

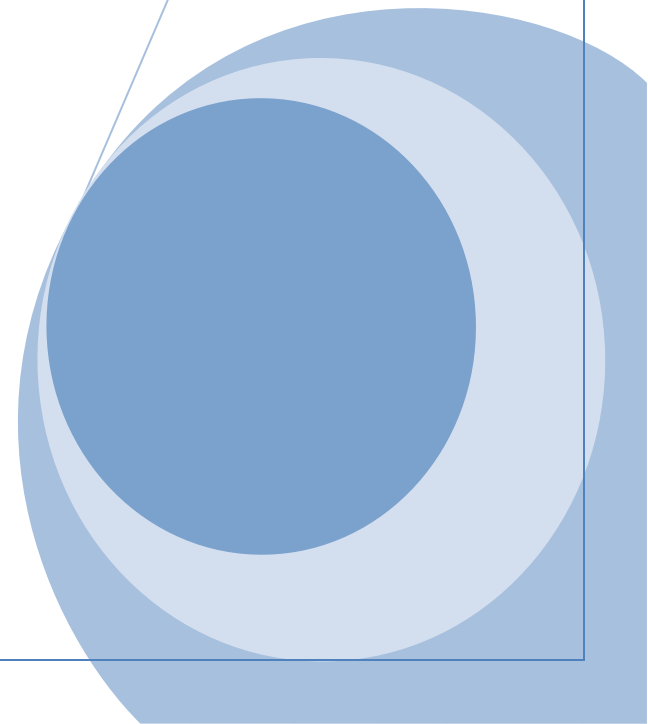
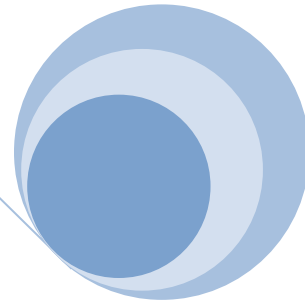
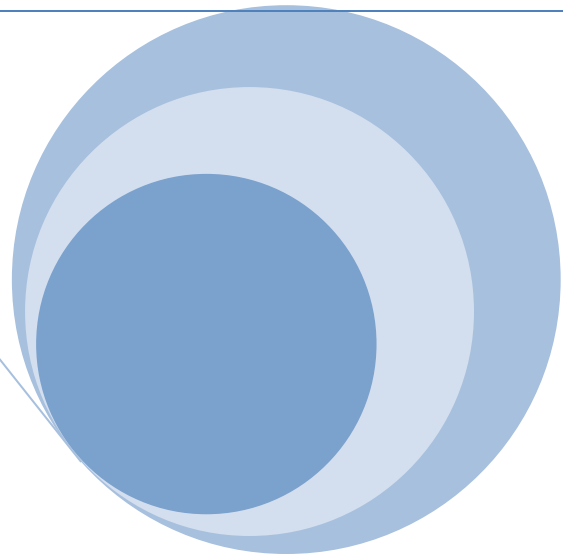
# **The Wood Smoke Activist**

**February 2011 Newsletter**

**Educating the world about the health and climate impacts of wood smoke and combustion aerosols.**

**Editor: Shirley Brandie**

**1/2/2011**



# *The Wood Smoke Activist*

WOOD SMOKE ISSUES

Volume 3, Issue 2  
February, 2011

Editor: [Shirley Brandie](#)

## *Fighting Wood Smoke Pollution from the Grassroots to Government Level*

Welcome!

I hope that this newsletter will give you the information and inspiration you need. Regain clean air to breathe and eliminate the wood burning that is affecting your health and your home environment.

Please pass this issue on to others in need of help and suggest that they send an email to [s.brandie@sympatico.ca](mailto:s.brandie@sympatico.ca) to be added to the mailing list.

### Mission Statement

Our mission is to educate public officials, government and all citizens about wood smoke as a major form of hazardous air pollution that affects our health, use of our property, water, crops, livestock, the environment and climate change. We urge citizens everywhere to press for legislative changes to call wood smoke a public nuisance under state health codes and to ban all wood burning.”



## Who is Dirty Aviston?

Dirty Aviston was raised in Clinton County Illinois; he attended elementary and high school in Clinton County. Dirty Aviston graduated high school half-year early because he had enlisted in the United States Air Force (USAF). When Dirty Aviston's high school class was graduating high school, he was being sworn-in as a USAF Security Policeman at the age of 17. For the next 23+ years, Dirty Aviston was deployed around the world defending this great country of ours and defending freedom. Little did he know his individual freedom and rights would be violated when he moved back to Clinton County, Illinois.

Dirty Aviston returned to Clinton County, Illinois. Upon his return, he was sworn in as a police officer and continues to serve his country in another capacity. This is when/where Dirty Aviston first encountered an Outdoor Wood Boiler (OWB) also known as an Outdoor Wood Furnace (OWF).

Dirty Aviston is now a Disabled Veteran who has to use a breathing machine on a daily basis due to his Service Connected Disability. This OWB's/OWF's toxic smoke is a nuisance, it damages his property, it prevents him from enjoying his property, it prevents him from using his prescribed breathing machine as it was prescribed, and it has a negative impact on his health and the health of his family...[Click here for the rest of the story...](#)

# Air pollution

Excerpted from: [The Canadian Cancer Society's Web Site](#)

Air pollution has been linked to a number of negative health effects. It makes existing lung disease and heart problems worse and it increases the number of lung cancer deaths.

Major sources of outdoor air pollution include:

- gasoline engine exhaust
- diesel engine exhaust
- airborne emissions from industrial plants
- emissions from residential heating
- natural events such as forest fires

Air inside your home can also contain pollution.

Major sources of indoor air pollution include:

- second hand smoke
- radon
- indoor burning of coal or wood

# Africa's health up in smoke

## Excerpted from: Mail & Guardian

Household smoke will be the leading cause of premature death by 2030 if sub-Saharan governments do not create far greater access to electricity than is embodied in their current policies.

Household air pollution already kills more people than malaria and TB in sub-Saharan Africa and in 20 years it will kill more people than HIV/Aids, said Gisela Prasad of the University of Cape Town's Energy Research Centre.

She was speaking at the African Science Academy Development Initiative's (Asadi's) sixth annual conference in Somerset West in the Western Cape last week.

The Academy of Science of South Africa (Assaf) and science academies from Cameroon, Nigeria, Uganda, Ghana, Senegal and Kenya comprise Asadi, which was launched in 2004 to strengthen African academies.

"The killer in the kitchen will produce the greatest number of deaths in the future. We have to do something," she told the *Mail & Guardian* during the conference, which focused on access to energy.

Access to energy for cooking is dismal in many countries in the region and even more so for poorer people who cannot afford electricity, Prasad said.

People opt for "biomass", that is, renewable resources such as wood, waste, hydrogen gas and alcohol fuels, because it is cheaper and, in some cases, free.

"More than 50% of rural South Africans still use biomass and they don't know how dangerous it is," Prasad said.

Government should urgently provide rural dwellers with safe cooking stoves that cost about R175 each. "Less smoke escapes compared with open fires and this can save many lives," she said.

## Burning wood may do more harm than good

Excerpted from: [Tree Hugger](#)



*Image credit: Dan Pfiffer*

Of all the sources of renewable energy, one type invariably dredges up more debate than any other—biomass. Granted, the term biomass does cover a lot of topics and a lot of different controversies—from food versus fuel to the unintended consequences of anaerobic digestion. But perhaps the most enduring of all the biomass conundrums is this one—to burn wood or not to burn wood. Now Rob Hopkins, founder of the Transition Movement, is igniting the debate once more. And he's rethinking the installation of a stove at his house.

This isn't a new topic here on TreeHugger. Daniel has already written about one study claiming that burning biomass may be worse than coal (although this was hotly disputed by the biomass energy industry), and John has written about the astounding amount of wood it takes to heat a home. But in general it's long been somewhat assumed by most greens that burning wood to heat your home, as long as you do it efficiently, has got to be greener than using fossil fuels. After all, trees are only releasing the carbon that they absorb when they grow—so the net input of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere is negligible. Right?

## Thanks to store staff, customers

Excerpted from: [Coquitlam NOW](#)

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the staff of Cooper's Foods on Port Coquitlam's north side for their help in the late afternoon of Nov. 16, as I suffered an allergic attack.

I came in contact with wood smoke on my way from the car to the store and, while in the store, second-hand smoke from someone's cigarette was drifting into the premises every time the door opened.

This much exposure to these toxic chemicals was too much for my system to handle, and I suffered a seizure while at the checkout counter.

The cashier was most helpful, and so were other staff members. Also, customers waiting in line were very kind to us, as their checkout was delayed.

People's kindness and concerns were very much appreciated, and we would like for everyone to know that I am alright again.

It is just that I have become hypersensitive to wood smoke and its chemical compounds.

These do not differ much from second-hand tobacco smoke, and coming in contact with both of them simultaneously caused such a severe reaction.

Again, my husband and I would like to express our sincere gratitude for the help received.

Brie Oishi

Port Coquitlam

## What is a Neighbour? By Cindy Moyer

According to Oxford's Online Dictionary, a neighbour is defined as:

- A person living next door to or very near to the speaker or person referred to;
- A person or place in relation to others next or near to it;
- Any person in need of one's help or kindness (after biblical use).

While most people are familiar with the concept of the first two definitions for the word *neighbour*, how many can say that they regularly define it as the last? Could it be because we, as society, tend to associate words in the tangible form rather than the intangible?

What if Oxford and other dictionaries reversed the order of these definitions so that the last definition was the first, or erased the first two definitions altogether so that the only term for 'neighbour' was defined as anyone who responded to need in kind? I can't help but wonder what kind of a world we would live in if we viewed everyone as a neighbour. Have we lost the true meaning and understanding of the word, *neighbour*?

As global population grows and urbanization expands, we are sure to see an increase in neighbour disputes until such time that there is a shift in conventional wisdom; when we realize that we're all in this thing called 'life' *together*.

I would like to think that most people would come to the aid of someone who was suffering and likewise show kindness in a time of need. Unfortunately I am also a realist and know that there exist individuals who put their own interests and desires ahead of others.

In almost every faith, the word neighbour is defined by goodness (helpful and kind) and to have virtue we must first have honour and integrity – to do that which is right, regardless of accountability as well as to possess the principals of respect for all human life and nature. If these are the true definitions of what it means to be a neighbour then why is it that these concepts are not widely practiced?

If I knew that I was the cause of another person's pain and suffering I would hope that I would immediately discontinue because I cannot imagine any personal priorities that would justify intentionally harming another. Neighbour disagreements such as their leaves blow onto the yard or noisy kids are trivial compared to *real harm* – illness, pain and suffering.

It would be prudent therefore, if one wishes to be deemed *a neighbour*, to occasionally self-assess: if the need arose in my community would I respond with kindness and offer assistance? Are my actions or inactions causing harm to anyone? Hopefully we would all answer 'yes' to the first question and 'no' to the second. If not, we should be undertaking some serious self-reflection; to learn how to become a neighbour and not just the person that lives next door or across the street. We must also remember that complacency is consent and we should all strive to live *in honour*.

To call or be called 'a neighbour' should be a privilege, a title earned through good deed and intention. Too often we assign the term to those less deserving. In the interim, those who are faced with "offenders from the next door" will continue to suffer in not so much silence and hopefully soon, their collective voices will be heard.

**Cindy Moyer is a writer, living and working in Southern Ontario.**

## Stop Burning Wood

Article by: Vic Steblin

Prince George needs to stop burning wood to improve its air quality. I also doubt the so-called wisdom of the forestry experts and believe that more of us need to change our attitude about wood.

The recent Citizen article about Prince George topping BC with the worst fine particulate pollution is no surprise. Tour any subdivision and you see many stacks of wood, ready for their lethal dose. The best stoves still fill the air with fine particulate and only a decent wind helps.

Our city leaders should have banned wood burning long ago, but too many don't care. Put on a sweater, get active, turn down your central heating and stop burning wood. Even all the cigarette smokers can't match a few wood burners.

A tour of any forest shows that wood should be left to rot into soil. One can see moss-covered stumps and logs crumbling. Why would any expert say that we should burn? What is the rush? Leave all the mess and if a fire starts then deal with it! There should be no slash burning at all! What's the point of having a job that gives lung disease?

Get off the biomass burning bandwagon. Only a few people have considered the health consequences of fine particulate. Throw your wood pile back into the bush and take a deep breath of fresh air.

**Vic Steblin** [vsteblin@sd57.bc.ca](mailto:vsteblin@sd57.bc.ca)

**BSc Honours Math, MA Math Education from UBC**

**Currently teaching math in a secondary school in Prince George, B.C.**

# City banning the wrong smoke

Excerpted from [Ladysmith Chronicle](#)

It was no surprise when the annual Cowichan Valley light up started last Friday. Following a notice sent to my phone, I watched as the sky slowly filled to its familiar haze. In fact, one of my neighbours celebrates the first day of light up by lighting his wet leaf pile to share the smoke with my children gallivanting in their own back yard.

As I hustle my children indoors on the lovely autumn day, I am struck by the fact that Duncan council has spent so much energy on this politically correct bylaw to try and ban cigarette smoking downtown, but are seemingly oblivious to the billowing of wood smoke.

I very easily keep my children away from cigarette smoke; however, I find it rather difficult to shelter them from the smog that all the open burning creates over our lovely valley.

I am sure it is much more politically correct to try and ban smoking. I have born witness to the wall anti-open burning campaigners come up against with the city.

It is a shame that the easy way seems to be taken when it comes to banning the correct light up.

A. Richards

North Cowichan

# Is state being burned by woodstoves?

Excerpted from: [The Daily Democrat](#)

By DEBORAH SCHOCH/Center for Health Reporting



Clean air officials in Northern California were startled earlier this year to learn that a county just 200 miles north in Oregon has landed \$900,000 in federal stimulus money so that residents can trade in their old, smoky wood-burning stoves for cleaner models.

But no such stimulus money is flowing to anywhere in California suffering from wintertime air pollution from wood-burning stoves and fireplaces, which is odd considering the recent spell of cold weather.

In March, Chico area officials could scrape together only \$20,000 for change-out vouchers, and some residents had to wait in a parking lot overnight to nab them.



An old-style wood stove burns providing heat and pollution to the environment. Federal stimulus money is being used to help get rid of old wood-burning stoves in Oregon, but not California. (Ty Barbour/MediaNews Group)  
cars, diesel-burning trucks, second-hand smoke and now greenhouse gases -- lags behind some other West Coast states when it comes to a statewide approach to combat air pollution caused by residential wood smoke.

In Oregon, for instance, clean air and energy officials teamed up to pursue and win \$2 million to help wood-burning residents buy modern, less polluting stoves, including some that burn wood pellets instead of logs.

In California, however, the state Energy Commission has no plans to use any of its own \$314.5 million in stimulus funds to aid people seeking cleaner stoves, which can cost as much as \$3,000 when installed. Instead, its money will go to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy and jobs, a spokeswoman said.

Some of that money paid for the \$35.2 million "Cash for Appliances" trade-out program for refrigerators, clothes washers and air conditioners that drew media attention because so few people have applied.

"Give it to me. I could spend it right now," said Gail Williams, a Butte County air quality planner who needed more stove vouchers to offer Chico area residents. That would create work for installation crews, construction workers and even chimney sweeps, she said.

"Give us the money, CEC. This is an energy-efficient, job-producing project," Williams said.

But the commission has no plans to finance wood stove trade-outs.

"We don't consider wood and pellets an energy source," said commission spokeswoman Michele Demetras. "It is not within our purview."

Nor is residential smoke a direct responsibility of the state's Air Resources Board. The state has largely delegated the wood smoke problem to its 35 air districts, including rural areas in Northern California where tens of thousands of people rely on wood fuel for some or all of their heat.

The state air board deals largely with sources of air pollution that moves -- such as cars, trucks and train engines -- while the local districts handle so-called "stationery sources" such as wood-burning stoves.

Oregon, in contrast, led the nation in 1984 with its stove certification program, a precursor to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's national program. Its legislature recently passed a law requiring non-certified wood stoves to be removed from homes when they are sold.

Lynn Terry, the California board's deputy executive director, responded in a written statement when asked why states like Oregon have taken the lead on stove smoke issues.

"Most other states have only state-level air agencies. California is different," the statement said. "State law divides authority between local air agencies and the state Air Resources Board. Regulating residential smoke is a local program."

Scores of recent studies have concluded that tiny particles in wood smoke are harmful to human health, worsening breathing problems, speeding up heart rate, provoking blood clots and even causing heart attacks and strokes. The smoke also contains chemicals known to cause cancer.

"I'm convinced that it causes potentially serious health effects in some people, particularly asthmatics," said Dr. Michael Lipsett, chief of the environmental health investigations Branch at the state Department of Public Health.

Some activists believe California should classify wood smoke a "toxic air contaminant" just as it does second-hand smoke.

"The exposures to wood stove pollution can be so much more concentrated in localized situations," said Jenny Bard, regional air quality director for the American Lung Assn. in Northern California.

Meanwhile, local districts ramped up efforts to curb residential smoke after EPA tightened its rules for particle pollution in 2006. Now, a statewide review by the Chico Enterprise-Record shows that 17 of the state's 35 districts have enacted some kind of wood-burning rules.

Fireplaces used for aesthetics far outnumber wood-burning stoves in metropolitan Los Angeles and the Bay Area.

For instance, an estimated 1.4 million fireplaces -- and only 39,500 wood stoves -- can be found in the giant district encompassing Orange County and the urban parts of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, said Sam Atwood, spokesman for the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Owners of those fireplaces and stoves face a projected 10 to 25 mandatory no-burn days annually starting as the district tries to reduce particle pollution.

Already, the district has spent \$616,000 in \$125 incentives to retrofit more than 6,000 wood-burning fireplaces with gas logs.

Cooler temperatures in the Bay Area foster more wood-burning, historically accounting for one-third of particulate pollution in winter months.

So its sprawling nine-county air district launched mandatory no-burn days in 2008, targeting an estimated 1.4 million fireplaces. The district set aside \$500,000 to help residents switch to gas logs, but only \$251,600 has been spent so far on 545 change-outs.

The air districts covering the San Joaquin Valley and Sacramento have also adopted mandatory no-burn days. But a number of rural districts have steered away from such rules, especially in colder northern areas where wood is abundant and many residents can't afford new, cleaner-burning stoves.

*-- Deborah Schoch is a reporter for The California HealthCare Foundation Center for Health Reporting, an independent, nonpartisan news organization based at the Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism at the University of Southern California.*

# Neighbors Against the Burner

<http://www.neighborsagainsttheburner.org>

**Neighbors Against the Burner speaks with a community voice to protect the people and natural resources of Minnesota by supporting sustainable, safe, and clean energy production and rejecting unsafe, polluting, and outdated technologies such as incineration.**



**Burning garbage in any form is not good for your health!**

## **Bylaws & Bans**

**\*\*I am beginning to compile a list of municipalities that are acting on wood smoke emissions. Please [send me a link](#) to any that you find to be added to the list.\*\***

**Golden, B.C.-** passed a bylaw prohibiting the installation of any solid fuel burning appliance (Bylaw # 1150)

**Hampstead, Quebec** - banned all new installations of wood stoves and ordered existing wood stoves to be removed within 7 years. (Bylaw # 729-2)

**Montreal, Quebec (Apr. 29/2009)** - no further installation of any wood burning stoves or fireplaces

**Suffolk, New Jersey** - bans all OWBs within 1000 feet of another house

**Stillwater, Minnesota** - bans all wood burning or boiling stoves - existing and future (March 11, 2010)

**Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin** - bans all new outdoor wood furnaces and wood boilers

**Savage City, Minnesota** - prohibits outdoor wood boilers (OWBs)

**Burnsville, Minnesota** - banned OWBs December 2008

**New Prague, Minnesota** - total ban on OWBs

**Grand Forks, BC** - The bylaw states that “no person shall create a nuisance using a wood burning appliance in such a way as to disturb the health and comfort of two or more persons from separate dwellings.” Enforcement would be complaint driven and fines could be up to \$500.

**Houston, BC** requires uncertified appliances to be removed by 2010

**St. Thomas, ON** - prohibits the use of outdoor fireplaces including wood boilers and chimeneas

**Sarnia, ON** - has set stringent restrictions on setback distances for outdoor boiler operations from the nearest dwellings and property lines

**Nation, ON** - outdoor wood boiler specifications have been set which include minimum lot sizes, distance from property lines and distances from property buildings

**Elmira, New York** - Ban on smoke and other deleterious fumes that cross property lines onto the property of another. Fines are \$250 for a second offence or a jail term. Best ban in the country!

**Marion, Iowa** -prohibits new outdoor wood-burning boilers within city limits and to regulate existing setups. All existing boilers must be registered by Jan. 1; have smokestacks two feet higher than any residential roof within 300 feet of the system; and be removed when the property changes hands.

**Avon, Connecticut** -Following a public hearing Nov. 9, 2010, the Town Council voted to pass an ordinance prohibiting outdoor wood-burning furnaces.

**Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota** - Nov. 15, 2010 - council bans all OWBs. All OWBs must be removed from properties by Oct. 01, 2011.

**The State of Washington** has laws to address neighbor's wood smoke. According to the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, “generating excessive smoke is not only unneighborly, it’s illegal. Under state regulations, smoke from a person’s chimney cannot exceed 20 percent opacity for six consecutive minutes. Greater smoke densities could result in fines from air pollution control officials. It is always illegal to smoke out your neighbor. Everyone has a right to breathe clean air. If smoke from your fire is affecting your neighbors, it is considered a nuisance and subject to enforcement action.”

**Salmon Arm, B.C.** - No person shall install an Outdoor Solid-Fuel Combustion Appliance in or about any premises.

## Tasmania Rally to end forestry smoke November 2010



**Clive Stott**

Visit [Clean Air Tas](http://www.cleanairtas.com) to learn more about the effects that forestry burning has on the health of the residents and the environment.

## Pollution linked to sleep apnoea

Excerpted from: [The European Lung Foundation](#) 17/06/2010

New research has found a link between air pollution and sleep apnea.



Sleep apnoea is a condition that causes the airways to close during sleep. When people who suffer with the condition sleep, the muscles around their airways relax and the airway is not strong enough to stay open on its own. This causes the airway to temporarily close until they wake up slightly and start breathing again.

The new study, published in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, found that air pollution may influence sleep through effects on the central nervous system, as well as the upper airways. Furthermore, they found that sleep apnoea also rose during the summer as air pollution worsened.

These new data suggest that a reduction in air pollution exposure might decrease the severity of sleep apnoea and other sleep-disordered breathing.

For the full story, please go to:

<http://consumer.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=640140>

## **Women in this country need the EPA to enforce the Clean Air Act**

(Copy of letter sent to EPA - author's name removed)

EPA Office of Inspector General:

It is outrageous that Lisa Jackson was on Martha Stewart's television show yesterday (December 22, 2010) to promote protecting the health of women in developing countries from the hazards of smoke exposure from dirty, inefficient solid-fuel burning stoves while she refuses to protect the health of women in the United States from the hazards of smoke exposure from dirty, inefficient solid-fuel burning stoves. See:

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/prwebclean-cookstoves/martha-stewart/prweb4923294.htm> While this is a noble and important cause, the first priority of Lisa Jackson should be to protect the health of women in this country from the same hazards. What separates us from other countries is the rule of law to ensure public health protection. However, because the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has failed to enforce the law, women in this country need the help of organizations like the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves to combat the hazards of smoke exposure.

Under Lisa Jackson's administration of the EPA, 500,000 outdoor wood boilers go unregulated and are allowed to emit approximately 755,000 tons/year of PM2.5 and other hazardous air toxins into our air (<http://www.nescaum.org/documents/owbfactsheetfinal.pdf>). These outdoor wood boilers now produce more PM2.5 annually than power plants and industrial sources in the United States, according to EPA's own data (<http://www.epa.gov/air/emissions/pm.htm>).

These devices are unregulated under federal law because the EPA, under Lisa Jackson, has not updated the new source performance standards (NSPS) as required under the Clean Air Act to ensure that all solid-fuel burning devices meet clean-burning requirements and emission levels. This update was required over 10 years ago, and in spite of being repeatedly petitioned by states since 2005 to update the NSPS, the EPA still has not updated the NSPS.

Many women in this country have complained to EPA, and their states and local government about the health hazards of smoke from dirty stoves that they and their children are exposed to, but are told that there are no resources to enforce the law.

However, while Lisa Jackson is neglecting to enforce the law and protect public health in this country, she has the time and resources to go on a national, commercial television show to promote protecting the health of women in other countries. This is a noble cause, but Lisa Jackson's first priority is to enforce the law to protect the health of women in this country from smoke exposure.

The commercial interests in this country fight every attempt by states to regulate dirty wood stoves, as shown in the contentious outdoor wood boiler rule-writing efforts in New York State this past week (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/69348.html>). The women in this country need the EPA to enforce the Clean Air Act and comply with NSPS update requirements to protect their health. But, the executive in charge of the federal environmental protection agency, Lisa Jackson, allows these commercial interests to trump public health and environmental law. Instead, she uses her position and tax payer dollars to promote protecting public health in developing countries where there are no conflicts with commercial interests, but only the possibility to promote sales of cleaner stoves.

Shame on Lisa Jackson!



Please note that a **Wood Smoke Report Form** has been added for all countries to submit their wood smoke problems.

This is your opportunity to add to the growing list of people having problems with a neighbor's smoke emissions.

Click the above picture to go to the CCAA site.

# KITCHEN KORNER

## Holiday Meals for the Wood Burning Enthusiast

by Betty Croaker

Are you still cooking the Thanksgiving turkey in your oven? Even deep fried turkey is so last year! You already have the world's biggest smoker in your back yard, **why not cook a turkey in it?** "Free Heat Machine" Larry has a Thanksgiving recipe that will stick to your lungs and satisfy even the most particulate of palettes. So fire up that wood burner, and bring an appetite- I bet you can smell it already!

### "BLACK LUNG TURKEY" OUTDOOR WOOD BOILER RECIPE

1. Heat your OWB to 250 degrees. Fill with wet fire wood and bring to a low smolder.
  2. Add turkey. No need to unwrap, your OWB will burn off the plastic. Season to taste with any other garbage or household items you want to burn. (check local ordinances first!)
  3. Cook thoroughly until your neighbors are annoyed. Ignore them and keep burning. When you develop a persistent hacking cough, it's done!
- Serves 12 cavemen.

Visit YouTube and see "Free Heat Machine" Larry demonstrate his product by climbing into an actual outdoor wood boiler!



"Free Heat Machine" Larry demonstrates the best way to cook a turkey in an outdoor wood boiler.

## *Editorial*

**February** ... the month we start wishing for Spring to come so we can stop watching smoke swirling around our property making it extra difficult to get the snow shoveled. Most of us won't have white fluffy snow but snow that contains the ashes that have blown onto it from our neighbor's chimney. The stench in the air impedes the progress of getting that snow moved as we need to stop to wipe our eyes that are stinging due to the smoke. Our breathing is impaired and many of us have to give up and go inside where the air is somewhat cleaner. Before long we notice that all we can smell, both inside and out, is the dank smell of wood smoke.

Do the burners know what they are doing to us? Most probably! Do they care? I don't think so. When they are told that the smoke is creating problems both inside and outside they tend to increase their burning in an obviously deliberate way. I have photos of a chimney that has a type of diverter added to blow the smoke directly at the house. What does that tell you about the character of a person, who can exert the energy to climb up a ladder in the snow, remove the chimney cap and add a diverter? It tells me that this person did his best to get as much smoke as possible into his neighbor's house. This type of behavior, in my opinion, should be considered an attempt to cause bodily harm.

Where is the help for this type of assault? Many people are going through similar situations with neighbors that burn incessantly in an attempt to force the complainer to move. We cannot allow a burner to force us from the home we love. We must find a way to convince our councils that bylaws need to be put into place to protect the victims of wood smoke.

When smoke enters your home and property call your council members and ask them to come to see for themselves the life you are forced to live without their help in getting a bylaw in place.

*Shirley*

## **Phase 11 OWBs**

If anyone is having problems with neighbors using the new Phase 11 OWBs, please send me an email describing the problem.

[Click here to email](#)



## BOZO of the Month



(In my opinion)

### **Tasmanian Forestry, Australia**

Tasmania puts forestry before Health with its deliberate pernicious planned burn smoke since 1960. In 2008 the total particle emissions to the Tasmanian airshed from heavy-fuel forestry industry planned burns alone, is estimated to have been in the range of 86,000 to 120,000 tons of particles after consuming 7.2 million tons of wood - EPA Division Tasmania 2009.

Tasmania is the smallest and most southern island state of Australia. It has the highest rate of asthma in Australia, and the highest rate of non-skin cancer in Australia which does not surprise most people that live on the island and are subjected to the toxins attached to wood smoke.



A planned burn is lit on a bright blue day... and the sun is blotted out midday

For more information [click here](#)

*Shirley*

## Teaming Up With Others: Strength In Numbers

Like tobacco smoke, wood smoke can be banned or regulated in cities or states. Our national elected officials also need to hear from us. Please contact any of the names below--you do not have to live in their area to build our network. Nor do you have to leave your name if you prefer not to. But we all need to build a network for strength in numbers.

Here is a partial list of contacts who are working on wood smoke issues from various states and regions. Please [click here](#) to email me if you are willing to have your email address or other information published in this newsletter monthly to connect with others.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>State/Province</u>
<b>Shirley</b>	<a href="mailto:s.brandie@sympatico.ca">s.brandie@sympatico.ca</a> Web site: <a href="http://WoodBurnerSmoke.net">http://WoodBurnerSmoke.net</a> <a href="http://www.canadiancleanairalliance.ca">http://www.canadiancleanairalliance.ca</a>	<b>Ontario, Canada</b>
<b>Julie Mellum</b>	<a href="mailto:info@takebacktheair.com">info@takebacktheair.com</a> Web site: <a href="http://www.takebacktheair.com">http://www.takebacktheair.com</a>	<b>Minneapolis U.S.A.</b>
<b>Vic Steblin</b>	<a href="mailto:vsteblin@sd57.bc.ca">vsteblin@sd57.bc.ca</a>	<b>Prince George, British Columbia, Canada</b> <b>Short Letters about Air Quality are listed in OPINION section of</b> <a href="http://www.pachapg.ca">www.pachapg.ca</a>
<b>Vicki Morell</b>	<a href="mailto:vmorell@telus.net">vmorell@telus.net</a> Website: <a href="http://www.canadiancleanairalliance.ca">http://www.canadiancleanairalliance.ca</a> "A breath of fresh air - for all generations"	<b>Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada</b> <b>604-322-6744</b>
<b>Julie Burgo</b>	<a href="mailto:Jbamonteburgo@gmail.com">Jbamonteburgo@gmail.com</a>	<b>Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania USA</b>

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<b>Janet Irvine</b>	<a href="mailto:janetirvine@shaw.ca">janetirvine@shaw.ca</a>	<b>Nanaimo, B.C. Canada</b>
<b>Linda Beaudin</b>	<a href="mailto:airisprecious@gmail.com">airisprecious@gmail.com</a>	<b>Cornwall, Ontario Canada</b>
<b>Nathalie Doiron</b>	<a href="mailto:Nathalie_doiron@hotmail.com">Nathalie_doiron@hotmail.com</a>	<b>Quebec, Canada</b>
<b>Cathy Baiton</b>	<a href="mailto:cleanairmattersinalberta@gmail.com">cleanairmattersinalberta@gmail.com</a>	<b>Alberta, Canada</b>

**All burning results in very fine micro particulates and there is no safe level of this asbestos sized, dangerous air pollutant. Solid fuels, such as pellets and especially wood, produce more smoke and emit more fine particulate air pollutants than cleaner fuels such as gas and electricity.**

## Photos and Videos

Just a few photos to show to your public officials and others you want to convince that only a ban on smoke release will change this!

[Click here for videos](#)



[To see some photos that victims of wood smoke have sent click here](#)

To have your own listed, send an email to: [s.brandie@sympatico.ca](mailto:s.brandie@sympatico.ca)

## **LINKS & MORE**

[Click here for a heart-breaking story & video of a family subjected to wood smoke.](#)

[Click here to see Clive Stott's peaceful, but meaningful protest of forestry burning in Australia.](#)

[My PowerPoint Show](#)

[Chase, B.C. video](#)

 <p>No CCA Wood</p> <p>THE CCA PRESSURE TREATED WOOD INFORMATION SITE</p> <p>CCA News &amp; Information Articles Links Contact Information deborahbarrie@hotmail.com</p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#"><u><b>Wood Burner Smoke</b></u></a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Editor's Site</p>
 <p>Canadians working together to end wood smoke pollution <b>CANADIAN CLEAN AIR ALLIANCE</b> www.cleanairalliance.ca</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://cleanairtas.com"><u><b>cleanairtas.com</b></u></a></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#"><u><b>Freedom of Air</b></u></a></p>
 <p>breathe healthy air</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#"><u><b>TAKE BACK THE AIR</b></u></a></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Environment &amp; Human Health Inc. <b>EHHI</b></p>
 <p>International Coalition Against Wood Burning</p> <p style="text-align: center;">P R O T E C T  O U R A I R</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">CLEAN AIR REVIVAL</p>	

If your health has been affected by exposure to chromated copper arsenate (CCA) pressure treated wood, please visit: <http://noccawood.ca>

<http://www.canadiancleanairalliance.ca> **Please visit us here!**

<http://www.alap.qc.ca> Quebec Association for clean air -French & English

<http://takebacktheair.com>

<http://www.cleanairtas.com>

<http://woodburnersmoke.net>

<http://freedomofair.webs.com>

[http://www.gulfportinflorida.com/toxic\\_waste/smoker\\_in\\_gulfport\\_fl.html](http://www.gulfportinflorida.com/toxic_waste/smoker_in_gulfport_fl.html)

<http://coalitionagainstwoodburning.com>

<http://rawsep.spaces.live.com> Residents against wood smoke emission particulates

<http://rodfarmer40.blogspot.com> A blog dedicated to shaming the Launceston City Council and Tasmanian State Government to start enforcing wood smoke legislation in Launceston.

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*“Burning 2 cords of wood produces the same amount of mutagenic (capable of causing cell mutations that can cause cancer) particles as driving 13 gasoline-powered cars 10,000 miles each at 20 miles/gallon. These figures indicate that the worst contribution that an individual is likely to make to the mutagenicity of the air is using a wood stove for heating, followed by a diesel car.” (Dr. Joellen Lewtas, Contribution of Source Emissions of the Mutagenicity of Ambient Urban Air Particles. U.S., EPA, #91-131.6, 1991)*

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## **Canadian Action Activities**

Wood smoke is a major problem in all of America and Canada. National efforts are gaining momentum. Regardless of where we live, our actions should focus on getting our national governments to regulate wood smoke. To make an impact, if each reader calls or emails each of these contacts, we can move mountains.

Go for it now!

Health Canada assesses scientific evidence about the health effects of wood smoke and makes this information available to Canadians. Health Canada is also working with other government departments to determine the best ways to minimize risks associated with wood smoke.

In addition, Health Canada is a contributor to the *Burn it Smart!* Campaign sponsored by Natural Resources Canada.

**Environment Canada:** [www.ec.gc.ca/cleanair](http://www.ec.gc.ca/cleanair)

**Health Canada:** [air@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:air@hc-sc.gc.ca)

Air Health Effects Division, Safe Environments Program, Health Canada  
400 Cooper Street Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9 Telephone: (613) 957-1876

Natural Resources Canada [Burn it Smart!](#) Sir William Logan Building,  
11th Floor, 580 Booth Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0E4

Write or email to your local council & MPs to request that they create or amend a bylaw to cover nuisance smoke. Preferably, a ban on all wood burning in residential areas.

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The Ontario Ministry of the Environment has released the latest news on Smog  
<http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/air/smog/index.php>

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**[Click here for the Canadian Bill of Rights](#)** You can apply for a review [here](#).

## **U.S. Action Activities**

### **URGENT—Immediate Action ALWAYS Needed**

**A new EPA-certified wood stove promotion gives a 30% tax credit and a huge discount to the public. It is being funded by stimulus money from the US government. This flies in the face of the known hazards of wood smoke that the EPA acknowledges on their website. If we don't stop our states' stimulus money from funding this major promotion, it will be next to impossible to regulate or ban wood burning in any form.**

**If you have never protested wood smoke or called your public officials before, this is the time to do it!**

- **Contact your US Senators and Representatives, as well as your state Senators and Representatives and City Council members. Ask them to see that the stimulus money does not go towards this promotion. It is crucial to let your elected officials know that you don't want the stimulus money used for this promotion in your community—but only to apply to gas or electric technology. (California has a change-out program that only allows swap-outs to gas or electric.)**
- **Let them know that wood smoke is a major health hazard and is a major contributor to global warming.**
- **Send an email to others and ask them for their help too. (See **suggested email below**).**
- **Be sure to call your US legislators and State legislators and City Council Members, to alert them to the problem and asking for their help too in keeping new EPA certified wood burning equipment out of your community, even if a state-wide promotion allows them.**
- **If we don't stop this unthinkable promotion, there is little hope for a healthy legacy for our children and grandchildren.**

**Action #1-** Suggested message for calling and emailing U.S. legislators and state legislators. Please also relay on to others and urge them to contact others.

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**Date:**

**Dear (elected official):**

Please use your influence to disallow stimulus money to be used for EPA wood stove promotion in **(your state and/or your community.)**

According to the EPA's own website, wood smoke is a killer responsible for premature deaths nation-wide at a rate of 3% of the total deaths every year from fine particle pollution. (Harvard School of Public Health). That is close to 73,000 people in the U.S. each year--an epidemic! Wood smoke is extremely hazardous for children, the elderly and especially those with asthma. Asthma is already the number one reason for school absenteeism. It is even implicated in sudden infant death syndrome.

Our states are looking for ways to limit fine particulate pollution and better air quality. This should be a "no-brainer." Wood smoke emits over 9,600 % more lead than natural gas, according to the EPA's own data. It also emits arsenic, mercury, formaldehyde, polyaromatic hydrocarbons and dioxins, persistent organic compounds that do not break down in the environment or in human lungs, crops, soil and water supply. See <http://BurningIssues.org> for the facts.

Please do not allow stimulus money to be used for promoting more pollution.

**(Sign your name and contact info)**

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## About the Editor:



### Shirley Brandie

Ontario Director of Canadian Clean Air Alliance <http://canadiancleanairalliance.ca>

She is retired from a medical laboratory and currently doing in-depth research on the effects of wood smoke on health and the environment.

Web site: <http://WoodBurnerSmoke.net>

**If you would like to have your wood smoke story published, [click here to email it.](#)**

**\* I do not accept responsibility for errors in articles submitted for publication. It is the responsibility of the author to ensure the facts are, to the best of their knowledge, correct. \*\***

**\*\* Please note that articles submitted for publication may be edited for grammar, punctuation and sentence structure.**

**Please pass this issue on to others in need of help. Send an email to [s.brandie@sympatico.ca](mailto:s.brandie@sympatico.ca) to be added to the mailing list.**