

Episode 56Gi July 20, 2023. Are we ready to quit whistling past the graveyard?

United States

[Are pellet stoves a climate-friendly alternative to gas and oil? - Breaking Latest News](#)

Breaking Latest News

This means that heating with wood would be supposedly climate-neutral. ... #Particulate matter pollution. Wood Heating Air Conditioning Killer ...

Are pellet stoves a climate-friendly alternative to gas and oil?

July 20, 2023

Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates.

(Wood burning is not) climate-neutral “because the forest area loses carbon directly through the removal of wood, which is only bound again over decades to over 100 years.” In addition: “In the In practice, a new wood heating system replaces another form of heating,” says the expert says, “and in order to generate the same heat output using wood as with natural gas, more than twice as much CO₂ is released.”

RAWSEP can add: Wood burning emits more CO₂ and PM_{2.5} than coal burning. Wood burning in the cleanest Eco stove certified “safe” in the United Kingdom emits 450 times the PM_{2.5} of natural gas burning. PM_{2.5} is particulate matter of 2.5 micrometer size, the perfect size to infiltrate the human lung, setting off a cascade of human health problems and early deaths.

Minnesota, Northern St. Louis County

[Are we ready to quit whistling past the graveyard? - The Timberjay](#)

The Timberjay

PM 2.5 is the number indicating when air pollution has reached a level that endangers public health and triggers the alert. Breathing a “toxic soup” ...

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Are we ready to quit whistling past the graveyard?

July 19, 2023.

Remember back a few weeks? If you had asthma or another lung condition, you might have had serious trouble breathing, perhaps wondering if you should visit a hospital. Well, many did! Happily, for the past few weeks, it had seemed that our air quality had improved. I enjoyed working in my garden, catching up on some outdoor projects, and basking in what felt like a normal sunny summer day in July. But that welcome break from thick smoke-filled air has been interrupted again by more air quality alerts! It’s an especially “bad day” when our usual clear blue skies are instead a heavy grey with the scent of campfire smoke. Canada remains on fire. By a recent account, there are over 900 fires burning, with 25 million acres already destroyed in the first six months of 2023. We’ve been instructed to bring out the N95 masks again after storing them away when the worst threats from COVID-19 subsided. Now, whenever the Air Quality Index (AQI) reaches (dangerous) PM 2.5, we’re advised to stay indoors with air conditioning or an air purifier equipped with HEPA filters. Just when we thought our days of hunkering indoors were behind us, here we go again. Only this time, the threat isn’t a virus. It’s toxic air-borne pollutants. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency just issued another AQI alert for the 27th time this year. (High) PM 2.5 (levels) (of this small particle, of 2.5 micrometer size, the perfect size to infiltrate the human lung) (indicate) when air pollution has reached a level that endangers public health and triggers the alert. Breathing microscopic particles, and a low-level ozone that is emitted from our vehicles’ tailpipes, (indoor residential wood burning, and wood burning of wildfires) is known to exacerbate existing health conditions and even create new ones. So, the alerts! The smoke from uncontrolled forest fires, some over 1,000 miles away, can cause an array of serious illnesses including cancers, heart attack and stroke. (Unsafe PM_{2.5} levels) have finally gotten the attention of mainstream news outlets. After decades of living in ignorance or denial, mounting scientific data now irrefutably link this public health crisis of particulate matter at unsafe levels to human-induced wood burning wildfires caused by climate change. We human earthlings (need to) make a radical shift in the way we are living!

Rising temperatures lead to sparking wildfires from lightning strikes (in the Western United States), and (quickly spreading wildfires from) acts of human carelessness (within or near forests on the East Coast and in the Midwest). A Canadian interagency fire center reported over 3,056 fires so far this year — a ten-fold increase (from the) average (of five years ago). Scientists predict a 150-percent increase in forest fires by 2050. Forest fires in the U.S. in 2021 alone

emitted nearly two billion tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere — approximately 23 percent of all the carbon emissions that year from wildfires worldwide. We are approaching the “tipping point” (when it will be too late to reverse these patterns), but much of science states that we are not there yet. There are things we can do that could shift our current direction away from disaster. So, what are those things? Here are a few suggestions. Caring about our planet can be fun and something to be proud of. We alone may not be able to save the entire planet, but we can help take care of our own neighborhood. And let’s not forget that caring is contagious. It takes courage to feel the fear and sorrow that hover just below the surface at times like this. But climate conditions are telling us our survival depends on our noticing. We’ve been whistling past the graveyard for a long time. If we identify the things we’ve already lost, and realize how much those things really meant to us, our grief can be our motivator and our guide. To make it, we only need to agree that a livable future is worth our waking up and working together!

[Biden's 'Justice40' Program Won't Fix Racial Gap in Air Quality, Study Finds](#)

The New York Times

PM 2.5 consists of microscopic particles in the air, small enough to enter people's lungs and bloodstreams. In the worst cases, persistent exposure ...

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A new analysis has found that the White House's signature environmental justice program may not shrink racial disparities in who breathes the most polluted air, in part because of efforts to ensure that it could withstand legal challenges.

New Jersey

[Air quality alerts return as smoke and haze from wildfires reemerge | NJ Spotlight News](#)

NJ Spotlight News

Smoke, haze and unhealthy air quality alerts have returned, ... and the William Penn Foundation -- as well as the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, ...

North Carolina, Asheville

[Changes likely coming to county burn ordinance, with limited exceptions - WLOS](#)

WLOS

Those changes include restrictions on open burns, prohibiting the burning of anything other than leaves and wood. That would include a ban on ...

Oregon

[Eye to the sky: What's the difference between smoke and haze? | Columnists | eastoregonian.com](#)

East Oregonian

Wildfire season is upon us, and while the Pacific Northwest has yet to see widespread smoke the way the eastern United States has (knock on wood), ...

Oregon, Portland

['Unhealthy' Air Quality in Portland Caused by an Industrial Fire, Experts Say](#)

The New York Times

Paper mills often have a great deal of wood chips on site to make paper, which may have contributed to the large amount of smoke from the fire, ...

Texas, Longview

[Longview commercial fire still smoldering; air quality in Clark County improves](#)

The Columbian

Longview firefighters are continuing their battle against a fire that is burning in a mountain of wood chips at a mill along the Columbia River ...

[Crews make progress on wood chip pile fire in Longview - KPTV](#)

KPTV

Firefighters have made progress on a fire that has been burning at a paper mill in Longview since Tuesday night.

Canada, British Columbia

[Experts urge B.C. residents to protect against wildfire smoke to prevent serious illness](#)

Vancouver Sun

PM 2.5 stands for particulate matter 2.5, which is a very small form of particulate matter that can deeply penetrate the lungs.

PM2.5 from wood smoke and Human Health

[COPD Prevalence Increases With Age Among Young Patients](#)

American Journal of Managed Care

Biomarkers Show Potential in Predicting PM Exposure in Patients With COPD ... One study found that higher indoor PM with a diameter of 2.5 μm or ...

[Combating air pollution - Business Standard](#)

Business Standard

PM 2.5 pollutants can penetrate into the lungs and enter the bloodstream to cause serious illnesses, ranging from respiratory disorders to cancer. The ...

[Do certain amino acids modify the risk of dementia linked to air pollution? - EurekAlert!](#)

EurekAlert!

Researchers looked at fine particulate matter, PM2.5, which consists of pollutant particles of less than 2.5 microns in diameter suspended in air.

[Air quality policy should quantify effects on disparities - Science](#)

Science

Average PM2.5 exposure (left y axis) and attributable deaths (right y ... particulate matter (PM2.5; particles in the air with diameter 2.5 μm or ...

Episode 56GF July 19, 2023. The Ask: Request a complaint-based system from 10 Attorney Generals suing the E P A to give wood stove users "certainty".

The Ask: Please Contact 10 Attorneys General about an August 2023 suit versus E P A asking for "certainty" for wood stove users. RAWSEP asks for a complaint based system based on PM2.5 monitor data exceeding E P A PM2.5 "safe" limits, using fence line measurements at yards of near neighbors.

A new icon has been added to the RAWSEP Website, which is now the nearest right icon. The icon is an ask that has already been described in Episodes 56GB (description of the parties who should be at the table when deciding on "safe" wood stove emission limits and fence line measurements, rather than wood stove certification) and 56GBa (emails to contact 10 Attorneys General) (those two PDFs are included at the icon link).

<https://rawsepresidents.wordpress.com/1-please-contact-10-attorneys-general-about-august-2023-suit-versus-e-p-a-asking-for-certainty-for-wood-stove-users-rawsep-asks-for-complaint-based-sytem-based-on-pm2-5-monitor-data-exceeding-e-p/>

There is also a new icon added to the right of that, for "The Fox Owns the Forest" card game (TBA), which will be uploaded later this week.

Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates, see <https://RAWSEPresidents.wordpress.com> and click on the nearest right icon for The Ask: Contact 10 Attorneys General <https://rawsepresidents.wordpress.com/1-please-contact-10-attorneys-general-about-august-2023-suit-versus-e-p-a-asking-for-certainty-for-wood-stove-users-rawsep-asks-for-complaint-based-sytem-based-on-pm2-5-monitor-data-exceeding-e-p/> To the right of that, "The Fox Owns the Forest" card game (TBA), then to the right of that, the latest month, July 2023, of PDFs of articles with U R L's to search on. To the right of that, Stickers to handout for RAWSEP, Games such as 1)Bingo for RAWSEP, 2)Crosswords for RAWSEP, 3)EndWoodSmokeJeopardy. 4)EndWoodSmokeMonopoly Games, 5) a RAWSEP Flyer, 6)the Un-Twist-it Game, and 7)"Vending Machines for PM2.5 monitors", and icon links to 30 minute Youtube videos and Spotify podcasts as well as podcasts on Amazon Music Prime (free for Prime subscribers), podcasts.google.com, Cast Box, and Pocket Cast (Pocket Cast is only free on the phone App. Pocket Cast works on Apple phones) and, below those icons, icon links to monthly PDFs of articles with URL's to search on, from June 2023 to May 2022.