

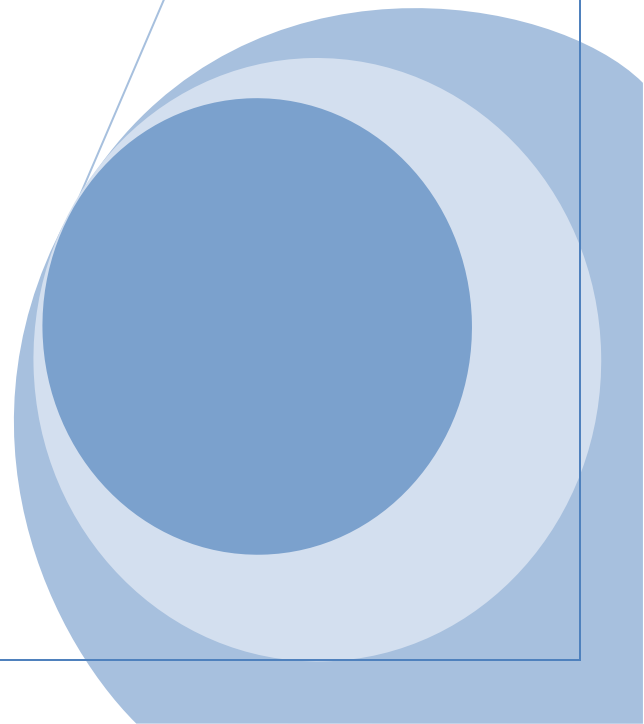
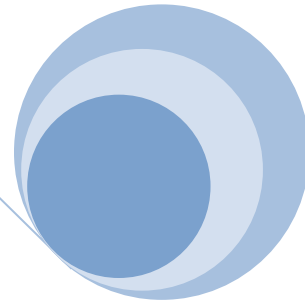
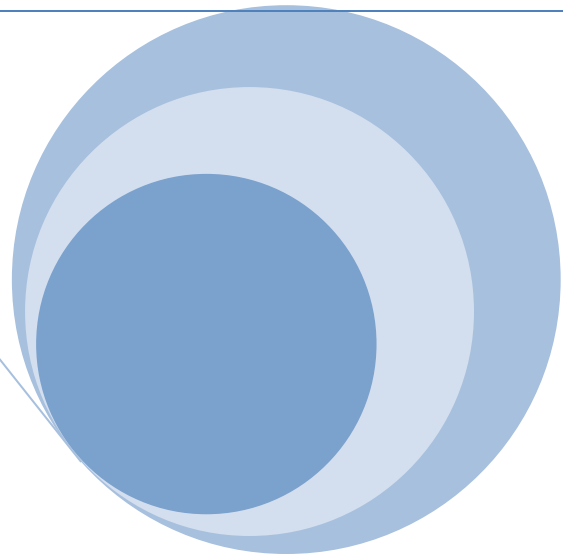
The Wood Smoke Activist

January 2011 Newsletter

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

Editor: Shirley Brandie

1/1/2011



The Wood Smoke Activist

WOOD SMOKE ISSUES

Volume 3, Issue 1
January, 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 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.”.





The International Coalition Against Wood Burning



A site dedicated to ending wood smoke and the health and environmental effects it causes.

This site is a gathering place for people around the world to come together to help clear our planet of wood smoke pollution.

To add your group, web site or your name as a supporter of this site, please email Shirley

Please note that I have added a petition on this site and hope that you will sign it.

LIVING DOWNSTREAM

A cancer diagnosis is the beginning of an unplanned journey.

Here is Sandra Steingraber's story.

<http://steingraber.com/film/>

Based on the acclaimed book by ecologist and cancer survivor Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D., *Living Downstream* is an eloquent and cinematic feature-length documentary. This poetic and character-driven film follows Sandra during one pivotal year as she travels across North America, working to break the silence about cancer and its environmental links.

Living Downstream is produced by [The People's Picture Company](#). It will be released for film festival screenings in spring 2010 and it will be available for educational and organizational screenings in Fall 2010. The educational DVD will be available for pre-order in April 2010.

[Visit the film's website](#) and [find screenings in your area](#).

[Visit the filmmakers' website](#).

[Contact the filmmakers](#) for more information.

Also note that Sandra will be contributing to the [supplementary resources](#) that are being created to accompany the DVDs of the film

Wood Smoke and the Americans with Disabilities Act

Wood smoke pollution is blanketing our nation with its caustic fumes, depriving citizens of their property rights to use and enjoy their property smoke-free. And it is not just a nuisance--it is a severe public health hazard. Asthma is epidemic and is the number one reason for school absenteeism. How can it be that while tobacco smoke is now banished from most bars and restaurants, nothing is being done about wood smoke? It is chemically similar to tobacco smoke, but is far more concentrated and travels farther. Yet despite indoor smoking bans, our public officials are not protecting public health. They are "selling out" to lobbyists from the wood burning industry, rather than upholding our basic right to breathe clean air.

Wood smoke is implicated not only in asthma attacks and heart attacks, but in premature death in people of all ages. It is especially harmful to children and those with heart or lung disease and other disabilities such as autism and diabetes. Wood smoke, in fact, when it interferes with the ability of citizens with disabilities to use public spaces, may violate the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This civil rights legislation guarantees people with disabilities, such as asthma, "access" to public spaces, including city parks, streets and sidewalks. An Iowa District Court in 2003, in fact, ordered the town of Mallard to stop allowing wood burning, because wood smoke presented a "physical barrier" to a small child with severe asthma that prevented her from using public spaces.

Therefore it is up to us, who are the most bothered by wood smoke, to begin a bold new campaign based on why wood smoke violates ADA Guidelines. We must talk it up at every opportunity and let our city governments, mayors, state and national legislators, schools and local health departments know that:

1. Wood smoke presents a physical barrier to people with disabilities like asthma, because it prevents access to public spaces like city streets, parks and sidewalks.
2. That residential wood smoke from outdoor recreational fires, indoor fireplaces and restaurant wood grills are a substantial source of fine particle pollution, which is a health hazard for all citizens.
3. With increasing disabilities, especially in children, it is paramount that cities adopt ADA guidelines that remove wood smoke as a barrier to the use of public spaces by all citizens.

In addition, email the national "Access Board" about the need for eradicating wood smoke barriers for those with disabilities:

<http://www.access-board.gov/transit/>><http://www.access-board.gov/tran>. To join with others toward this goal, please contact info@takebacktheair.com.

Julie Mellum
President, Take Back the Air www.takebacktheair.com
Minneapolis, MN

The Right to Enjoyment of Property - Does it Really Exist?

By Cindy Moyer

In our early years, childhood disagreements were usually mediated by adults or dealt with in some supervised manner. As adults however, the options for dealing with disputes are severely limited and the punishments for unlawful behaviour harsh.

So what do you do when your neighbour is making your life miserable, as in the case of invasive wood smoke? What recourse is available after all attempts at friendly negotiation have been exhausted? Where do you turn when calls to the government leave you with more questions than answers?

The foundation of our democratic system is the rule of law, and its cornerstone is the legal system. In the past, people would bring disputes before their Monarch, lords or chiefs to settle. The process was often quick and there was generally no fees attached to the service. Judgments were considered final and the community largely respected the decisions as a necessity to keep order in a civil society.

Today, those who have attempted dispute resolution through the courts have come to the same conclusion as former Canadian Supreme Court Chief Justice Beverly McLachlin; the country's legal system is too expensive and complicated for the vast majority of Canadians. McLachlin called for action on the part of all governments to address what she called a "crisis" in the access to the legal system for most Canadians. Furthermore, she called access to law a "basic right" in the 2007 Star article: <http://www.thestar.com/article/245548>

In the Canadian Bill of Rights it states that every Canadian has:

- (a) The right of the individual to life, liberty, security of the person and enjoyment of property and the right not to be deprived thereof except by due process of law;*
- (b) The right of the individual to equality before the law and the protection of the law;*

However, if the only means of obtaining the right to the enjoyment of property can be obtained through the legal system, and the legal system is unaffordable and too complicated, then do we really have such rights?

If the ability to exercise those rights is beyond our means (most property owners are ineligible for legal assistance in Canada) are they then bonafide? In addition, if we are guaranteed equality before the law then why is money a factor or barrier in accessing the law?

"There's "no point" in having a justice system that nobody can afford to use, McLachlan said. "We need to keep the justice system relevant and available to Canadian men, women and children.

Those who have experienced our legal system will agree that examinations for discovery, testimonies of expert witnesses, court date reschedules and a never ending salvo of legal correspondence can grind the entire process down to a snail's pace, and last for years.

For litigants, legal bills can exceed mortgage payments and unlike businesses, individuals can't write off legal expenses against their income tax. According to the Star article, the cost of a routine three-day civil trial in Ontario is about \$60,000.00, simply unaffordable for most middle-class families.

I have to agree with former Chief Justice McLachlin:

"People need prompt resolution of issues so they can move on with their lives or businesses."

It is time to amend our legal system so that those in dispute can obtain resolution and return to the business of living with minimal harm. In the case of disputes where claims of right infringements are made, there should be swift remedy by the courts for the protection of not only property but also life (health). Without it, we will continue with a system that simply does not work for the majority of Canadians.

Ms. Moyer is a writer living and working in Southern Ontario.

[Click here to read the EHHI \(Environment & Human Health Inc.\) Report on Outdoor Wood Furnaces](#)

[Click here for the Wood Smoke and Cancer pdf from the Washington State Department of Ecology](#)

Thank you Dr. Robinson of the [Armidale Air Quality Group](#) for this information!

The [American Lung Association](#) says "Wood smoke is like tobacco smoke. There is no safe level for wood smoke."

[The Canadian Lung Association](#) says:

"Air pollution is a contributing risk factor to developing chronic heart and lung disease and may even result in premature deaths. Health Canada estimates that air pollution causes about 6,000 deaths per year in 8 major Canadian cities.

Town Council OKs wood-burning furnace ban

Excerpted from [The Avon News](#)

Article by: BARBARA THOMAS

AVON — Following a public hearing Nov. 9, the Town Council voted to pass an ordinance prohibiting outdoor wood-burning furnaces.

The town had received a letter during the summer from a resident encouraging the ban, Town Manager Brandon Robertson said. The issue was referred to the Planning and Zoning Commission, which recommended that an ordinance be adopted.

Robertson said the furnaces are usually located in small, insulated sheds with smoke stacks, and the smoke emitted is considered unhealthy by the state Department of Environmental Protection. They heat water that is carried through underground pipes to heat homes or buildings. They may also be used to heat swimming pool or hot tub water.

The ordinance was passed despite the fact that there are no outdoor furnaces in town, or applications to put one in. Councilor Doug Evans questioned whether the ordinance was needed given that, but the P&Z Commission recommended it. No public comment was offered during the hearing.

The term “outdoor wood-burning furnace” does not include a fire pit, wood-fired barbecue or chiminea.

Council extinguishes outdoor wood burners

Excerpted from: [Southwest Review News](#)
Review Staff

Article by: [Derrick Knutson](#)

The Inver Grove Heights City Council decided Monday night plumes of smoke from six homes' outdoor wood burning stoves were too much of **a nuisance to neighbors and banned their use.**

The council approved the ban by a 5-0 vote after council members mulled over the third reading of the proposed ordinance for about a half hour.

An outdoor wood-burning furnace, or an outdoor wood boiler, burns wood in a controlled combustion chamber resembling a small shed or accessory structure. The energy produced heats water sent through underground pipes to heat a house, or can be connected to a forced-air system.

The smoke -- a necessary byproduct and the source of residents' complaints -- is released through a chimney attached to the chamber. The amount of particulate created by a burner can vary widely, depending on the efficiency of the model and the type of fuel burned.

Mayor George Tourville said the city has been receiving complaints about smoke from the wood burners, and some of the residents making the complaints preferred to remain anonymous because they don't want to start feuding with their neighbors.

The council has been reviewing the issue for about nine months, while receiving public input. Inver Grove Heights residents had one last chance to make their concerns heard at the last meeting before the council approved the ordinance.

'Over-stepping' its bounds

Resident Frank Rauschnot said the council was "over-stepping" its bounds by banning the use of outdoor wood burners inside city limits.

"This is kind of a ridiculous deal we're working on here," he said. "If this stuff is so bad, you should be banning all fire pits, all fireplaces -- any wood burning at all."

He added, "You guys are doing too much here with your rules and ordinances and regulations. Pretty soon it's going to be getting to the point where you're going to be telling us what kind of toilet paper we have to use."

Resident Robert Heidenreich agreed with Rauschnot that the city is over-regulating citizens by banning the use of outdoor wood burners.

"I think it's a mistake by the city," he said. "I think more of our neighbors and members of our community are in favor (of outdoor wood burners) than are against them."

Council member Bill Klein told Heidenreich that the city was instituting the ban because the smoke from continually burning wood in outdoor burners is not only a nuisance to neighbors, but also a health hazard.

"I just see this as a real health problem," Klein said. "Part of our responsibility as a council is to protect the health of our citizens."

Heidenreich didn't buy into Klein's logic.

"Burning wood does not do as much damage to the environment as burning fossil fuel or coal," he said.

Resident Sandra Larson also expressed her disdain about the ban.

"It's not that big of a nuisance with six," she said. "This wood burner is our main heating source in the winter. No one complains. It's a shame that you have to pick on six people in the city of Inver Grove."

Supporting the ban

Two residents did stand up at the meeting to say they support the ban at the meeting. One of them was Dave Gaydos.

"I appreciate the work that has gone on for the past six months," Gaydos told the council. "The resolution stands as a good piece of work."

Another resident, Armando Lissarrague, who had brought the issue to the council's attention in January, called the ban a "bold move" by the council to protect the health of citizens.

In a phone interview last week, Lissarrague said there are numerous studies that point to the potential health dangers of outdoor wood burners.

According to a 2008 article published by the League of Minnesota Cities, outdoor wood burners produce over 1,000 times more smoke than traditional interior gas and oil furnaces. The article goes on to state that inhalation of wood smoke is noted to cause short-term eye, lung and throat irritation, and long-term health effects such as chronic obstructive lung disease, chronic bronchitis and increased risk of cancer.

City Administrator Joe Lynch explained at the meeting that residents who currently have wood burning stoves do not need to remove them from their property immediately. Those residents have until Oct. 1, 2011 before the ban goes into effect.

[Click here to listen to Bonnie Lichak speak to the Assembly Environmental Committee 2011 Budget Hearing November 2010 regarding wood smoke.](#)



From [Vermont Air Pollution Control](#) "OWBs tend to cause dense smoke that impacts neighbors who complain about nuisance and health problems. Some owners often operate the OWBs to heat hot water or swimming pools during the summer when neighbors have their windows open and are trying to enjoy the outdoors."

Wood-burning bylaws are needed

Tri-City-News

November, 10, 2010

The Editor,

Port Coquitlam residents are invited to participate in molding a greener, futuristic view of our city.

Improving neighbourhood air quality would be a vital step to going green.

Air quality differs from one residential area to another. Poor neighbourhood air quality is noted in areas where wood-burning fireplaces exist. Fireplaces are a very uncontrolled source of air pollution, according to a professor in UBC's School of Environmental Health.

Wood smoke poses a health threat to wood stove and fireplace users and to their neighbours, states Washington State Department of Ecology. Emissions from one chimney can foul the air of all the sur-

rounding neighbours and present health hazards.

How informed people are about these health hazards contained in wood smoke emissions is a guess. Many individuals do not relate a scratchy throat (or the "not quite feeling right") to wood-smoke. Are people aware that these symptoms could be the beginning of a serious condition related to wood-smoke emissions?

For council and environment enhancement committee to implement a no-burning bylaw should not depend on how many people are complaining but needs to be based on the fact that too many people's health will be affected if a ban does not take place.

Brie Oishi, Port Coquitlam

Thank you Brie for your continuing efforts to clear the air of wood smoke!

Hazards of wood smoke

Excerpted from: the [DAILY FREEMAN](#)

Article by: **Bonnie Lichak**

New York has done a poor job of educating and protecting the public when it comes to the issue of wood smoke. Wood smoke is the new cigarette smoke. Wood smoke contains many of the same carcinogens as cigarette smoke, plus dioxins and fine particulate (see www.burningissues.org).

Twenty years ago, the Environmental Protection Agency thought it addressed wood smoke problems when it set emissions limits for indoor wood stoves. Those limits are 4.1 grams for new indoor catalytic wood stoves. Unfortunately, the emissions limits did not foresee the invention and increasing popularity of Outdoor Wood Boilers (OWBs).

The state performed tests on OWBs and issued a report, "Smoke Gets in Your Lungs in 2005". It had emissions from OWBs of up to 269 grams. New York and other state went to the EPA requesting emission limits.

The EPA was lobbied by the manufacturers and no limits were set. Instead, the EPA has a voluntary program that has different phases. Phase II stoves allow OWBs to pollute four or more times that of indoor catalytic stoves. (The stoves are billed as 90 percent cleaner, but the reality is they do not meet the standards required of indoor stoves. Why not?) Why would the government take such a giant step backward in protecting our health?

After years of pressure from all sides, the state Department of Environmental Conservation issued a poorly worded rule (Part 247) during the summer. After intense lobbying by the state Farm Bureau, the rule was scuttled on Oct. 25.

State agencies need to step up to the plate and get the Legislature to understand the emissions of OWBs. The governor should issue an executive order placing a moratorium on installation of new OWBs and the Legislature needs to pass the same emissions statute that the state of Washington has had for 20 years. It is time for the state Legislature and agencies to represent the citizens, not the lobbyists.

New Yorkers need to pay attention to what is going on in Albany. Misinformation abounds by those with money, and the people are left unrepresented. In this case, it is quite shocking that farmers would be such proponents of bad technology that dumps dioxins on their land and our food.

Where there's smoke, there's pollution

Excerpted from: [BC Local News](#)



Fireplaces are an uncontrolled source of air pollution, says the letter writer.

Published: October 31, 2010

The Editor,

Port Coquitlam residents are invited to participate in molding a greener, futuristic view of our city.

Improving neighbourhood air quality would be a vital step to going green.

Air quality differs from one residential area to another. Poor neighbourhood air quality is noted in areas where wood-burning fireplaces exist. Fireplaces are a very uncontrolled source of air pollution, according to a professor in UBC's School of Environmental Health.

Wood smoke poses a health threat to wood stove and fireplace users and to their neighbours, states Washington State Department of Ecology. Emissions from one chimney can foul the air of all the surrounding neighbours and present health hazards.

How informed people are about these health hazards contained in wood smoke emissions is a guess. Many individuals do not relate a scratchy throat (or the "not quite feeling right") to wood-smoke. Are people aware that these symptoms could be the beginning of a serious condition related to wood-smoke emissions?

BCLA has a list of these conditions and claims that wood-smoke is linked to asthma, respiratory conditions, lung and heart problems, including cancer.

Government wants to improve air quality but has no jurisdiction over communities as far as a ban on wood-burning fireplaces is concerned; that power lies in the hands of municipal leaders.

For council and environment enhancement committee to implement a no-burning bylaw should not depend on how many people are complaining but needs to be based on the fact that too many people's health will be affected if a ban does not take place.

Brie Oishi, Port Coquitlam

Chimneys the forgotten health risk

Excerpted from [The Age](#)

Article by Sarah McKenzie - a freelance writer *October 12, 2010*



A cozy fire may be romantic but what are the health impacts?

Western Australia has just introduced some of the toughest anti-smoking laws in the world, banning the practice within 10 metres of playgrounds, between the flags at beaches and in al fresco dining areas.

In response to the precedent set in the west, the Australian Medical Association Victoria [has started pushing](#) the Brumby government for a similar ban. In Tasmania, the Burnie City Council has gone [one step further](#), passing a resolution supporting a complete ban on the sale and use of tobacco in Tasmania.

But while the passive smoking debate continues to fill newspaper columns around the country, another similar issue is smouldering away in the background and, although the health risks are every bit as compelling, no one seems to be paying it very much attention at all.

While many people rate a cozy fire, along with slippers and hot chocolate, as one of the silver linings of the cold winter clouds, the residential burning of firewood is recognized as a significant source of pollution in the urban environment.

Wood smoke has been shown to be the main cause of cold weather smog and PM2.5 pollution, the pollutant most commonly associated with increased hospital admissions. PM2.5 pollution is defined as particles that are less than 2.5 micrometres in diameter — small enough to penetrate deeply into the lungs and heart. Just to give you an idea of the scale of the problem, the most recent [NSW Air Emissions Inventory](#) (2003) showed that wood heaters in Sydney produce almost 6000 tonnes of PM2.5 per year, while all the petrol-fuelled passenger cars in the city put together produce (a mere) 972 tonnes. In addition to particle pollution, even an efficient, correctly-operated wood heater releases smoke that contains carcinogens in much greater concentrations than found in cigarette smoke, and emits more greenhouse gases than any other form of heating.

A discussion paper [recently released](#) by the Environment Protection and Heritage Council, an organisation representing the Australian, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea governments, describes an association between hospital admissions and the type of particle pollution produced by wood heaters and open fires. According to Dr James Markos, from the Australian Lung Foundation, "There is no safe level of exposure . . . [it] has similar long-term consequences to environmental tobacco smoke, including the risk of lung cancer and heart disease."

Indeed, many people who experience chronic lung conditions, such as my five-year-old niece who suffers from asthma, know that the effects are so acute that it is safer and easier to limit outdoor activities on cool weather days rather than risk another trip to the emergency department.

Aside from their nostalgic, romantic connotations, wood heaters, of course, serve a practical purpose. Many who live in houses with a slow combustion heater or open fire simply cannot afford to install a cleaner heating system, and point to their relatively low operating costs (although it could be argued that we all bear a far greater cost).

It would seem appropriate that governments not only begin educating people about the effects of their wood smoke on the community more generally, but also step in to financially assist people to replace this form of heating. Perhaps they could follow the lead of Canberra, where the topography of the city causes particularly high concentrations of particle pollution to settle over the city, and introduce a rebate to replace wood heaters with gas heating.

Such a push will undoubtedly have some people crying "nanny state" and bemoaning a loss of personal freedom. Many people, it seems, feel it is a fundamental human right to burn things when and where they choose, no matter how other people are affected. However, just as the health effects of passive smoking are unequivocal, so too are those caused by inhaling the smoke produced by burning wood. There must come a point where community health and safety overrides the "right" of an individual to act in a manner that harms others.

Talking about wood smoke might not be as sexy as talking about cigarette smoking, but it is as important a health issue. If we are going to get serious about protecting the immediate well-being of those with lung conditions and the long-term health of everyone else by limiting passive smoking, we need to similarly recognize and restrict other forms of dangerous air pollution – and that includes what comes out of our chimneys.

Environmental group: Outdoor wood furnaces unhealthy for neighbors

Excerpted from the article by John Burgeson, Staff Writer, ctpost.com

Published Tuesday, October 26, 2010

WOODBIDGE, CT -- It looks like a shed and it will keep your home warm all winter long without using a drop of foreign oil. So what's not to like?

Plenty, according to the public interest research group [Environmental and Human Health Inc.](#), which on Monday released a 50-page report that said outdoor wood furnaces -- or OWFs, as they're known in the trade -- spew toxic wood smoke that gets into nearby homes, making life miserable and unhealthy for neighbors.

The report, "Dangers to Health from Outdoor Wood Furnaces," says that smoke from OWFs gets into even tightly sealed homes more than 800 feet away, causing or aggravating a variety of lung diseases, including cancer.

"Outdoor wood furnaces use a flawed technology," said [Nancy Alderman](#), EHH president. "It's a shed that burns wood 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It never stops."

But the OWF industry says that the EHH report doesn't recognize recent advancements made in wood-burning furnace technology, noting that the latest "[Phase II](#)" units are no more polluting than a traditional wood stove. "And, unlike a wood stove, our new E-Classic boiler will heat a whole house, not just one room," said [Rodney Tollefson](#) of Central Boiler, of Greenbush, Minn., one of the larger manufacturers of OWFs.

"The difference between the new Phase II units and the old ones is quite dramatic," Tollefson added. "It's about a 90 percent reduction, according to the [EPA](#)." The Phase II units hit the market in about 2008, he said.

An OWF consists of a firebox surrounded by a water jacket. The water, once heated, is pumped into the house, where it either warms the home directly, or it is sent to a heat exchanger to warm air for a forced-air system. They're also known as outdoor wood boilers, or OWBs.

Detractors of OWFs maintain that the water jacket keeps the temperature of the fire too low for complete combustion.

Companies that sell OWFs note that they reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil and, since they burn a renewable fuel -- wood -- they don't contribute to global warming.

Tollefson also said that EHH report used flawed methodology. "The particulate counts that they are using is not a scientific method of measuring wood smoke emissions," Tollefson said.

The report was written by [David Brown](#), a public health toxicologist who measured particulates in the air inside of four homes that were located close to an operating OWF. Two were within 200 feet, one was 240 feet distant and one was about 800 feet away.

"This report shows high intrusion of wood smoke inside of homes near wood boilers," Brown said. "The increased smoke levels are persistent, and they reach concentrations that produce health effects." His particulate measurements, he said, were measured in children's bedrooms. He added that Connecticut's 200-foot setback regulation, according to his studies, is essentially meaningless in preventing smoke intrusion in homes.

EHH maintains the state needs to ban OWFs because they suffer from an inherently bad design. Because the smoke leaving the unit is cool, EHH says, it produces a smoke plume that remains near ground level, and only dissipates if the breeze is especially strong.

"The smoke comes out a lot cooler than it does from a typical wood stove or a fireplace," she said, "so it does not dissipate, and threatens every house in its wake." She said EHH attempted to get the devices banned in the Legislature, "but we were not successful."

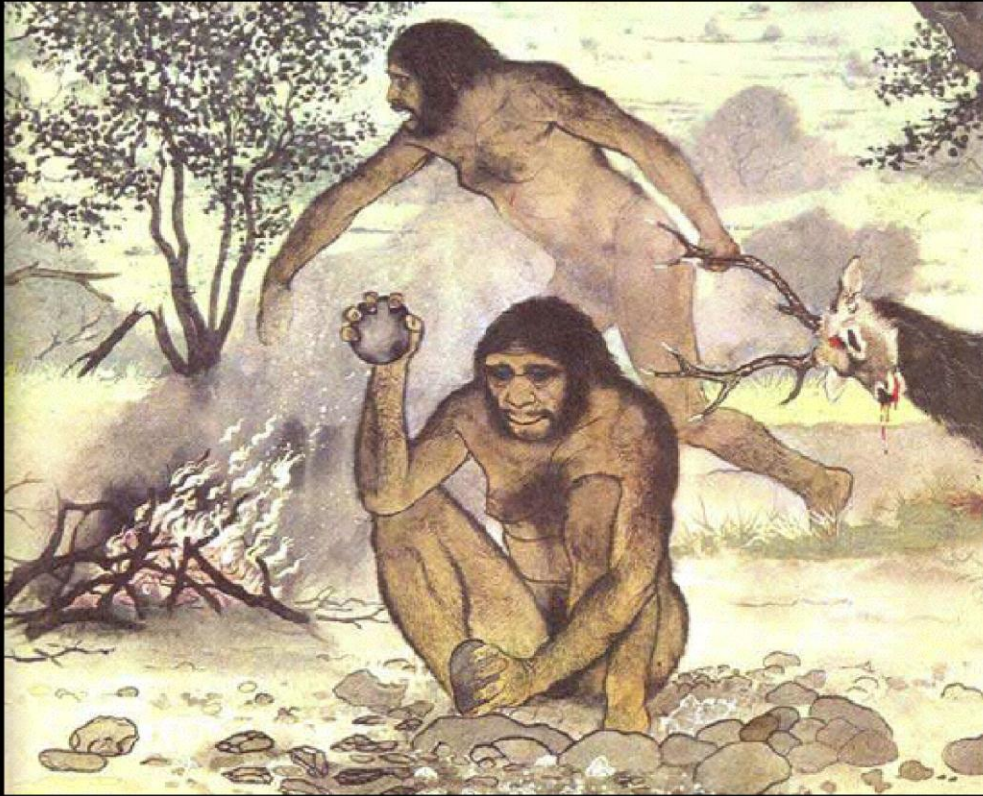
So, the group, she said, is attempting to get the devices banned in individual towns. To date, 13 towns, including Woodbridge, Ridgefield, Hamden and North Haven, have banned OWFs.

Connecticut requires a 200-foot setback for OWFs, and the height of the smokestack is also regulated. OWFs are banned altogether in the state of Washington.

"There are 167 towns in Connecticut, so we have a very long row to hoe," Alderman said.

"They're not smoke-belching appliances," Tollefson said. "And we fully endorse a suggested rule whereby new units would have to comply with Phase II standards."

Alderman said that it's an economic issue, too. "When someone near you gets one of these things, the value of your home drops to zero."



SO EASY, CAVEMEN STILL DO IT.

“Wood smoke contains both fine particle pollution (PM 2.5) and a number of air toxics. Fine particle pollution is linked to a variety of health problems, including aggravated asthma, reduced lung function, development of chronic bronchitis, irregular heartbeat, non-fatal heart attacks and premature death in people with heart and lung disease. Residential wood combustion emissions also contain the harmful air pollutants sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and air toxics such as potentially cancer causing compounds including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, benzene, formaldehyde and dioxins. If people are burning wood, they should consider the impacts on their health, their family’s health, and their neighbor’s health.”

- FROM THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

It's time to evolve beyond wood burning.

#2 in a series © Reps Design This page may be freely distributed as a public service to alert people about the dangers of wood smoke.

Best viewed at 100%

The Dangers to Health from Outdoor Wood Furnaces

Excerpted from: [Environment and Human Health, Inc.](#) (EHHI)

This study investigates how homes are affected by neighboring outdoor wood furnaces, as well as the health implications for the families living inside homes impacted by wood smoke.

In this report, Environment and Human Health, Inc. (EHHI) explains its study, which measured potential wood smoke inhalation by people living in homes in the vicinity of outdoor wood furnaces (OWFs), also known as outdoor wood boilers (OWBs). EHHI's study monitored levels of PM_{2.5} and PM_{0.5} particles in each house for 72 hours.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has shown that PM_{2.5} and PM_{0.5} are the most common size particles in wood smoke. PM_{2.5} and smaller cause the greatest health impacts because they are small enough to go deep inside the lungs, where they can not only damage the lungs, but also pass through into the blood stream, delivering their toxins throughout the body. EHHI's study was performed over three days, for 72 hours per house, in each house that was monitored. This is the only study of its kind to date.

Key background information about wood smoke:

- Large amounts of wood smoke, like the plumes from OWFs, cannot be kept out of neighboring houses, even those with tight windows and doors.
- Wood smoke has many of the same components as cigarette smoke and, therefore, these exposures pose a real health risk for families living in the vicinity of OWFs.
- Wood smoke is a complex mixture of chemicals and particulates. It contains carbon monoxide and other organic gases, particulate matter, chemicals and some inorganic gases. Some of these compounds are toxic (aldehydes and phenols) and some are known carcinogens (benzopyrene and cresols).

New study says burn restrictions save lives

Excerpted from: [KGET](#)

Tougher restrictions on wood burning fireplaces aren't very popular among most people living in the San Joaquin Valley, but a new study suggests the ban is saving lives and millions of dollars in related health care costs.

The study, released in November, was conducted by a science and health adviser for the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. David Lighthall says **wood burning bans are preventing at least 30 premature deaths each year in the greater Bakersfield area as many as 50 deaths in Fresno.**

"They look at data they get from our monitoring sites and see how much pollution has been reduced and they plug in complex mapping strategy developed by the EPA," said Air District Spokesman Brenda Turner.

The study shows the monetary value of lives saved is more than \$500 million annually with millions more in averted health care costs.

The findings support the district's decision in October to further tighten wood burning restrictions

"It's our most unpopular rule because it affects the general public. It's the only rule we have that affects the activities of a person in their home," Turner said.

Mounting research shows the microscopic particles of soot in wood smoke are serious threats to public health.

The tiny specks, known as PM2.5, can evade body defenses, lodge in the lungs, trigger illnesses and result in premature death.

"As they go into the air passages, they're so small they can actually get inside and cause damage and problems," said Bakersfield Physician Dr. Patrick Leung.

By the end of December, 2007, the air district had issued just 24 no-burn alerts.

This year, the order has been issued 130 times for the eight Valley counties.

While still unpopular among many people who enjoy their fireplaces, air quality experts say the study provides strong support for tighter restrictions.

Canadian Lung Association Welcomes Environment Ministers' Action On Air Quality

Article Date: 22 Oct 2010

The [Canadian Lung Association \(CLA\)](#) is praising yesterday's decision by the federal, provincial and territorial Environment Ministers to move forward on a new system for managing air quality across the country. The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment approved work to complete and implement the proposed Comprehensive Air Management System (CAMS) on a tight timetable by the end of 2013.

"The new system promises to reduce harmful air pollution and save thousands of lives every year", said Heather Borquez, CLA CEO and president. "Better air quality will also improve the health of millions of vulnerable Canadians including people with [asthma](#), COPD and other lung conditions, as well as those with cardio-vascular or heart disease."

Air pollution currently exacts a heavy toll on the health of Canadians. According to a 2008 study by the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) over 21,000 people die prematurely every year from the effects of air pollution. Poor air quality also results in over 620,000 visits to doctors' offices and more than 30,000 treatments in emergency rooms every year. The resulting cost to Canada's economy is very high. The CMA study estimates the economic burden at \$8 billion annually, from premature deaths, higher healthcare costs, missed work time and lost productivity.

"We are pleased that the Environment Ministers have seen the need for early action to cut air pollution", said Ms. Borquez. "The new system will give Canada the tools required to reduce damaging emissions of ozone and fine particulate matter and reduce the incidence of life-threatening smog conditions."

The CAMS proposal was developed through a unique collaboration among health and environmental organizations, industrial associations, and the provincial/territorial and federal governments. CLA welcomed the Environment Ministers' commitment to continue their collaboration with stakeholders in finalizing and implementing the new air management system.

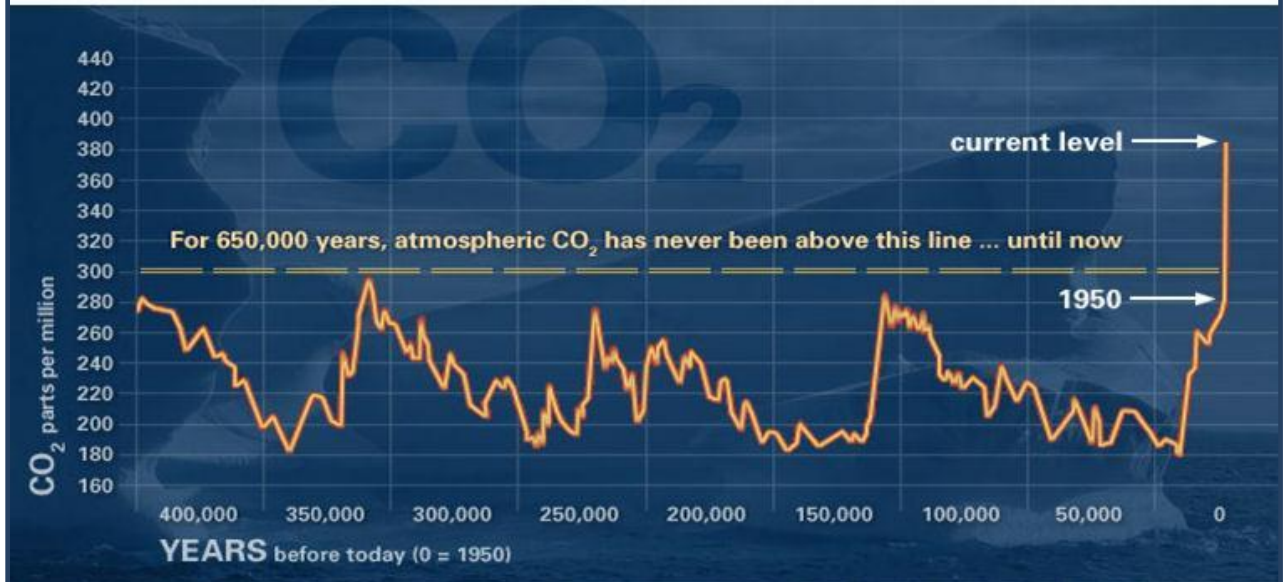
CAMS will establish consistent nation-wide standards for air quality, regulated base standards for emissions by industrial facilities, and a robust system for managing local and regional air quality across Canada. The new system will deal with pollution from all sources including transportation, industry and trans-boundary sources. Under CAMS action to reduce emissions will be intensified in areas of the country with poor or deteriorating air quality.

The Canadian Lung Association was an active partner in creating the CAMS proposal, contributing to the steering committee and technical working groups that developed the proposal.

Year of the Lung

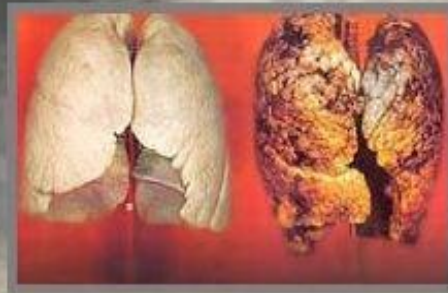
2010 has been declared the Year of the Lung, by the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS). The goal of this global campaign is to raise awareness about lung health among the public, initiate action in communities worldwide, and advocate for resources to combat lung disease including increased investment in basic, clinical and translational research worldwide.

Climate change: How do we know?



This graph, based on the comparison of atmospheric samples contained in ice cores and more recent direct measurements, provides evidence that atmospheric CO₂ has increased since the Industrial Revolution. (Source: NOAA)

LUNG DAMAGE DUE TO SMOKE



Wood smoke from OWBs (Outdoor Wood Boilers) can cause severe lung damage.
 If one is in your neighborhood, you are at risk!
 Contact your local council and mayor and ask that OWBs be banned in residential areas.

Editorial

January ... The start of a brand new year. One in which we hope to continue seeing even more bylaws and bans coming into place. Our work doesn't end until we all can live smoke-free in our own homes.

The past year has shown many new bylaws and bans being formed. I believe it is because the number of people being affected by wood smoke has grown and they are not sitting idly by while the smoke infiltrates their homes, properties and adversely affects their health and state of mind

We continue to grow in numbers as evidenced by the hits to my [web site](#) and the number of emails I receive asking for help.

Let's take this month and make it "Wood Smoke Awareness Month"! Write letters to the editors of as many newspapers as you can to get this issue even more publicity. If we all do this we can make a statement that will be heard world-wide. **WE WANT TO LIVE FREE OF WOOD SMOKE!**

If any of you would like your personal letter posted on my web site please email it to [me](#). If possible, include photos of the smoke.

This can be the year we finally break through the maze of bureaucracy and get action on an issue that is causing such great distress to so many.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who are contributing so much of your time and effort to obtain a healthy environment.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Shirley

BOZO of the Month



In my opinion

Rogue River, Oregon

Visiting the Rogue River, Oregon site showed me a picture of peaceful tranquility. If only this were true!

I have had emails telling me that wood smoke is ruining the enjoyment of homes and properties there and nothing is being done to relieve the residents of this noxious and dangerous invasion of wood smoke.

Burners do not care about their neighbors and will continue to smoke them out as long as there is no way to stop them. Little do they realize that wood burning is one of the most expensive ways to heat a home. That is unless they are either getting free wood or burning things that should not be burned.

Where is the help for these people that are forced to breathe wood smoke both outside and inside of their homes?

Bylaw amendments.... Have they heard of them?

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. I will be passing the information onto someone diligently working on this issue.

[Click here to email](#)



RAWSEP Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates

All RAWSEP sites are now on Wordpress (Microsoft Live websites are gone but you can always find us just by typing "RAWSEP")

<http://rawsep.wordpress.com> Political Action Site, with Categories to search on including Scientific Articles, Comments, RAWSEP View, Weekly RAWSEP and **RAWSEP Brochures (Brochures now available for Connecticut, Indiana, New York and Wisconsin; soon available for Ohio, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island)** and EPA and U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, etc...

<http://woodsmokeworld1.wordpress.com> International Site, with Categories of Africa, Asia, Australia, etc... and Canada divided by Province

<http://woodsmokehaz1.wordpress.com> U.S. States with Categories of States from A to Indiana

<http://woodsmokehaz2.wordpress.com> U.S. States with Categories of States from Iowa to Nevada

<http://woodsmokehaz3.wordpress.com> U.S. States with Categories of States from New Hampshire to Tennessee

<http://woodsmokehaz4.wordpress.com> U.S. States with Categories of States from Texas to Wyoming

<http://woodsmokenuisance.wordpress.com> Archive site for all states of U.S. from 2008 to April 2009

<http://woodgasification.wordpress.com> Archive site for Wisconsin from 2008 to April 2009

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

Ernest Grolimund	egrolimund@msn.com	19 Johnson Hts., Waterville, Maine USA 04901 207-861-5765
Giulia D'Alesio	giulia.dalesio@hotmail.com	Notre-Dame-De-L'ile Perrot Quebec, Canada Phone and fax (514) 425-5288
Janet Irvine	janetirvine@shaw.ca	Nanaimo, B.C. Canada
Linda Beaudin	airisprecious@gmail.com	Cornwall, Ontario Canada
Nathalie Doiron	Nathalie_doiron@hotmail.com	Quebec, Canada
Cathy Baiton	cleanairmattersinalberta@gmail.com	Alberta, Canada

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

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 & Information Articles Links Contact Information deborahbarrie@hotmail.com</p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Wood Burner Smoke</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Editor's Site</p>
 <p>Canadians working together to end wood smoke pollution CANADIAN CLEAN AIR ALLIANCE www.cleanairalliance.ca</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><u>cleanairtas.com</u></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Freedom of Air</u></p>
 <p>breathe healthy air</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TAKE BACK THE AIR</u></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">EHHI</p>
 <p>International Coalition Against Wood Burning</p> <p>P R O T E C T</p> <p>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://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.

“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)

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

Health Canada: 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.

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

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

U.S. Action Activities

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.**

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

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)

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 to be added to the mailing list.