CSIA) or National Fireplace Institute (NFI) certified installer, who offer professional installation and service and can assure a safe and compliant installation.*

**For more information, please call 434-964-2001 Ext. 6813.**

**To apply for a PowerSaver Loan, call 434-964-2001 Option 3 or apply online at [uvacreditunion.org](http://uvacreditunion.org).**

This credit union is an Equal Housing Opportunity Lender.