

September 16, 2022, RAWSEP news paraphrased.

The U S Midwest and the U S South

U S West Coast

California

[Fire pit regulations up for discussion in Carmel-By-The Sea on Tuesday](#)

KSBW

The city implemented its pilot program in 2016 providing 12 kettles for beachgoers to do bonfires. They were installed May 15 and are scheduled for ...

[Carmel city leaders decide to get rid of wood burning fire pits on beaches - KSBW](#)

KSBW

During a board meeting Tuesday night, Carmel City Council members decided to get rid of wood-burning fire pits and move forward with propane fires ...

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/news/carmel-city-leaders-decide-to-get-rid-of-wood-burning-fire-pits-on-beaches/ar-AA11O73c>

35 A Wendy and Carmel, California ends wood-burning beach fire pits

Wendy noted that the most important consideration in ending use of wood burning fire pits on Carmel, California beaches was the health consideration. PM 2.5, particulate matter of 2.5 micrometer size is 90% of wood burning emissions. PM 2.5 is the perfect size to infiltrate the human lung, producing a cascade of human health problems. Controlling fire pit burning is possible, unlike controlling wildfires. Wendy noted that, in Carmel, California, city leaders decided to get rid of wood burning fire pits and move forward with propane fires. During a board meeting on September 13th, 2022, Carmel City Council members decided to get rid of wood-burning fire pits and move forward with propane fires only. The city council considered several factors, some of them being the cost for clean-up, maintenance, and air pollution. "I think it's important to make a move forward, as far as humanity goes, to stop burning things. It's a vital step to the health and safety on our beautiful shoreline," Council Member Karen Felito said during the meeting. But even with the designated fire pits, many locals argued for a total ban on the wood burning fires. During the meeting, one Carmel resident said, "Abolishing wood-fire will eliminate future damage to our white sand and ensure all people will enjoy the beach without health risks." Bonfires on Carmel beach have been controversial for years. Many nearby residents complained of smoke and debris left behind on the beach.

[Valley has put up with bad air long enough. Here's a way to loosen grip of polluters - The Fresno Bee](#)

The Fresno Bee

More than 1,200 San Joaquin Valley residents die prematurely every year from exposure to PM 2.5, the fine particulate linked to a variety of health ...

Episode 35 B Wendy and California Assembly Bill 2550 which would include community and hearings in decisions about PM 2.5 Industrial Wood-Burning pollution

Wendy noted that, in a Fresno, California newspaper, the headline was "Valley has put up with bad air long enough, here's a way to loosen the grip of polluters". Wendy hoped that the article was about how local ordinances could be passed to stop residential wood burning, by using data from PM 2.5 fence-line monitors of near neighbors to prove the levels of PM 2.5 from indoor wood burning by nearby residential wood burners was causing PM 2.5 levels above the WHO standard of 5 micrograms per meter cubed or above the expected-after-November 2022 U S standard of 8 micrograms per meter cubed. However, this newspaper column is about how community groups should have input on

air quality standards in this California Valley, for pollution using stationary source monitors of industries. This newspaper columnist also thinks there should be public hearings on further regulation of industrial PM 2.5 pollution sources in this California Valley. However, this is still an article about PM 2.5 levels which affect residents. The PM 2.5 levels could be measured but are not, or the PM 2.5 levels are measured but the data is ignored. The industries in this California Valley are not well regulated or are not regulated at all. The polluters want financial incentives to stop polluting. The polluters demand carrots rather than sticks, for industries that are not under financial strain. The polluters don't want regulation, community involvement, nor public hearings leading to decisions about anti-pollution measures to take. This is similar to the EPA certification of wood stoves, which is done without the input of neighbors of residential wood burners, but with the input and rubber stamp of the manufacturers of the wood stoves themselves, ensuring that residential wood stove emission particulate pollution will continue. The harm of breathing PM 2.5 is well described in this article. The stranglehold of the wood burning industry is strong. Ending or even regulating residential wood burning so that it doesn't pollute the air of near neighbors of residential wood burners or damage near neighbors' lungs must seemingly always be accompanied by heavy financial incentives. This stranglehold is described in this article is about PM 2.5 pollution from industrial wood burning and other PM 2.5 producing industrial practices, large sources of stationary pollutants. Stationary pollutants can be measured over time, and easily regulated, whether they are large sources or hyper-localized residential sources. Hyper-localized stationary sources of pollution can be controlled unlike wildfires. Residential wood burning can be easily controlled, in cost effective ways by using PurpleAir PM 2.5 fenceline monitoring in the yards of near neighbors. Data can even be collected in the middle of the night, when smoke descends on the houses of near neighbors. Government officials can note the data the day after, during normal working hours. There is no need to enter the homes of residential wood burners to find out what make or model of wood burner is being used, because the evidence of PM 2.5 is apparent. Having laws and regulation for PM 2.5 levels than can be known, regulated and eliminated is low hanging fruit that should be dealt with. Large scale PM 2.5 pollution from industries is also readily apparent, and can be known, regulated and eliminated or controlled, if laws can be strengthened, as AB 2550 in California aims to do. The health crisis of PM 2.5 exposure is the impetus for AB 2550. One in five Valley children have Asthma. 1,200 residents die prematurely because of PM 2.5 exposure in the Valley. This article urges that the Governor of California sign Assembly 2550 by September 30, 2022. Bill 2500 introduces ways that regulation and community involvement in regulation of PM 2.5 air pollution producing industries can begin, or existing regulation can be strengthened. This article from Fresno, California is about the air in the Valley which Californians breathe on many days, lungful by lungful, which is hazardous to their health. The article points out that some Valley residents have just accepted, or been told, that the problem is too large, complex, and difficult, for anything to change. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (the agency responsible for air quality planning, monitoring and enforcement for eight counties) isn't on the side of residents. Its governing board is stacked with elected officials beholden to industries that are the largest sources of stationary pollutants. In a few cases, members of the governing board are active participants in those polluting industries. California Assembly Bill 2550 by Joaquin Arambula, Democrat of Fresno, disturbs the status quo in air districts like Fresno's that fail to meet federal air pollution standards. The air quality standards, set so long ago, set back in 1997 for PM 2.5, are so lenient that they are not preventive of harmful levels of air pollution. Bill 2550 is opposed by the boards of supervisors in all eight counties served by the Valley Air District, plus the cities of Clovis and Bakersfield, plus several farm bureaus and more than a dozen groups associated with agriculture and oil. What are all these folks against? They are against any law that increases input and authority over how the California Valley region's unhealthy air should be combated. They don't want state regulators and community organizations involved, so the powers-that-be can continue spinning their wheels and passing the buck. Assembly Bill (A B) 2550 requests the California Air Resources Board (C A R B) to "coordinate" with district officials and community organizations to "identify gaps" in state and local attainment plans. AB 2550 requires state regulators to "provide additional monitoring and enforcement capacity" for the region's largest stationary pollution sources (for example, factories, refineries, and dairies) and to schedule at least one public hearing regarding the district's attainment plans. Sounds reasonable, right? Not when the ultimate goal isn't cleaner, healthier air. The goal of the PM 2.5 polluting industries is to maintain a firm grip over a failed process. "This status quo is not acceptable," the sponsor, Assemblyman Arambula said in a May committee hearing. "In the face of a decades-long health crisis, the C A R B must engage more strongly on this." Fresno continues to be the No. 1 city in the U.S. most affected by daily particulate spikes, as ranked by the American Lung Association, Bakersfield second and Visalia ninth. The Valley Air District placed industry profits over community health. The stranglehold of certain industries is so strong

that adoption of practices that don't pollute this California Valley's air or damage residents' lungs must seemingly always be accompanied by heavy financial incentives. As if all those doctor visits for our kids' asthma (roughly one in five are asthmatic) or hospital stays for strokes and heart attacks don't extract an even larger price. More than 1,200 San Joaquin Valley residents die prematurely every year from exposure to PM 2.5, the fine particulate linked to a variety of health ailments. If that many people were killed in auto accidents, wouldn't we demand something be done? AB 2550 holds local officials' feet to the fire for pollution sources they can control, but won't control.

Idaho

[Between the wildfire smoke and COVID-19, the air feels like a bully - Lewiston Tribune](#)

Lewiston Tribune

My mother used to say, "Smoke follows beauty," whenever we sat around a campfire and the plumes of **wood smoke** seemed to track me wherever I'd go.

RAWSEP View: Excerpts from **Between the wildfire smoke and COVID-19, the air feels like a bully**

Episode 35 C Wendy and an Idaho Columnist compares and contrasts the airborne risk of wood smoke with COVID 19 Wendy noted that, in Idaho, there was more to do against wood smoke than donning a mask. Wood smoke from residential wood burning could be pre-empted by local ordinances banning indoor wood stoves or fireplace use if the PM 2.5 levels measured by near neighbor's fenceline PurpleAir PM 2.5 monitors in the neighbor's yard show levels above the W H O standard of 5 micrograms per meter cubed or expected U S standards after November 2022 of 8 micrograms per meter cubed. Wood smoke also has long-term health consequences not mentioned in an article from Idaho. Wendy noted that PM 2.5 can cause early death and longterm illnesses and mortal diseases in humans, as demonstrated by numerous scientific, statistical and medical studies. PM 2.5, particulate matter of 2.5 micrometer size, is the perfect size to infiltrate the human lung, causing a cascade of human health problems. Wood smoke is 90% PM 2.5 Wendy did appreciate the comparison and contrast of two airborne health risks, PM 2.5 exposure and COVID 19 exposure. Wendy hopes that taking measures against wood smoke is not as politically stigmatized as taking measures against Covid 19. Wendy hopes that taking measures against wood smoke will not be a hard sell. Wendy noted, in an article from Idaho called **Between the wildfire smoke and COVID-19, the air feels like a bully** that breathing smoke for very long is not a good idea. The author wrote that "smoke, of course, can be deadly for some people. The only solution is staying cloistered inside an air-tight room. It's something we have to learn to cope with. Suggestions: Stop breathing. Hold your breath as long as possible before passing out. Wear a mask. Considering how popular wearing a mask is during restrictions for the COVID-19 pandemic, there's not a lot of hope folks will adopt it now. Smoke, unlike COVID-19, however, is palpable. You can feel it in your eyes, your throat and your lungs, and that might make a person more willing to don protective equipment to lessen the irritation. COVID-19 was invisible and you couldn't always tell you'd been infected. Taking precautions against the coronavirus was a hard sell, at least in some places like Idaho, where people are dang tough and aren't going to protect themselves against something they can't see or smell, even if it kills them. Smoke can kill us, too, but it is far less politically stigmatized than COVID-19. You don't hear about smoke deniers. You don't read about government lawmakers arguing how to keep people off the streets when smoke is choking off business. And you don't have people fighting each other over whether smoke is really real or not. Smoke is a bully and there's no denying it. COVID-19 is the enemy who hits us from behind."

[After weeks of dry weather, rain may soak some of our fires. When the smoke will clear. - KIVI-TV](#)

KIVI-TV

Heavy showers however will soak some areas around the **Wood** River Valley, This may be of help for fighting the fires in that area. Temperatures in the ...

Oregon

[Cedar Creek sees massive growth overnight as Oregon wildfires continue to burn](#)

Oregon Live

Multnomah County issued a mandatory **wood burning** restriction beginning Saturday at noon, barring residents from burning wood without a county ...

[Air quality poor because of wildfire smoke in region - Pamplin Media Group](#)

Portland Tribune

Multnomah County health officials banned **burning wood** on Saturday citing the Portland air quality. The ban followed a July 25 one by the Multnomah ...

[Wildfire **Smoke** Is Turning Portland's Air Orange. Where's It Coming From? - Willamette Week](#)

Willamette Week

Portland's sky turned orange this morning as smoke from the Cedar Creek Fire ... The Multnomah County Health Department banned **wood burning** this ...

[Wood Burning Restrictions | Multnomah County](#)

Multnomah County |

How the **Wood Burning Ordinance** Works. Homeowners, renters and businesses in Multnomah County cannot burn wood when the air quality is forecasted to be ...

[Multnomah County Issues Mandatory **Wood-Burning** Restriction - KXL](#)

KXL

PORTLAND, Ore — Wildfire Smoke from fires **burning** across the Northwest and East Wind have pushed a thick layer of smoky-haze over the ...

[Health Department issues mandatory **wood burning** restriction due to air pollution from wildfire smoke](#)

Multnomah County |

Forecasts call for increased wildfire smoke intrusion and high pollution, Multnomah County **ordinance** requires people refrain from **burning wood** ...

[Hazy air persists Sunday, Sept. 11, with slight improvements - Pamplin Media Group](#)

Portland Tribune

Multnomah County officials on Sunday lifted a temporary ban on **wood burning** as air quality improved. An outdoor burn ban implemented by the ...

[How to protect yourself, kids and pets from dangers of wildfire **smoke** - Central Oregon Daily](#)

Central Oregon Daily

Avoid using candles, gas, propane, **wood-burning** stoves, fireplaces, or aerosol sprays and don't fry or broil meat, smoke tobacco products, ...

Washington

[Seattle air pollution hits worst mark in two years - The Spokesman-Review](#)

The Spokesman-Review

A monitor in King County registered Saturday a reading of 153 **PM 2.5**, a measure of tiny airborne particles that are 2.5 micrometers in diameter.

[Hundreds of Wildfire Evacuees Look to Red Cross for Help](#)

Red Cross

In Washington, the Bolt Creek Fire has burned more than 1,100 acres and ... Avoid using candles, gas, propane, **wood-burning** stoves, fireplaces, ...

[Bolt Creek fire, Highway 2 closure and evacuations: Live updates | The Seattle Times](#)

The Seattle Times

Major fires were also burning in Oregon and Washington, ... "What we really worry about in **wood smoke** are those small particles, which, ...

[Wildfire **smoke** continues to affect air quality in Whatcom County | 790 KGMI](#)

KGMI

The stage 1 ban prohibits outdoor **burning**, as well as indoor fireplace and **wood** stove usage in Whatcom, Skagit, and Island Counties.

U S Northeast

Canada

[East Fraser Valley air quality 'very high risk' as multiple fires burn - Eminentra Canada](#)

Eminentra Canada

“The elevated levels of **particulate** matter are due to smoke from both wildfires burning in BC and the United States, and a fire burning at a **wood** ...

[The air around Metro Vancouver is thick with smoke. And it's going to get worse](#)

Vancouver Sun

The haziness in the air is due to this **particulate**. ... a blaze at a **wood** recycling facility on the Fraser River at the bottom of Ontario Street.

[Metro Vancouver issues air quality advisory expected to last all weekend | News - Daily Hive](#)

Daily Hive

... **particulate** matter (PM2.5) are due to smoke from both wildfires burning in BC and the US and a fire burning in Vancouver at a **wood** recycling ...

[Metro Vancouver issues weekend air-quality advisory due to wildfire smoke from B.C. and the U.S.](#)

Georgia Straight

A fire at a Vancouver **wood**-recycling facility is also contributing to the airborne fine **particulate** matter.

['Keep your windows closed': Fire in South Vancouver industrial area prompts warning about ... - CBC](#)

CBC

An aerial shot shows a plume of **smoke** rising from a landfill, surrounded by industrial. A large fire in a pile of **wood** recycling led to a 3-alarm ...

[Large fire at Fraser River **wood** recycling pile in South Vancouver](#)

CTV News Vancouver

A large fire on the shore of the Fraser River in South Vancouver lit up the sky early Saturday morning, sending a column of thick **smoke** into the ...

[Why is it so smoky? Wildfires, blaze at recycling plant impacting Lower Mainland's air quality](#)

CTV News Vancouver

Smoke from wildfires and a blaze at a **wood** recycling facility prompted an air quality advisory for Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley Saturday.

[B.C. wildfires: Trans Mountain pipeline camp workers evacuated | Vancouver Sun](#)

Vancouver Sun

The federal government's air quality index shows areas with the highest levels of potentially dangerous **wood smoke** include Cranbrook and Castelgar ...

[More than 1,000 people and major hydro dams under evacuation orders as wildfires cloak ... - CBC](#)

CBC

... and leaving a haze of wildfire smoke over much of the province. ... of potentially dangerous **wood smoke** include Cranbrook and Castlegar in ...

[Wildfire **smoke** continues to blanket parts of B.C., improves slightly over Vancouver](#)

Yahoo News Canada

The federal government's air quality index shows areas with the highest levels of potentially dangerous **wood smoke** include Cranbrook and Ca.

Australia

New Zealand

The U K

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

[EU Parliament groups rally behind plans to end biomass subsidies - EURACTIV.com](#)

EURACTIV.com

... have backed proposals to end subsidies for biomass used in power plants and exclude primary **wood burning** from the EU's renewable energy targets.

[Drop Forest Biomass from Renewables Subsidies, EU Leaders Urged - The Energy Mix](#)

The Energy Mix

"The majority of wood counted toward renewable energy targets is burned for residential heating, though it is **wood-burning** power plants that receive ...

SEP 14, 2022

<https://www.bioenergy-news.com/>

European Parliament will continue to recognise primary woody biomass as a renewable energy source

The European Parliament voted today (14 September) to recognise primary woody biomass as a renewable energy source. This is consistent with its prior classification under both the first Renewable Energy Directive (RED) and RED II. Primary woody biomass is an essential renewable energy source for meeting the ambition sought by the EU Parliament to increase renewable energy to 45 percent by 2030, and for achieving the EU's goal of carbon neutrality by 2050.

[Rise in fake online stores selling firewood - Ecommerce News](#)

Ecommerce News

The Dutch National Hotline for Internet Scams is warning consumers about new fake online stores, claiming to sell firewood and **wood burning** stoves ...

[Despite Living Atop A Gas Field, Romanian Villagers Are Still **Burning Wood** - Radio Free Europe](#)

Radio Free Europe

Bucharest had already pledged itself to more tightly regulate the **burning of wood** and other biomass from next year. In view of the war's knock-on ...

[Niger Seeks Renewables Route To Electrification | Barron's](#)

Barron's

Currently, wood-burning provides nearly 80 percent of the energy used in Niger households for lighting and cooking.

Two-thirds of the impoverished ..

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/niger-seeks-renewables-route-to-electrification/94188314>

Episode 35 D Nasha and the Country of Niger's move to more Solar energy, to displace residential wood burning for lighting and cooking

Nasha noted that, in part to combat climate change, the Country of Niger is aiming to replace wood burning with solar energy, for generation of energy for lighting and cooking. In the country of Niger, currently, wood-burning provides nearly 80 percent of the energy used in Niger, primarily for lighting and cooking. Nasha noted that Niger seeks a renewables route to electrification. The \$317.5-million "Haske" project, ("Light" in the local Hausa language) aims to "accelerate access" to electricity for urban and rural households as well as to health and education establishments and businesses, Energy Minister Ibrahim Yacoubou said at the launch in Niamey. Niger, with World Bank support, on September 13, 2022, launched a major electrification program. The scheme includes the expansion of the use of solar photovoltaic energy, which is in abundant supply in the landlocked West African nation. Two-thirds of the impoverished country of 22 million people is desert, and the "harmful effects of climate change" are making matters worse, the minister said. The level of access to electricity throughout the country is just 17.5 percent, according to the energy ministry. The new drive will help that rise to 30 percent by 2026 and to 80 percent by 2035, the ministry said. To free itself from its heavy energy dependence on neighbouring Nigeria, Niger is also working to complete its first dam on the Niger River by 2025. When completed, it is expected to provide 629 gigawatt hours of electricity annually. In addition, the EU and the French Development Agency will co-finance the construction of another hybrid power plant at a cost of 32 million euros (\$32 million) in Agadez, a major city in northern Niger that is regularly plunged into darkness. Its construction will allow the city, a UNESCO World Heritage site, to revive its economic and social development after a decline in tourism due to jihadist attacks in the Sahel, according to local authorities. Niger or the Niger officially the Republic of the Niger is a [landlocked country](#) in [West Africa](#). It is a [unitary state bordered](#) by [Libya](#) to the [northeast](#), [Chad](#) to the [east](#), [Nigeria](#) to the [south](#), [Benin](#) and [Burkina Faso](#) to the southwest, [Mali](#) to the [west](#), and [Algeria](#) to the [northwest](#). It covers a land area of almost 490,000 sq mi, making it the second-largest landlocked country in [West Africa](#), after Chad. Over 80% of its land area lies in the [Sahara](#). The capital [Niamey](#) is located in Niger's southwest corner. It is listed in the [least developed countries](#) group. Some non-desert portions of the country underwent periodic drought and [desertification](#). The economy is concentrated around [subsistence agriculture](#), with some export agriculture in the more fertile south, and export of raw materials, including [uranium ore](#). Historically, Niger has been on the fringes of some states. Since independence, Nigeriens have lived under 5 constitutions and 3 periods of [military rule](#). After the military coup in 2010, Niger became a democratic, multi-party state. A majority of the population lives in rural areas.

[Use of biomass fuels predicts indoor particulate matter and carbon monoxide concentrations](#)

BMC Public Health - BioMed Central

Abstract. Background. Poor indoor air quality (IAQ) is a leading cause of respiratory and cardiopulmonary illnesses.

Particulate matter (**PM_{2.5}**) ...

Use of biomass fuels predicts indoor particulate matter and carbon monoxide concentrations; evidence from an informal urban settlement in Fort Portal city, Uganda

The cooking and the living areas had high concentrations of PM_{2.5} and CO during the cooking time. Cooking with charcoal resulted in higher CO in the living area. Furthermore, cooking outdoors did not have a protective effect against PM_{2.5}, and ambient PM_{2.5} exceeded the WHO Air quality limits. This was due to the predominant usage of charcoal for cooking fuel coupled with the congestion of households, abundant fuel filling stations and poor ambient air quality,

which impact the indoor air quality in this community. Interventions to improve the indoor air quality in informal settlements need to promote a switch to cleaner cooking energy for all households in the neighbourhood for the benefit of reduction in indoor PM_{2.5} and CO concentrations to be realised.

India in Asia

Research Papers and Technology

Episode 35 E Noel and the residential wood burning emission's PM 2.5 role in Cardiopulmonary illnesses, Renal Failure and Teen Heart Arrhythmia

[14 Things You Didn't Realize Were Hurting Your Lungs - Health Digest](#)

Health Digest

You probably know that pollution and smoking can negatively impact your ... Breathing **wood smoke** can trigger asthma flares, and cause coughing for ...

[Improved Air Pollution Levels Linked With Less Renal Function Decline During COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

American Journal of Managed Care

Several diseases are caused or exacerbated by the inhalation of fine particulate matter (**PM2.5**), including chronic kidney disease (CKD), ...

[Scientists find clues to how air pollution may trigger lung cancer | CNN](#)

CNN

Fine particulate matter, at 2.5 micrometers in diameter (**PM 2.5**) or smaller, is the tiniest air pollutant yet among the most dangerous.

[Air pollution may spur irregular heart rhythms in healthy teens | American Heart Association](#)

American Heart Association

The study examined the impact of breathing fine particulate matter on heart rhythms of adolescents. Fine particulates (**PM2.5**) are less than 2.5 ...

[Public Health Concerns Due to Wildfire Smoke and Ash Exposure - YubaNet](#)

YubaNet

Reduce other sources of indoor air pollution. Smoking cigarettes, using gas, propane and **wood-burning** stoves and furnaces, spraying aerosol products, ...

The Future