

Episode 56GK Now un-approved Ecodesign U K wood stoves as an example for still approved U S Certified wood stoves.

The Ecodesign wood stove, which was approved by the United Kingdom in 2017, has just been un-approved, as of 7/22/2023, by the Mayor London, England. This may be equivalent to the U S Environmental Protection Agency (E P A) de-certifying even the “cleanest burning” wood stove in the United States in the near future. Instead of “tightening” standard for certification of polluting wood stoves, just don’t certify any wood stoves, which are all polluting, at 450 times the pollution of natural gas burning, for example.

The United States should think of this as a United Kingdom example to follow. The United States should simply de-certify even the “cleanest” wood stove in the United States.

Episode 56GBa July 14, 2023. 10 Attorney Generals’ Contact Information

Dear 10 Attorneys General suing the EPA to provide clarity to indoor residential wood stove owners on certification of their currently used, and currently polluting, appliances

The states involved are Alaska, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington, as well as the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.

Contact emails or website contact forms for 10 Attorney Generals

attorney.general@alaska.gov Alaska AG email

Ej@ilag.gov Illinois AG Environmental Justice email

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=aS8vZtduuUyYS38EGbmpnMoks4scrVnJirDI80vWlO5UNiy2N0IWNOJQSFVaQkRVNEtOVzFCRIZCRC4u> Maryland AG online contact form

<https://massago.hylandcloud.com/203appnet/UnityForm.aspx?key=UFKey> Massachusetts AG online contact form

<https://www.ag.state.mn.us/Office/Forms/ConsumerAssistanceRequest.asp> Minnesota AG Consumer Assistance

<https://www.njoag.gov/contact/office-of-constituent-services/> New Jersey AG Constituent Services online contact form

<https://njconsumeraffairs.state.nj.us/file-a-complaint/?stepid=b41bbbe8-6869-ea11-80fa-005056906006&sessionid=402d38f5-4c22-ee11-80d5-005056ba24cd> New Jersey AG general consumer complaint not price gouging online contact form

<https://ag.ny.gov/contact-attorney-general-letitia-james> New York AG online contact form

AttorneyGeneral@doj.state.or .us Oregon AG email

<https://ago.vermont.gov/contact-form> Vermont AG online contact form

<https://fortress.wa.gov/atg/formhandler/ago/ContactForm.aspx> Washington AG online contact form

The main message of Episode 56GK.

It is important to make this message simple, for those who don’t want to, and don’t have to, delve into the intricacies of wood stove certification, which is a flawed process to begin with, according to the watchdog of the E P A, the Office of the Inspector General (O I G) in a February 2023 report.

The Ecodesign wood stove, which was approved by the United Kingdom in 2017, has just been un-approved, as of 7/22/2023, by the Mayor London, England. This may be equivalent to the U S Environmental Protection Agency (E P A) de-certifying even the “cleanest burning” wood stove in the United States in the near future. Instead of “tightening” standards for certification of polluting wood stoves, just don’t certify any wood stoves, which are all polluting, at 450 times the pollution of natural gas burning, for example.

The United States should think of this as a United Kingdom example to follow. The United States should simply de-certify even the “cleanest” wood stove in the United States.

Why should this simple United Kingdom un-approval be used as an example, a template for the United States to follow?

Wood burning emits more CO₂ and PM_{2.5} than coal burning. Wood burning (in even the “cleanest burning” wood stove) emits at least 450 times the PM_{2.5} as natural gas burning. The latest Guardian articles about the Ecodesign wood stove state that the Ecodesign emits at least 465 times the PM_{2.5} as natural gas burning. Will the average person quibble about whether wood burning emits 450 times that of natural gas burning in the United States or 465 times in the United Kingdom? PM_{2.5}, particulate size of 2.5 micrometer size, is the perfect size to infiltrate the human lung, setting off a cascade of human health problems and early deaths. The recent Canadian wildfires infiltrating the United States have made the health problem symptoms of wood smoke pollution obvious to hundreds of millions of United States residents in the last two months, which include, most obviously, interference with breathing. If you can’t breathe, nothing else matters.

Everyone really understands what pollution is, because everyone has to breathe and everyone understands what it feels like to struggle to breathe. However, sometimes wood smoke pollution has to be explained again and again, to new people, because the government web sites about wood burning are deliberately misleading. E P A government sites about wood burning have been written either by the wood stove industry directly or written with the “help” of the wood stove industry. The interest of an industry is in selling wood stoves and making money, not in protecting human health, in this case. Human health should win out over monetary gain for the few.

So if the argument about PM_{2.5} magnitude from emissions alone is enough to prove that wood burning in a wood stove is bad for human health (and concomitantly hastens climate change), what could replace wood stove certification to protect people from the pollution of wood burning?

1) There could be a complaint-based system of regulating wood burning pollution.

2) The PM_{2.5} from wood burning can be measured, and if it exceeds a limit, regulation could kick in. We already have limits set by the E P A, which are not stringent enough, but which apply to PM_{2.5}. This editor of RAWSEPresidents was one of around 250 people who testified by video in February 2023, with all but around 5 (wood industry representatives or their allies). Those near 250 people all asked for the E P A to lower the limits of “safe” PM_{2.5} emissions to 25 micrograms per meter cubed daily (spike measurements) or 8 micrograms per meter cubed annually (average yearly) measurements. The World Health Organization already recommended that a limit of 5 micrograms per meter cubed annually be used, so these lowered PM_{2.5} limits would bring them closer to what the W H O recommends.

3) How does would a complaint-based system of regulating indoor residential wood burning, the seemingly “invisible” wood burning, work? 3a) The government, probably Health Departments, could hand out free PM_{2.5} monitors, probably PurpleAir PM_{2.5} monitors, which only cost \$249, to any near neighbor of an indoor residential wood burner who complains of wood smoke from indoor residential wood burning entering the near neighbors’ yard and infiltrating their home. The near neighbors have coped in the past from wood smoke infiltrating their home by running air purifiers and keeping doors and windows closed, which is identical to the advice now given to United States residents who recently have had to cope with wood smoke from Canadian wildfires. 3b) Why is the term “near neighbor” used? Wood smoke from indoor residential wood burning usually does not go far, and near neighbors are usually the “canaries in a coal mine”. Near neighbors are “indicators” of pollution and suffer from the pollution, that is often not detected by the 4 senses (sight, hearing, taste, and smell) of ordinary humans when they pass through neighborhoods infiltrated with wood smoke, exposing their children and dogs walking with them, unwittingly, to wood smoke pollution that can harm their health without their perception of it. 3c) The PM_{2.5} monitors of near neighbors can detect the wood smoke pollution from one indoor wood burner when PM_{2.5} monitors farther away cannot. There need to be more, many, PM_{2.5} monitors, and they need to be placed in residential neighborhoods, not just near industrial facilities such as Biomass (wood burning) plants. 3c) Why PurpleAir PM_{2.5} monitors? Purple PM_{2.5} monitors are already on U S AirNow Maps of Smoke and Fire, alongside E P A standard PM_{2.5} monitors which cost \$100,000 and United States residents

have been using the reading from PurpleAir PM2.5 monitors to see if the air is fit to breathe in their localities, in the recent events of wildfire smoke invading from Canada. For instance, in the zip code 53716 in Wisconsin, the general public is using the readings from a PurpleAir monitor in RAWSEP's editor's back yard, with no backup PM2.5 monitor in the Zip Code 53716. I keep the PM2.5 monitor on 24/7. You are welcome! 3d) Another advantage of PurpleAir PM2.5 monitors is that if they are kept on 24/7 they can detect indoor residential wood burning pollution on weekends and overnight, when wood burners may burn thinking they are undetectable to authorities or authorities will not be on duty. PurpleAir PM2.5 monitors save historic data for years, perhaps indefinitely, and the weekend and overnight burning pollution data can be looked at and downloaded by the general public at any time, and downloaded by government authorities during normal government working hours, with no need to enter wood burning residences nor check certification of wood stoves to determine if pollution above E P A limits is being emitted. 3e) So wood stove certification is not needed. Why is there wood stove "safe" certification when wood burning for residential heating is not safe, but is in fact highly polluting? The wood stove industry would like their wood burning stoves certified safe in order to sell products and make money, and the human health is put by the wayside. Should the government allow this to continue. In the United Kingdom, the Mayor of London has determined that this cannot continue, for reasons of human health and slowing climate change. 3f) London is a major city in the United Kingdom, and in the world, not least in terms of population. In 2021 London's population was 8.8 million. In 2021 the United Kingdom's population was 67.33 million. London's population is approximately 13% of United Kingdom's population. Los Angeles' population was 3.8 million in 2021, about half the population of London. New York's population in 2021 was 8.4 million, roughly comparable to London's. The United States' population in 2021 was 331.9 million. New York's (and London's) populations were roughly 2.65% of the United States' population in 2021. Can the United States follow little London's example? Can the United States strike a blow against air pollution in the form of indoor residential wood burning the way London just has? Can the United States replace certification of wood stoves with a complaint-based system which is also based on science, in the form of data from PM2.5 monitors?

Here is the list of the 10 Attorney Generals now threatening to sue the E P A to provide certainty for indoor residential wood burners that their wood stoves can be certified "safe". Please ask those 10 Attorney Generals instead to ask the E P A to stop certifying polluting wood stoves "safe" and instead use a complaint-based system using PurpleAir PM2.5 monitors handed out to near neighbors of indoor residential wood burners.

The names and email addresses of the 10 U S Attorney Generals follows:

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<https://massago.hylandcloud.com/203appnet/UnityForm.aspx?key=UFKey> Massachusetts AG online contact form

<https://www.ag.state.mn.us/Office/Forms/ConsumerAssistanceRequest.asp> Minnesota AG Consumer Assistance

<https://www.njoag.gov/contact/office-of-constituent-services/> New Jersey AG Constituent Services online contact form

<https://njconsumeraffairs.state.nj.us/file-a-complaint/?stepid=b41bbbe8-6869-ea11-80fa-005056906006&sessionid=402d38f5-4c22-ee11-80d5-005056ba24cd> New Jersey AG general consumer complaint not price gouging online contact form

<https://ag.ny.gov/contact-attorney-general-letitia-james> New York AG online contact form

AttorneyGeneral@doj.state.or .us Oregon AG email

<https://ago.vermont.gov/contact-form> Vermont AG online contact form

<https://fortress.wa.gov/atg/formhandler/ago/ContactForm.aspx> Washington AG online contact form

On a positive note, heat pumps that work at temperatures down to 40 degrees below zero Fahrenheit are now being traded for wood stoves in some localities, and there are some subsidies for heat pumps from the U S federal government. Heat pumps do not have notable emissions and are so efficient they lower energy bills. Heat pumps can also be used as air conditioners. If electrification is extended to all rural areas of the U S, heat pumps can be used universally, stopping pollution from indoor residential wood burning, and slowing climate change.

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 fenceline 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 fenceline 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.

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 <https://rawsepresidents.wordpress.com/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 <https://rawsepresidents.wordpress.com/1-july-2023-pdfs-of-urls/> 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.