

Induction Cooktop Loaner Program

Loaning induction cooktops to individuals helps persuade them of the benefits of this alternative to gas cooktops.



The Impact

Converting to an induction cooktop is an easy change for individuals to make in their households to improve their home's energy efficiency and local air quality. Induction cooktops are electric ranges that use magnetic coils to heat a ceramic glass surface. Induction cooktops are safer to use than gas cooktops due to a lower fire risk and significant reduction to indoor air pollution. They heat up faster than conventional gas burners and are easier to clean.

Where It's Been Implemented

The Cities of Burlingame and San Carlos, Calif., have Induction Cooktop Loaner Programs. The City of Burlingame loans residents an induction cooktop and a compatible frying pan for up to two weeks at no charge. (As a result of the magnet-heating mechanism, induction cooktops only work with metal cookware.) The City of San Jose offers a similar program, allowing residents to check out an induction cooktop and cookware for up to two weeks. Acterra, a nonprofit based in Palo Alto, offers plant-based induction cooking classes along with its loaner program.

Sunnyvale's Environmental Services Department and Library provide a more extensive loaner program, offering residents kits that include an induction cooktop, frying pan, silicone spoon and slotted spatula and cookbook.

Description

Induction cooktop loaner programs allow residents to test out a cleaner, more efficient cooking method and convince many of them of the benefits. Typically, induction cooktops range in cost from \$500 to \$3,000. Loaner sets that include a portable induction cooktop, a compatible frying pan, a magnet and a cover cost around \$260 dollars. (The magnet helps people determine if their cookware is

compatible with the cooktop.) Loaner programs can serve as an important opportunity for individuals to test the cooktop's efficiency prior to purchasing an induction cooktop.

Key Drivers

Induction cooktops are more energy efficient, safer and cleaner than conventional gas cooking systems. A Stanford-led study published in January 2022 revealed that the methane leaking from natural-gas burning stoves inside U.S. homes has a climate impact comparable to the carbon dioxide emissions from about 500,000 gasoline-powered cars. Induction cooktops are also easier to clean. Since heating only occurs when the cookware is on the cooktop, induction cooktops significantly reduce the risk of fire and burns, which are more likely with open flame burners. Key Factors for Success

Induction cooktop loaner programs need to be supported by an organizing entity such as a library, individual or other sponsoring organization. When creating an induction cooktop loaner program, it is important to designate someone who is responsible for acquiring the induction cooktops, tracking who borrows them and cleaning them. It is also important to garner interest for the program through city newsletters and various social media platforms such as Nextdoor.

Key Obstacles

It is important to ensure that there is (1) a committed individual to sustain the program and (2) a liability waiver. Liability waivers should encompass possible safety hazards from handling the cooking equipment. A sample waiver from Acterra is attached in the References and Resources section.

Timeline to Implementation

To implement an induction cooktop loaner program, it's important to determine who is organizing the program (individual, library or organization). Then, the organizer should purchase the equipment and publicize the program. Organizers are encouraged to invite borrowers to fill out a survey following the use of the cooktop to gauge the effectiveness of the program.

References and Resources

- Debbie Mytels, Co-Chair of Outreach Committee, Fossil Free Buildings for Silicon Valley, debbie.mytels@gmail.com, (650) 759-0888
- [Sample Waiver from Acterra](#)
- [Ecology Center's Induction Cooktop Fact Sheet](#)
- [Induction vs. Gas Cookoff Video by architectural firm Gould Evans](#)
- [Burlingame Induction Cooktop Loaner Program](#)
- [Acterra Plant-Based Induction Cooking Program](#)
- [San Jose Induction Cooktop Check-Out Program](#)
- [Energy Star 2021-2022 Induction Cooking Tops Info Page](#)
- [Induction Technology Article from Forbes](#)
- [Climate Impact of Gas Stoves Study from Stanford](#)

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