

August 25, 2022, RAWSEP news paraphrased

The U S Midwest and the U S South

[Georgia communities mobilize against expansion of foul-smelling wood-burning energy](#)

Georgia Recorder

Exhaust from Georgia Renewable Power's **wood-burning** biomass plant in Madison County prompted state legislators to pass a law in 2021 against ...

RAWSEP View: Mary noted that, in Georgia, a group of residents and environmentalists are fighting to prevent the world's largest wood pellet plant from coming to a predominantly Black and Hispanic community in Cook County in South Georgia. The article she was reading was about three counties: Cook County, Madison County and Franklin County in the state of Georgia. In Cook County, the Southern Environmental Law Center and Concerned Citizens of Cook County are asking a judge to revoke an air quality permit for the planned Adel wood pellet plant on the grounds that the state Environmental Protection Division did not take into consideration the serious health risks that the pollution would pose to those living closest to it. Located about 25 miles north of Valdosta, Adel is a small city with about 5,500 residents and a railroad track separating the white and more affluent east side from the west, where the majority of residents are minorities. The west side has a long history of pollution-producing industrial sites. The Georgia Office of State Administrative Hearings could hold a hearing on the appeal before the end of the year for what community advocates say is another industrial project that would perpetuate a legacy of environmental injustice. In Madison County in Georgia, a group that successfully lobbied for a new state law last year to ban energy-producing plants from burning creosote-treated wood continues its fight against two wood-burning operations in Franklin and Madison counties in northeast Georgia. A leader of Madison County's clean power group recommends residents get outdoor air quality monitors before the wood pellet plant opens in Cook County.

North Carolina

[As Holly Shelter smolders, what is the role of wildfire in the Wilmington area?](#)

Wilmington Star-News

That's making it tougher to manage those areas using prescribed burns due to risk of smoke pollution — **wood smoke** is particularly nasty to human ...

RAWSEP View: Mary noted, in North Carolina, an article titled "As Holly Shelter smolders, what is the role of wildfire in the Wilmington area?" Nearly two weeks after it was started by a lightning strike, a wildfire continues to smolder in the Holly Shelter Game Land. The roughly 1,226-acre fire is largely contained. The fire generated heavy smoke and some concern from nearby residents that could see and smell the smoky fire.

The U S Northeast

The U S West Coast

California

[2 more fires burn at Oakland Wood St. homeless encampment - Yahoo News](#)

Yahoo News

Two separate fires **burned** at a homeless encampment in Oakland Tuesday, which has been the site of numerous fires and is currently the subject of a ...

[2 fires are still burning in Oakland Wood St . homeless camp - The Bharat Express News](#)

The Bharat Express News

The first fire at the **Wood** Street encampment was originally reported around 7:30 a.m. Tuesday and was quickly extinguished.

RAWSEP View: Wendy noted that an India newspaper posted a story titled "Two fires are still burning in an Oakland, California, Wood Street homeless camp." The Wood Street encampment has been the scene of numerous fires in recent

years, most recently on July 11. Oakland fire officials said about 100 fires of varying size and severity occurred at the camp between April 2021 and July 1 of this year. A person died in a fire in April.

Colorado

[This Tiny Home With an All-Wood Interior Is Pet-Friendly, Practical, and Affordable](#)

AutoEvolution

The first thing you're going to notice is the living room, which features two bean bags, a large TV, and a **wood-burning** stove with a cubby ...

RAWSEP View: Wendy noted that a tiny home was built by a custom builder located in Englewood, Colorado. The house is a 20-ft (6-meter) mobile dwelling. 194 sq ft (18 sq meters) of is occupied by a man and his dog. The living room has a wood-burning stove.

Canada

Alberta

[Firefighters find **smoke**, no flames at NE restaurant distributor - CTV News Calgary](#)

CTV News Calgary

Firefighters find **smoke**, no flames at NE restaurant distributor. File photo. Damien **Wood**. CTV News Calgary; Staff; Follow | Contact. Updated Aug.

RAWSEP View: Cameron noted that, in Calgary, Alberta firefighters found smoke, but no flames at a Northeast Calgary restaurant distributor.

[Special air quality statements issued as wildfire **smoke** blows across Alberta | CBC News](#)

CBC

Brooks - Strathmore - Vulcan; City of Edmonton - St. Albert - Sherwood Park; Fort Chipewyan - **Wood** Buffalo National Park; Fort McMurray - Fort McKay ...

RAWSEP View: Cameron noted that Edmonton, Alberta in Canada issued special air quality statements as wildfire smoke blows across Alberta.

British Columbia

[Comox Valley directors to consider revised **wood smoke** reduction strategy](#)

Comox Valley Record

In May, the **Wood Smoke** Reduction Strategy was presented to the Comox Valley Regional District board, which provided feedback to staff and ...

RAWSEP View: Cameron noted that, in Comox Valley, British Columbia, in Canada, In May, the Wood Smoke Reduction Strategy was presented to the Comox Valley Regional District board, which provided feedback to staff and recommendations for incorporation. A revised strategy will be presented to the board on Sept. 20. The revised strategy and agenda for the meeting will be available at comox valley dot c a slash agendas. For more information about the Wood Smoke Reduction Strategy and current air quality initiatives, visit comox valley r d dot c a slash airshed roundtable.

Australia

New Zealand

The U K

England

[UK plans to suspend fuel quality requirements for **wood** pellets - Energy Live News](#)

Energy Live News

A few days ago, it was reported that during a private meeting of MPs, the Business Secretary said importing **wood** to **burn** for power in the UK was ...

[Renewable Heat Incentive: Temporary changes to wood pellets quality requirement](#)

GOV.UK

... and **particulate** matter). Specifically for the purposes of this notice we are referring to paragraph 2 of Schedule 4A which requires all **wood** ...

[UK proposal aims to ensure adequate wood pellet supplies for RHI | Biomassmagazine.com](#)

Biomass Magazine

As of April 1, 2022, **wood** fuel used by participants in the non-domestic RHI (NDRHI) and ... such as nitrogen oxides and **particulate** matter.

RAWSEP View: Island noted that Biomass Magazine issued a statement titled “U K proposal aims to ensure adequate wood pellet supplies for the Renewable Heat Incentive (R H I)”. The U.K. government on Aug. 22 opened a public consultation (public comment) on its proposal to, for 12 months, suspend fuel quality requirements for Renewable Heat Incentive participants using wood pellets in response to supply impacts from Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. As of April 1, 2022, wood fuel used in the non-domestic R H I (N D R H I) and domestic R H I (D R H I) must meet standards to reduce emissions of the harmful air pollutant, particulate matter. The Aug. 22 notice referred to the requirement that all wood pellets used by R H I participants meet the E N plus A 1 standard. Public comment is open through Sept. 11. More information is on the U K Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy B E I S [website](#).

Northern Ireland

[Beauparc buys wood-fired power station | MRW - Materials Recycling World](#)

Materials Recycling World

Tyrone Energy's power station (pictured) was Northern Ireland's first large-scale **wood burning** plant and processes 25,000 tonnes a year as biomass ...

RAWSEP View: Island in the U K noted that Tyrone Energy's power station was, in 2012, Northern Ireland's first large-scale **wood burning** plant and processes 25,000 tonnes a year as biomass. Tyrone Energy was Northern Ireland’s first large scale ‘wood to energy’ plant. Taking wood from sustainable sources in the UK and Ireland, the plant can generate 2.1 MW of electricity annually. The station is applying Available Technology (BAT) and is helping Northern Ireland meet its long-term target of achieving a 60 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050. A company called Beauparc, Ireland’s leading waste-management company, has bought Tyrone Energy’s wood-fired power station, for an undisclosed amount. Beauparc’s owns consumer brands Panda, Greenstar and Panda Energy. For Beauparc, the deal reinforces sustainable processes whilst delivering carbon neutral goals. Beauparc spans 3 countries and operates from 54 facilities in Ireland, the UK and the Netherlands.

[Controversial biomass power station scheme 'to be greenlit by Government'](#)

Yahoo News UK

... releases over 13 million tonnes of CO2 a year from **burning wood** (Getty) ... Drax power station in North Yorkshire, a former coal-**-fired** power ...

RAWSEP View: Island noted that DRAX power station in North Yorkshire, releases over 13 million tonnes of CO2 a year from burning wood.

Wales

[Stoves set to replace central heating for many this winter as gas price crisis sparks surge in ... - iNews](#)

iNews

A Fireplace With A **Wood Burning** Stove ... Fireplaces and **woodburning** stoves produce particulate matter pollution, tiny particles of soot that bury ...

RAWSEP View: Island noted that, in Wales, wood stoves are set to replace central heating for many this winter as gas prices surge. Fireplaces and wood burning stoves produce particulate matter pollution, tiny particles that bury into bury deep into the lungs and can cause serious illness such as lung disease and cancer.

Germany in the European Union, and Europe and the Middle East

Iran

[Health burden and economic loss attributable to ambient PM2.5 in Iran based on the ground ...](#)

Nature

Ambient **PM2.5**-related deaths were estimated using the Global Exposure Mortality Model (GEMM). According to the ground-monitored and satellite-based PM ...

RAWSEP View: Gerda noted that, in Iran, a research paper in Scientific Reports stated that ambient PM 2.5 related deaths were estimated using the Global Exposure Mortality Model (G E M M) and using ground-monitored and satellite-based PM 2.5 monitoring. The study concluded that “based on our findings and other studies, the residents of all provinces and counties of Iran have been, and continue to be, exposed to health-damaging levels of ambient PM_{2.5} over the three past decades. Although it is, in Iran, recognized to be a serious issue by civil society, researchers and policymakers, there has been little progress in reducing it. Levels of PM 2.5 remain unchanged according to the website state of the global air dot org Despite this, the Iranian Department of Environment (D o E) released a revised national ambient air quality standard (N A A Q S) in August 2017, in which the annual and daily PM_{2.5} standard increased (12 and 35 micrograms per meter cubed respectively) relative to the previous N A A Q S (10 and 25 micrograms per meter cubed), which was based on the World Health Organization (W H O) A Q G 2005. Since then, the W H O has further lowered its PM_{2.5} A Q G based on the latest scientific evidence and offered guidance to governments seeking to reduce air pollution exposure and attributable mortality, including short- and long-term measures to reduce ambient air pollution and its health burden that have been successfully applied in other countries to reduce ambient air pollution-related health impacts and corresponding economic loss (see W H O dot int slash news) Such approaches include shifting to clean fuels, transportation reform, and reducing traffic emissions from vehicles and other major sources. Their implementation poses challenges in many Lower Middle Income Countries (L M I C) where economic development and poverty reduction relied on heavily-polluting economic activities. Our study has some limitations. First, A Q M S were not widely available in all 429 counties of Iran and we used the estimated concentrations of ambient PM 2.5 based on neighbor stations. Second, the national-level baseline mortality data was used in Iran. Third, some of the data required for health and economic burdens were borrowed or estimated from the international studies.”

Poland

[Ban on coal from Russia has Poland scrambling - Chinadaily.com.cn](#)

China Daily (Global Edition)

Burning coal or **wood** in the home increases the chance of developing a respiratory disease by one-third, research from Warsaw's Institute for ...

[Ban on coal from Russia has Poland scrambling - Chinadaily.com.cn](#)

China Daily (Global Edition)

Burning coal or **wood** in the home increases the chance of developing a respiratory disease by one-third, research from Warsaw's Institute for ...

RAWSEP View: Gerda noted that a Chinese newspaper posted an article called “Ban on coal from Russia has Poland scrambling”. Poland is the European Union's largest coal producer and is dependent on the fuel for some 80 percent of its electricity generation. Poland bought Russian coal for about 40 percent of the fuel it needed to heat homes. Its abundant domestic supply, which is of lower quality, is used mainly for industrial use such as in power stations. Poland is now hurriedly seeking alternative supplies from producers in Australia, Indonesia, Colombia, and South Africa, but logistics are challenging. Poland government officials have instructed state-owned companies to buy an additional 5 million metric tons of coal to supply households. Quality standards for the burning of coal for home heating have been suspended, raising concerns from environmentalists.

Sweden

[Short-Term Air Pollution Exposure and Increased AF Risk - DocWire News](#)

DocWire News

Previous studies have identified a causal link between short-term exposure to fine particulate matter (**PM2.5**) and increased risk of cardiovascular ...

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S016041202030324X>

Gerda noted that in a research study in Stockholm, Sweden, in 2020, researchers screened 8,899 randomly selected 75-year-olds living in Stockholm without previously known Atrial Fibrillation (A F) for A F using home-based short-term ambulatory 1-lead ECG-measurements 2 to 4 times a day for 14 days. Screenings were carried out in 2012–2013 and 2016 to 2018. We used generalized estimating equations to quantify the association between PM 2.5, obtained from a fixed monitoring station and risk of AF onset among participants with AF observed during the screening period, adjusting for temperature, relative humidity and temporal factors. We explored potential susceptible subgroups. The researchers noted the most prominent association between PM 2.5 exposure and increased risk for AF episode was found in the 48-to-72-hour window. Their findings bolster evidence that AF may be triggered by short-term increases in air pollution, even at levels “well below” the new World Health Organization air quality guidelines of 15 micrograms per meter cubed for daily PM 2.5 exposure and the annual mean levels of 5 micrograms per meter cubed. “Given the high prevalence of AF and the universal exposure to air pollution, this has a potential impact on public health and highlights the need for further population-level approaches for air pollution reduction and primary prevention of disease,” the researchers concluded.

Nigeria in Africa

India in Asia

[Environmental protection industry helping to bolster economic growth - Chinadaily.com.cn](#)

China Daily

According to the ministry, for example, the average density of **PM 2.5** particulate matter in major Chinese cities dropped by 34.8 percent last year ...

[Environmental protection boom pumps up economy - Chinadaily.com.cn](#)

China Daily

According to the ministry, the average density of **PM 2.5** particulate matter last year in major cities dropped by 34.8 percent on 2015 levels.

RAWSEP View: Ishan note that, in China according to the ministry the average density of PM 2.5 particulate matter in major Chinese cities dropped by 34.8 percent compared to 2015 levels.

India

[How trendy is air pollution? - Times Now](#)

Times Now

The latest State of Global Air report lists Delhi and Kolkata as the top two cities with the highest particulate matter (**PM**) **2.5** concentrations in ...

RAWSEP View: Ishan noted that an article titled “How trendy is Air Pollution?” said that Delhi and Kolkata are the top two cities with the highest particulate matter, PM 2.5, concentrations in the world.

[Delhi likely to witness light rain as minimum temp settles at 27.2 degrees. IMD update here](#)

Mint

... (PM2.5) from 2010 to 2019, its national capital Delhi has the highest average level of fine **PM 2.5** among the world's most populated cities.

RAWSEP View:

['EV adoption in Delhi more than national average'- The New Indian Express](#)

The New Indian Express

“Delhi is engulfed in an ever-tightening grip of pollution with the transportation sector responsible for one-third of all **PM 2.5** emissions, thus, ...

RAWSEP View: Ishan noted that Electric Vehicle (E V) adoption in Delhi was higher than the national average of India.

[Delhi News Live Updates: CM Arvind Kejriwal to inaugurate 97 more e-bus today, DTC's ...](#)

The Indian Express

Currently, there are 102 electric buses running under DTC. Each one of the buses is estimated to cut 0.33 million tonnes of **PM 2.5** and PM 10 Carbon ...

[Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal flags off 97 electric buses today; Transport Minister Kailash Gehlot ...](#)

Times Now

On Wednesday at 12 pm, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal inaugurated 97 more ... (CO₂) emissions from **PM 2.5** and PM 10 by 0.33 million tonnes each.

RAWSEP View: Ishan noted that, in Delhi, India, 97 new electric city buses were introduced.

[Kolkata gasps for clean air even with Rs 536 cr in 3 years to control pollution](#)

Down To Earth

It recently ranked second in **Particulate Matter 2.5** concentration after Delhi in a global assessment of 100 populous cities. The **PM 2.5** pollutant ...

RAWSEP View: Ishan noted, in an article titled "Kolkata gasps for clean air", that Kolkata, India ranked second in PM 2.5 after Delhi in a global assessment of 100 populous cities.

[Check out the anti-pollution helmet PUROS developed by a Delhi startup - Times Now](#)

Times Now

Till now we have seen measures like water cannons, odd-even vehicle regulations etc to control the AQI and **PM 2.5** levels in the region.

RAWSEP View: Ishan noted that in Delhi, India, a company startup has devised an anti-pollution helmet. The startup company is calling this helmet '[PUROS](#)'. This helmet is equipped with a patented air purifying technology. The helmet uses air purifying accessories which are a Brushless DC (B L D C) blower fan and High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter membrane which are located at the back of the helmet and it picks up all particulate matter coming from outside and cleans the air before it reaches the two-wheeler rider. There is a micro U S B port available in the helmet to charge the air filter unit and the startup has also developed a bluetooth enabled app which connects with the helmet and alerts the rider when the cleaning is required.

Research Papers and Technology

[A Brief Guide on How To Make Wood Pellets - TechBullion](#)

TechBullion

It's still considered more efficient than a traditional **wood burning** stove. Pellet-burning stoves are more expensive initially but in the long run ...

RAWSEP View: Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates do not believe what one advertisement for wood pellet burning claims. The wood pellet manufacturer's claim is that burning wood pellets is a low carbon source of energy. The claim is made that wood is renewable when the forests are being replenished as quickly as they're being consumed. Wood is not renewable because it takes 100 years on average for forests to be replenished after they are cut down, and it takes much less time to cut down trees and burn the wood. The claim is made that the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere that burning the wood creates is the same amount that is released into the atmosphere when the trees die naturally and are consumed by other animals. This is an untrue claim. This advertiser does concede that wood pellets are not carbon neutral. But the advertiser claims that wood pellet burning still gives off much less carbon in the atmosphere than fossil fuels. This is untrue. The advertiser does not mention that burning wood produces more particulate matter, PM 2.5, than burning coal, burning a fossil fuel. PM 2.5, particulate matter of 2.5 micrometer size, is the perfect size to infiltrate the human lung, setting off a cascade of human health problems. PM 2.5 also contributes to climate change.

Future