

Episode 53

Episode 53a February 19, 2023 Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulate (RAWSEPresidents) News Register to Testify 2/21/2023 to 2/23/2023 to EPA asking for PM2.5 limit to be lowered to 8 micrometer per meter cubed. Submit Written Comment by 3/28/2023.

<https://rawsepresidents.wordpress.com/1-february-2023> PDF List of URLs Episode 52 SCROLL DOWN TO SEE PDFs PDFs available for download, in order to search using URLs ONLINE for entire news articles for Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates TO READ.

EPA change of PM2.5 limit to 8 micrograms per meter cubed

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7193748/Public-Hearing-on-EPA-NAAQS-PM-FEB-2023>

URL from which to REGISTER to TESTIFY (virtually) February 21, 22 or 23 to the EPA on lowering (Wood Smoke) PM2.5 limits from 12 to 8 micrograms per meter cubed (ug/m3) to be nearer to the World Health Organization (W H O) limit of 5.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENT until 3/28/2023 on EPA website (instructions below)

https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/01/27/2023-00269/reconsideration-of-the-national-ambient-air-quality-standards-for-particulate-matter?fbclid=IwAR0Wi-2tb_jrd16B86rFe20SSR8knB6xOSJrJPAD4cNyw-uP4NslR4vl_k

Written comments can be submitted to the docket by visiting www.regulations.gov, and entering EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0072 in the search box. Click the box that says, "Only show documents open for comment" to go to the page where you can submit comments.

If you are unable to provide oral testimony at the hearings, please note that EPA considers oral comments provided at the public hearing and written comments submitted to the docket equally as a part of the rulemaking. Written comments can be submitted to the docket by visiting www.regulations.gov, and entering EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0072 in the search box. Click the box that says, "Only show documents open for comment" to go to the page where you can submit comments. The public comment period closes on March 28, 2023.

In the United States, the Comment Period is open until 3/28/2023 for your comments to the EPA on lowering the PM2.5 level from current level of 12 to level of 8 micrograms per meter cubed, in order to be nearer the World Health Organization (W H O) Level of 5 micrograms per meter cubed. PM refers to Particulate Matter and 2.5 refers to 2.5 micrometer size. Comments on the proposed action must be received on or before March 28, 2023. Public Hearing: The EPA will hold a virtual public hearing on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, and Wednesday, February 22, 2023. If the EPA receives a high volume of registrations for the public hearing, we may continue the public hearing on February 23, 2023. (Please refer to the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section for additional information on the public hearings). You may submit comments, identified by Docket ID Number EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0072, by any of the following means:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov/> (our preferred method). Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- Email: a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov. Include the Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0072 in the subject line of the message.
- Mail: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center, Air and Radiation Docket, Mail Code 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the Docket ID No. for this rulemaking. Comments received may be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

Virtual Public Hearing: The public hearing will be held via virtual platform on February 21, 2023, and February 22, 2023, and will convene at 11 a.m. Eastern Time (ET) and conclude at 7 p.m. ET each day. On each hearing day, the EPA may close a session 15 minutes after the last pre-registered speaker has testified if there are no additional speakers. The EPA will announce further details at <https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/national-ambient-air-quality-standards-naaqs-pm>. If the EPA receives a high volume of registrations for the public hearing, we may continue the public hearing on February 23, 2023. For information or questions about the public hearing, please contact the public hearing team at 919-541-0505 or HEIDpublichearing@epa.gov.

For information or questions regarding the reconsideration of the PM NAAQS, please contact Dr. Lars Perlmutter, Health and Environmental Impacts Division, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,

Mail Code C539-04, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711; telephone: (919) 541-3037; fax: (919) 541-5315; email: perlmutt.lars@epa.gov.

Episode 53b

U.S. States

In Chicago, Illinois, a wood burning pizza oven fire caused minor damage at a Waldorf Astoria Chicago Hotel. In Brownwood, Texas, a wood burning stove started a fire caused damage exceeding one million dollars in an auto collision repair shop. The Wisconsin Conservation Congress called for statewide resolutions to be submitted by 3/1/2023.

In Canada, in the province of British Columbia, the City of Courtenay installed a network of PM2.5 sensors to detect wood burning, and launched an education campaign about the health effects of wood smoke.

[Why Can't We Totally Eliminate Air Pollution? - American Council on Science and Health |](#)

American Council on Science and Health |

PM is the most complex of the criteria pollutants. ... the collected masses of particles with median diameters of 10 μm (PM10) or 2.5 μm (PM2.5), ...

[Impact of ambient air pollution on physical activity and sedentary behavior in children](#)

BMC Public Health - BioMed Central

A 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ increase in air pollution concentration in daily PM2.5 was associated with a reduction in daily PA by 7.51 (95% CI = -11.04, ...

[Fires of Winter | US Forest Service](#)

USDA Forest Service

A wildland firefighter with a propane bottle and torch, burning a pile of ... wood and other plant debris start to burn slowly when firefighters, ...

Illinois, Chicago

[Small ventilation fire causes minor damage at Waldorf Astoria Hotel in Gold Coast: CFD](#)

ABC7 Chicago

Spokesperson Larry Langford said the fire started in a ventilation chute for a wood burning pizza oven. The heat from the oven apparently ignited ...

Minnesota

RAWSEP View: The general manager of the Minnesota Public Utility Commission should follow the science, and agree with the scientific evidence that biomass burning is NOT net zero, since it produces as much or more carbon (PM2.5) as coal burning or other fossil fuel burning.

[How small city utilities are grappling with Minnesota's new 100% carbon-free standard](#)

MinnPost

Since 2021, most of the city's power has been generated by **burning wood** chips and mulch — up to 9,000 tons a month — largely from a local pallet ...

Excerpt

Hibbing has a biomass plant, while Princeton has backup diesel generators. Could they and other city utilities be forced to find alternative power sources?

Excerpt

But the biggest question mark for Hibbing is whether their biomass will ultimately be considered carbon-free or carbon-neutral.

(The Minnesota) House Majority Leader () who was prime sponsor of the 100% bill in the House, said lawmakers intentionally did not weigh in on whether a wood burning plant should be considered carbon-free.

The law can give a utility partial credit for carbon-free power, () meaning if the Public Utilities Commission (P U C) decided a technology was 95% carbon-free, that utility would need to offset less through buying energy credits.

Asked if he considered the Hibbing plant to be carbon-free, (the Majority Leader) said: "That's an important question for the Public Utilities Commission."

"I think that it would probably be something that would depend on the source material and how it's produced," Long said. "You do have carbon coming out at the end from burning wood. So it would be a question of whether or not a utility wants to make an argument that there is a sink on the other side and that is therefore a carbon-reducing or carbon-free technology."

(The general manager of Hibbing Public Utilities), meanwhile, said he hopes legislators tweak the law. "I'm trusting our state policymakers to make clear that biomass is net-zero," he said.

North Carolina, Leland

[Leland council requests open burning regulations - Port City Daily](#)

Port City Daily

Bozeman said she received a recent picture from a resident showing wood smoke so thick in the air the house next door was barely visible from his ...

Excerpt

Bozeman said she received a recent picture from a resident showing wood smoke so thick in the air the house next door was barely visible from his own yard. For multiple days in the past few weeks, wood smoke has permeated the Westgate and Waterford areas of the town, resulting in noticeable visual haze and smell.

North Carolina

[Turpin advises on new EPA guidance to protect communities from harmful pollution](#)

Gillings School of Global Public Health

When fine particles, also known as PM2.5 or soot, are inhaled, they carry risk of serious health impacts, including asthma, heart attacks and ...

Excerpt

"Finally, new research provides additional confidence in PM2.5 effect estimates, even at low concentrations."

When fine particles, also known as PM2.5 or soot, are inhaled, they carry risk of serious health impacts, including asthma, heart attacks and premature death. This pollution disproportionately affects vulnerable populations in the U.S., including children, older adults, those with heart or lung conditions, as well as communities of color and low-income communities. These particles may be emitted directly from sources like construction sites, unpaved roads, fields, smokestacks or fires.

Texas, Brownwood

[Wood burning determined as cause of Chrysler Collision fire, estimated damage exceeds \\$1 million](#)

Brownwood News

Wood burning determined as cause of Chrysler Collision fire, estimated damage exceeds \$1 million. February 15, 2023 at 4:54 pm Derrick Stuckly.

Wood burning stove determined as cause of Chrysler Collision fire, estimated damage exceeds \$1 million

The family dog was inside the building during the fire and was rescued with no injuries. The owner also had 9 customer vehicles and 1 personal vehicle inside the shop at the time of the fire. The structure was deemed unsafe due to potential

roof collapse. (fire) units were on scene 2 hours and 7 minutes. The cause of the fire was determined to be a wood burning stove and the fire was unintentional in nature. Damages are estimated at \$1,050,000.

Utah

[Snow and Haze in Utah - NASA Earth Observatory](#)

NASA Earth Observatory

... the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Air Now system measured fine particulate matter (PM2.5) rising above 100 on the air quality index.

Virginia

[EPA poised to botch update of important air quality rule - Appalachian Voices](#)

Appalachian Voices

Tell the EPA you support stronger limits for airborne particulate matter. EPA has proposed replacing the current PM 2.5 annual average standard of 12 ...

Excerpts from the article follow

EPA poised to botch update of important air quality rule. EPA's own scientific advisors point out that a standard of 8 micrograms per cubic meter would prevent about 5,000 more premature deaths each year as compared to 9 micrograms per cubic meter. Exposure to, and inhalation of, soot leads to increased mortality rates, hospitalizations and visits to the emergency room. It is also linked to grave illnesses and health risks including [asthma attacks](#), [heart attacks](#), [stroke](#), [heart disease](#), [COPD](#), [Parkinson's disease](#), [dementia](#), [low birth weight](#), [greater risk of preterm birth and higher rates of infant mortality](#). Hispanic individuals are 25% more likely to die of particulate matter exposure than white individuals are. Black individuals are 300% more likely. EPA could reduce the black mortality rate from PM 2.5 pollution by 37% if it sets the standard at 8 micrograms per cubic meter. Contrast that to the higher end of EPA's proposed 9-10 microgram range, which will only lead to a 6% reduction in mortality, Earthjustice reports. Please join Appalachian Voices in calling on the EPA to do its part and finalize a PM 2.5 rule no higher than 8 micrograms per cubic meter. EPA is accepting public comment on the proposed rule until March 28, 2023.

Episode 53c Virginia, Lynchburg

[Statewide 4 p.m. burning ban in effect - Lynchburg News and Advance](#)

Lynchburg News and Advance

A 4 p.m. burning law began Feb. ... Statewide 4 p.m. burning ban in effect ... Husband and wife duo bringing **wood-fired** pizzas to Wintergreen.

Excerpt

4 p.m. burning law began Feb. 15 and is in effect through April 30. Violation of the law carries a maximum fine of \$500. The law states there is no burning until after 4 p.m. if the fire is within 300 feet of woodland, brushland or a field containing dry grass or other flammable material.

Wisconsin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Feb. 14, 2023

Contact: Kari Lee-Zimmermann, DNR Conservation Congress Liaison

kari.leezimmermann@wisconsin.gov or 608-266-0580

Wisconsinites Invited To Participate In WI

Conservation Congress Resolution Process

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) invites all Wisconsinites to take part in its annual spring hearing process.

The WCC is an independent organization of citizens that advises the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on how to responsibly manage Wisconsin's natural resources.

Each year citizens have an opportunity to submit ideas as resolutions to the WCC. In mid-January, the WCC District Leadership Council agreed to support the annual Spring Hearings Resolution process via an online process.

Wisconsinites can submit proposed resolutions via the online process which opens Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2023.

Resolutions must meet the following criteria:

The concern must be of statewide impact.

The concern must be practical, achievable and reasonable.

The concern must be within the mission and vision of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress.

An individual citizen may submit no more than two resolutions per year. Those interested in submitting a resolution are encouraged to reach out to the resolution review committee or their WCC County Chair for guidance in drafting a resolution.

Additional tips on preparing a resolution are available on the WCC and DNR's Spring Hearings website.

Resolutions will be accepted until March 1, 2023. At the close of the submission process, the resolutions will be reviewed by a committee of WCC delegates to ensure they meet the criteria for inclusion and will be prepared for the online input which kicks off on Monday, April 10 and will close on Thursday, April 13.

For further information or questions, contact Terri Roehrig, Vice Chair Wisconsin Conservation Congress at 920-540-2775.

Canada

British Columbia

[5 things we learned from Biomass Harvesting Week - Wood Business](#)

Canadian Forest Industries

Excerpt

[2\) The burning question](#): Five researchers identify potential management alternatives to slash pile burning that would make better use of residual fibre across a range of operational conditions in B.C.

British Columbia, Courtenay

[Courtenay installing air monitors, launching awareness campaign - Comox Valley Record](#)

the Comox Valley Record

Households with wood burning appliances are encouraged to save them for ... Exposure to wood smoke can cause or worsen health conditions like ...

British Columbia, Kamloops

[Wood Stove Rebate Program Returns With New Name and New Focus | City of Kamloops](#)

City of Kamloops

The new program name - Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program ... of the health effects of wood smoke as older, non-EPA-certified wood-burning ...

United Kingdom

In the U K several publications ran stories on the fact that wood burning air pollution has doubled in the last decade. The statistical analysis in the British Journal of Criminology “Between Ordinary Harm and Deviance: Evaluating the U K’s Regulatory Regime For Controlling Air Pollution From Wood Burning Stoves” was published on February 1, 2023. Based on an analysis of over 18,000 government records of heating and cooking appliances exempt from smoke control rules, the number of stove models officially exempt from UK smoke control regulations has increased ten-fold since 2010, especially after the 2015 Deregulation Law was passed.

U K, Leicestershire

[Calls for wood burning stoves to be banned by 2027 after report - Leicestershire Live](#)

Leicester Mercury

Phasing out the sale of new wood stoves by 2027 banning the use of wood burners, unless they're the only source of heat in a household · Label wood ...

News Release 15-Feb-2023

Government’s role in promoting wood burning stove emissions unveiled in new study

[Peer-Reviewed Publication](#)

University of Nottingham

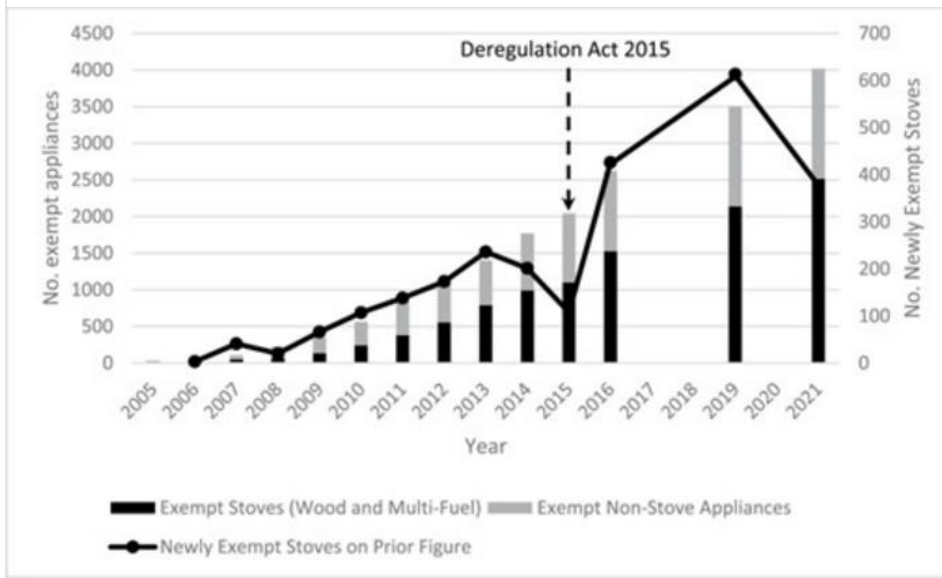


image: Stoves and Non-stoves Exempt Under the Clean Air Act 1993, 2005-2021

Excerpts

The number of stove models officially exempt from UK smoke control regulations has increased ten-fold since 2010, a [new study](#) published in the British Journal of Criminology has revealed.

Based on an analysis of over 18,000 government records of heating and cooking appliances exempt from smoke control rules, and interviews with air pollution officers from local councils across the UK, the research shows how the

Deregulation Act 2015 opened the door to a market of stoves exempt from urban air pollution controls (see graph attached).

Dr James Heydon, in the School of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Nottingham, said: “The [UK government’s own data](#) shows that solid fuel burning in homes is the single biggest source of particulate matter (PM2.5) pollution in the country. This research shows how the government has helped to create this situation by encouraging a whole market of stoves exempt from regulatory control.”

The study finds that the Deregulation Act 2015 removed obstacles to stove manufacturers certifying their appliances as ‘exempt’ from smoke control area rules. This change was justified on the basis of removing delays to business and improving consumer choice. No consideration was given to the environmental public health consequences arising from encouraging expansion of this market.

Dr Heydon added: "The UK Government must reconsider its open-door approach to excluding stoves from smoke control rules. This policy has encouraged market expansion for almost a decade, contributing to the nationwide air pollution problems we’re now seeing. Given the number of stoves it has already exempt from smoke controls, the government must now give serious consideration to also regulating their sale, installation and use across urban areas."

To find out more about this study, visit: <https://academic.oup.com/bjc/advance-article/doi/10.1093/bjc/azac102/7022236>

Episode 53d U K, London

[UK100 respond to DEFRA's new air quality statistics - AirQualityNews](#)

Air Quality News

Burning wood as a fuel has been identified as making up three-quarters of those figures. Jason says: 'It's easy to think of air pollution as just ...

Excerpt

The clear driver in the rise of PM2.5 emissions is domestic (of which 3 quarters is wood burning) combustion which accounts for 16 per cent of PM10 emissions and 27 per cent of PM2.5 emissions. Burning wood as a fuel has been identified as making up three-quarters of those figures.

(UK100’s Interim Chief Executive) says: ‘It’s easy to think of air pollution as just a road transport and exhaust emissions problem, but it is more complicated than that. Domestic wood burning and biomass are the biggest drivers of the recent rise in PM2.5 pollutants.

‘That’s why it was disappointing that Ministers refused to respond to UK100’s Clean Air Net Zero report, which advocates for a joined-up approach to policymaking that ensures that we learn the lessons of Dieselgate and carefully consider the air quality impacts of climate policies. Nowhere do we need to learn that lesson faster than with the rise of domestic wood burning.’

UK100 [recently published a report](#) advocating integrated an approach to tackling air quality and net zero. What is UK100? UK100 is a cross-party membership organization that supports the most ambitious councils to go further and faster on their Net Zero and Clean Air targets. Local authorities have a unique leadership role in tackling the climate crisis. UK100's role is to foster collaboration. To accelerate action, bringing together the most influential local leaders across the country to learn together. UK100 members have pledged to deliver a Net Zero future that delivers for people and planet.

[A rise in wood burning devices in the UK may be causing “pollution hotspots” in affluent ...](#)

Bollyinside

One of the top UK experts on air pollution has cautioned that a rapid increase in wood burning in urban areas could be bringing dangerous ...

U K, London

[HARRY WALLOP: What's the truth about wood-burning stoves? | Daily Mail Online](#)

Daily Mail

The powers that be are going cold on wood-burners. London Mayor Sadiq Khan has called for a ban on these stoves in new and refurbished homes, ...

U K, London

[Wood burning stoves blamed for massive increase in UK's toxic air pollution](#)

Energy Live News

Wood burning across the UK is responsible for a huge spike in emissions of toxic air pollution. Particulate Matter (PM) is everything in the air ...

U K, London

[Government's role in promoting wood burning stove emissions unveiled in new study](#)

EurekaAlert

Based on an analysis of over 18,000 government records of heating and cooking appliances exempt from smoke control rules, and interviews with air ...

U K, London

[London has the worst toxic air hotspots as Ella's mother calls for change - Evening Standard](#)

Evening Standard

... the highest rate of deaths in the city attributable to tiny, human-made PM 2.5 particulate pollution in 2021, according to the new analysis.

U K, London

[10 years on from Ella's death, we must rid the capital of its toxic air | Evening Standard](#)

Evening Standard

The legislation would make breathing clean air a right and force the Government to adopt a target to cut particulate matter pollution (PM 2.5) by ... [We need to take indoor air pollution seriously – but don't blame our log burners](#)

U K, London

[Official U.K. Figures Show Air Pollution From Stoves And Fireplaces Has Doubled - Forbes](#)

Forbes

According to figures from Defra PM2.5 emissions from domestic wood burning, have increased by 124% between 2011 and 2021.

U K, London

[Wood burning air pollution in UK has doubled in a decade - The Guardian](#)

The Guardian

Wood burning in towns and cities is a big contributor to the harmful particles, which have been linked to a wide range of health problems, ...

U K, London

[Wood burning stove emissions rising due to UK Government legislation](#)

Innovation News Network

wood burning stove emissions in the UK could be increasing due to the government making some stove models exempt from regulations.

U K, London

[Wood-burning stoves: what are the rules and fines? - NationalWorld](#)

NationalWorld

Wood-burning stove regulations: rules across UK explained - what are the fines for breaking them? Defra has cracked down on the use of log burners and ...

U K, London

The Telegraph

Figures published last week revealed that wood-burning stoves and open fires are now Britain's biggest source of emissions of particulate matter, ...

U K, Manchester

[Letter: A dangerous threat - The Star](#)

The Star

I feel sorry for those who bought wood burning stoves in good faith – and, indeed, those businesses who sell them - now that we are aware of the ...

U K, Sheffield

[I have wood-burner regret: the lowdown on 'eco' models and indoor pollution - iNews](#)

iNews

Wood-burning stove sales are booming. According to latest estimates, five times more households are installing them than in 2007.

U K, Sheffield

[Should wood burning stoves be banned? - MSN](#)

MSN

We asked the people of Sheffield should wood burning stoves be banned?

U K, Scotland

[Wood burning stove complaints discussed at Perth and Kinross Council meeting](#)

Daily Record

Environmental concerns have been raised over the sub-standard use of **wood burning** stoves. Due to rising energy prices, local residents have ...

Excerpt

"Environmental Health often receive complaints about neighboring fires and stoves but unfortunately we don't have many powers to deal with this.

"It's a national issue that the Scottish Government is aware of and they're working to update legislation for smoke control areas which will hopefully give us more power over what's being burnt in Perth and Kinross.

"Until then, our best route of action is addressing the issues a stove may cause before it's installed through the planning process.

U K, Wales

[Living Cities: Deadly wood-burning stoves — Wales blocks new road plans - POLITICO](#)

POLITICO

THE HEALTH HAZARD IN YOUR HOME: In a bid to lower energy bills, Europeans have been turning to wood-burning stoves to heat their homes. But despite ...

Excerpt

"Environmental Health often receive complaints about neighbouring fires and stoves but unfortunately we don't have many powers to deal with this.

"It's a national issue that the Scottish Government is aware of and they're working to update legislation for smoke control areas which will hopefully give us more power over what's being burnt in Perth and Kinross.

India

India, Dehli

[Delhi's air most polluted of any capital city for fourth year in a row - WSWS](#)

WSWS

PM 2.5 is used by scientists as the primary indicator of air pollution. It is a measure of the atmospheric concentration of particulate matter ...

[Divided by borders, Lahore and Delhi are united in smog - The Third Pole](#)

The Third Pole

This plan initially set a target of reducing key air pollutants PM 10 and PM 2.5 (particulate matter that is only 2.5 microns or less in diameter ...

[Delhi Imposes GRAP II Pollution Curbs as AQI Turns 'Very Poor' | Weather.com](#)

The Weather Channel

The PM 2.5 and PM10 concentrations were at hazardous levels of 157 and 279 units. Areas like Shadipur, NSIT Dwarka, Wazirpur and Jahangirpuri have ...

India, Kashmir

[Srinagar's air quality deteriorated in last 3 years](#)

Greater Kashmir

Notably, Director SKIMS Dr Parvaiz Koul had recently told KNO that yearly around 10 thousand deaths are attributed to particulate matter 2.5 (PM ...