

July 7, 2022, RAWSEP news paraphrased

1.U.S. Midwest

[When Coal First Arrived, Americans Said 'No Thanks' | Innovation | Smithsonian Magazine](#)

Smithsonian Magazine

By 1885, homes were **burning** more coal than **wood**. Particularly in the big cities, the new fuel had won. These days, the need to transition to renewable ...

RAWSEP View: This is a Smithsonian article about aesthetics of wood burning. Aesthetics is a set of principles concerned with the nature and appreciation of beauty, especially in art, or the branch of philosophy that deals with the principles of beauty and artistic taste. Aesthetics of wood burning in the late 1800s seems irrelevant in RAWSEP's view, today, when the common-sense reason for not burning wood is that wood burning pollutes. Pollution doesn't seem beautiful. It is debatable that alternatives to wood burning are not artistic or beautiful. In RAWSEP's view solar and wind power is beautiful as well as useful.

This Smithsonian article states that some people's preference was for the taste of food after cooking in a wood stove or in a fireplace, rather than the taste of food cooked in a coal stove in the late 1800s. The article states that in the late 1800s "The cultural arguments against coal burning, rather than wood burning, piled up. Food cooked in coal stoves was baked", not broiled, as food was cooked over wood fires, and "that, too, offended American tastes" of the late 1800s. The article states, briefly leaving the aesthetics argument, that "Part of the problem was that a wood-burning fireplace was a profligate way to heat a house, since so much heat vanished up the chimney " and "a lot of the open-hearth wood fires were just *insanely* inefficient". This Smithsonian article also states that Victorian homes in some historic districts currently require a special Victorian look for solar panels. The writer states that "Renewable energy is at a curious crossroads. It's needed to avert further climate damage, and solar and wind power are now remarkably cheap. But even clean-energy proponents often dislike the aesthetics of the new technology."

2.U.S. Northeast

3.U.S. West Coast

California, Los Angeles

[Children Will Suffer the Consequences of the Supreme Court's Rampage](#)

CityWatch Los Angeles

In a groundbreaking study last year, US and British scientists found that fine particulate matter (**PM 2.5**) annually kills more people in the ...

RAWSEP View: This article states that the U.S. Supreme Court decision not to allow the EPA to regulate "greenhouse " emissions will have consequences for U.S. Children. In RAWSEP's view the EPA will still be allowed to regulate particulate emissions, which are not "greenhouse" emissions. The article discusses particulate pollution, but does not discuss particulate pollution from wood burning. Regulation of particulate emissions from residential wood burning is still a "tool" in the Biden's administration "toolkit" of EPA monitoring and regulation, and that regulation of residential wood burning could be used to shut down particulate polluters.

The article states "Researchers from the University of California San Francisco and the University of Washington last year [found](#) that particulate exposure was associated with nearly 6 million premature births and nearly 3 million low birth weight babies around the world in 2019. In the United States, particulate pollution triggers 16,000 preterm births a year, according to a 2017 [report](#) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention." The article states that this pollution affects disadvantaged people. "In the United States a Black baby is [50 percent](#) more likely to arrive in a preterm birth than a White or Hispanic baby. Air pollution, as Perera and Nadeau wrote, is linked in studies to asthma, anxiety, depression, and long-term intellectual disabilities." And "the data is so compelling, Perera and Nadeau could not detail it all, particularly the extensive studies detailing the harms caused by fine particulate matter. In a [groundbreaking study](#) last year, US and British scientists found that fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) annually kills more people in the United States (350,000) than [guns](#), drug [overdoses](#), and [vehicular](#) accidents *combined*." The article states that "reducing PM 2.5 would [significantly increase](#) life expectancy and it would certainly help avoid needless child deaths and health care costs. The US and British [study found](#) that 69 children in the US under the age of 5 died in 2018 from lower

respiratory infections directly caused by breathing in fossil fuel fine particulates. One [study](#) found that pediatric asthma costs the United States \$6 billion a year. Black, Latino and Asian communities would particularly benefit from reduced PM 2.5 given their [disproportionate exposure](#) to the emissions of transportation, industry, and construction. A major study last year by researchers from the University of Illinois, the University of Washington, the University of Texas, the University of California Berkeley, and the University of Minnesota [found](#) the exposures of people of color to be “systemic,” resulting from factors such as racist housing policies that concentrate communities of color next to industry and along transportation corridors.”

Colorado, Denver

[Turns out that outdoor fireplaces are illegal in Denver | News](#)

Denver Westword

According to Familiesforcleanair.org, **wood-smoke** pollution is even more hazardous than secondhand smoke from cigarettes, aggravating asthma and ...

RAWSEP View: Many of the neighbors who call the fire department about outdoor burning have serious health concerns. This article states “According to [Familiesforcleanair.org](#), wood-smoke pollution is even more hazardous than secondhand smoke from cigarettes, aggravating asthma and causing cancer; the site urges people to alert their local representatives to the dangers of outdoor fireplaces”. Recently a Denver fire truck had pulled up and unloaded a full complement of firefighters suited up for a big blaze because chimeneas, outdoor fireplaces, and fire pits are illegal in Denver. "You can't have an open burn without a permit," says a fire department spokesman. "Home Depot doesn't tell you that."

Nevada, Minden-Gardnerville

[July 6, 2022, R-C Letters to the Editor | Serving Minden-Gardnerville and Carson Valley](#)

The Record Courier

The Alpine Biomass Coalition – whose board of directors includes two county supervisors – is being cagey about exactly where the proposed **wood-burning** ...

RAWSEP View: Three citizens in Markleeville, Nevada wrote a letter to the editor about an Alpine County biomass plant on the November ballot. They wrote that the Alpine Biomass Coalition say it will be built “within a three-mile radius of Woodfords.” They’re suggesting it’ll produce 3 megawatts of power, though 7 megawatts was mentioned in years past. Quiet talks have apparently already begun with Liberty Energy and local tribal representatives. The public “will have a chance to weigh in,” ABC assures the public – but only at the CEQA/environmental impact stage, when it’s typically too late to change much. The three citizens wrote “As Alpine residents, we were horrified to discover recently just how far plans had already gone. We were equally horrified to find that two Alpine supervisors have actively served as directors for the pro-biomass organization, and two more have moderated its meetings. To protect the public’s right to have a say in the matter, we launched a voter initiative to prohibit biomass facilities in Eastern Alpine County. We needed 63 signatures to get it on a ballot. Over just a single weekend, we got 93 signatures. Voters don’t like the idea of a biomass plant, and for good reason. Biomass plants can emit more harmful CO2 than fossil fuel plants, and other hazardous materials. They typically require tax dollars to operate, and their lifespan is iffy. Heavy truck traffic would impact local highways, and there’s noise, light, and air pollution to consider. We asked for the initiative to be put to a public vote, so the voters can decide whether a biomass plant is a good idea for Alpine County. On June 21, 2022, the Board of Supervisors voted to put the initiative on the Nov. 8, 2022, ballot. Stay tuned.”

4.Canada

Alberta, Fort McMurray Forest

[Officials elect to let wildfires play out north of Fort Chipewyan - MyMcMurray](#)

MyMcMurray

... wildfires in the northern part of the Fort McMurray Forest Area to **burn**. ... there are 10 wildfires currently **burning** across **Wood Buffalo**, ...

RAWSEP View: Officials in Alberta say they're allowing a number of lightning-sparked wildfires in the Fort McMurray Forest Area to burn. Their reasoning is that the fires are in remote areas and aren't threatening communities or resources. 10 wildfires are burning across Wood Buffalo, and all are classified as being held. This includes fires burning north of Fort Chipewyan, with the largest being over 8000 hectares in size. Alberta Wildfire say it creates a break in continuous fuels, reduces the intensity of fires and provides safety zones for firefighting crews to work from.

5.Australia

6.New Zealand

7.U.K.

8.Germany in the European Union, & Europe

9.Nigeria in Africa

10.india in Asia

India, Delhi

[PM2.5, PM10 levels were above safe limit in Delhi throughout summer: Report](#)

The Economic Times

The CPCB's annual average permissible limits for PM 2.5, PM 10 and NO2 are 40 ug/m3, 60 ug/m3 and 40 ug/m3 respectively.

RAWSEP View: Delhi's PM 2.5 and PM 10 levels were higher in 2022 as compared to 2021 across the last four months except in the case of PM 10 levels in March," a study stated. "The rising temperatures during the heatwave have also pushed up the demand for air conditioning resulting in higher coal consumption and hence this is reflected in higher PM 2.5 levels," said the Civil Engineering Department.

Sri Lanka

[Sri Lankans return to cooking with firewood as economy burns - The News International](#)

The News International

Karunawathi, 67, also switched to **wood** and said it was a choice between closing her business or putting up with **smoke** and soot. "We suffer (**smoke** ...

RAWSEP View: This article interviews a food vendor in Sri Lanka who said "We suffer (smoke inhalation) when cooking with firewood, but we have no choice," "It is also difficult to find firewood and it is also becoming very expensive." But with economic mismanagement and the crucial tourism industry hammered by Covid-19, the nation has run out of dollars needed to pay for most imports of alternatives to wood burning. Foraging for wood can also be dangerous in the snake- and insect-infested forests. Last week, a father of three died from wasp stings in central Sri Lanka and four others were hospitalized.

10.5 Research Papers & Technology

[Indoor air quality and clean cooking: How it can combat climate change - Reviewed](#) Reviewed

RAWSEP View: **Burning** fuels like **wood** or fuel can emit hazardous **smoke** and carbon. Given the sheer volume of pollution produced globally by people without clean ...RAWSEP View: According to environmental advocacy group the Clean Cooking Alliance, over 3 billion people worldwide—that's over a third of the world's population—lack the access to modern stoves and fuels and rely on using open fires—often indoors—that employ coal, wood, kerosene, and even garbage and animal dung, which emit hazardous levels of smoke and carbon. Studies have found that over 6 million people rely on burning solid fuels like wood or coal as their primary heating source in the U.S., and roughly a half million people, many of whom live below the poverty line and/or live on Native reservations, rely on burning them as primary cooking sources, which leads to elevated household air pollution. Cost and custom may prove to be hurdles in

implementing broad changes for many people, but **the simplest fix** for this issue on a domestic level is to swap out inefficient wood stoves with either **lower emission wood stoves** that also require less biomass to fuel them, or **electric versions** whenever possible. This “dirty cooking” is having a devastating effect on the most vulnerable sections of society, including the poorest women and children, whose health and even education are disrupted, as they have no better alternatives than scavenging for fuel to burn in order to feed themselves.

11.The Future