

Episode 56iS September 14, 2023. EPA New resources and actions to reduce exposures to environmental carcinogens

United States. Environmental Protection Agency (part of the Biden Administration Cancer Moonshot projects newsletter of 9/13/2023). Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates. EPA New resources and actions to reduce exposures to environmental carcinogens. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching [epa.gov/cancer](https://www.epa.gov/cancer), with new information and prominently featured resources from EPA and other federal agencies about **secondhand smoke**, smoking cessation, and other cancer-related topics. New regulatory efforts, through rules and standards in progress, will **regulate unreasonable cancer risks** associated with carcinogenic chemicals under statutes including the Toxic Substances Control Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and the **Clean Air Act**. EPA will also continue to leverage its existing authorities under our nation's bedrock **health and environmental laws** to accelerate the rate of progress to prevent cancer, including phase-outs of carcinogens, **regulatory actions to protect** children, workers and overburdened communities, and **enforcement actions to ensure pollution is curbed**. The Administration's efforts to fight cancer linked with environmental exposure also advance President Biden's commitment to environmental justice for all.

Wisconsin, Proposed legislation to allow Cigar & Pipe Tobacco smoking in Workplaces. American Lung Association, Wisconsin. Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates. Rather than protecting everyone's right to breathe clean smokefree air, some state legislators are considering a proposal to allow cigar and pipe tobacco smoking in our currently smokefree workplaces. The state legislature is currently considering a proposal to weaken the statewide clean indoor air law to allow cigar and pipe tobacco smoking in so-called tobacco bars. [Send a message to your state legislators today](#) and urge them to keep all workplaces smokefree. There is no such thing as an "acceptable smoking culture" that doesn't harm the public and increase exposure to cancer-causing substances. Let's continue to protect everyone's right to breathe smokefree air. Thank you for taking action on this important issue! Molly Collins, Advocacy Director for Wisconsin, American Lung Association

Uzbekistan & Climate Week & COP28. The New York Times, Climate Forward newsletter. September 14, 2023. To understand the challenges for clean energy, we went to Uzbekistan. Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates.

Starting on Sunday 9/17/2023 in New York, policymakers, diplomats, and others will convene for Climate Week, along with the U.N. General Assembly and several related gatherings, including the New York Times' Climate Forward event. And COP28, the annual U.N.-sponsored climate meeting, is just a couple months away. This year's COP talks are being held in the United Arab Emirates, where the national energy company recently said it plans to spend \$150 billion over the next five years, mostly to ramp up fossil fuel production. And the guy who runs the Emirates' national oil company? He's in charge of the climate talks and he says he's perfect for the job. This year's COP president, Sultan al-Jaber, hasn't given a lot of interviews. So, to get one, I traveled all the way to Uzbekistan. Not because he happened to be there, but because companies he is linked to are investing big money to modernize the country's energy infrastructure. Uzbekistan is a developing country facing many of the issues that will be on display at Climate Week and COP28. The Emirates wants to be seen as a climate-friendly renewable energy superpower, plowing billions into wind and solar in places like Uzbekistan even as it helps lock those same developing nations into decades of fossil fuel production through its other investments. Al-Jaber told the reporter that Al-Jabar's position in both the renewable energy and fossil fuels worlds gave him a unique vantage point for the annual global climate negotiations. He argues that progress has been stymied because climate advocates and fossil fuel interests vilified each other, a problem he'd solve by bringing them to the same negotiating table. He runs Masdar, a renewable company that funds zero-emissions energy technologies like wind and solar power across 40 countries. And he's also the head of Adnoc, one of the world's biggest oil companies. He told me it would keep producing more fossil fuels "as long as the market demands it."

California, Trinidad ['All Wood Smoke is Toxic' | Mailbox | North Coast Journal](#) North Coast Journal The DEQ estimated that wood stoves emitted 8 tons of benzene there during the wood-burning season. Other heat sources emitted almost none. Wood smoke ...This includes wood smoke from wood stoves. Twelve years ago, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality performed air toxics monitoring in Klamath ...'All Wood Smoke is Toxic' September 14, 2023.

Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates. Editor: It was noted in a recent article ("California's Wildfire Smoke and the Climate Crisis: Four Things to Know," Sept. 7) that "Wildfire smoke is toxic, containing substances such as carbon monoxide and benzene, a carcinogen. "In fact, all wood smoke is toxic and contains several known carcinogens, including benzene. This includes wood smoke from wood stoves. Twelve years ago, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality performed air

toxics monitoring in Klamath Falls (population around 22,000). The DEQ estimated that wood stoves emitted 8 tons of benzene there during the wood-burning season. Other heat sources emitted almost none. Wood smoke is a potent mix of toxic compounds and fine particles that are linked not only to cancer, but also to developmental harm in children, heart attacks, strokes, dementia and more, including premature deaths. The most hazardous components of wood smoke are not visible; you don't have to see smoke to be harmed by it. Just last month, researchers with the U.S. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences published a study linking increased lung cancer risk in women to wood stove and fireplace use. They found evidence of increased risk even when the study subjects only occasionally heated with wood. Neighbors of wood-burning households can routinely be exposed to air pollution levels that are 100 times higher than what others in the community are breathing, or that official regulatory air monitoring reflects. There is a widely held belief that because wood is natural, burning it must not be harmful. But this simply isn't true. We need to have much greater awareness of this significant source of harm. Links to relevant research studies and other information are available on the website of Doctors and Scientists Against Wood Smoke Pollution (DSAWSP): dsawsp.org. Resident, Trinidad

United Kingdom, Oxford, one smoke control area to cover entire city approved at Council Meeting 9/13/2023

[Cabinet approves plans to consult on extending Smoke Control Area | Oxford City Council](#) The campaign aims to educate and inform people who use wood burning stoves and open fireplaces on the harms they cause, and ways to reduce the impact ...Smoke Control Areas (SCAs) aim to prevent people from burning high-polluting fuels, helping protect the public from microscopic particles (PM2.5) ...Within a smoke control area, residents and businesses will still be able to buy and use solid fuel, provided that they: Use an approved wood-burning. Cabinet approves plans to consult on extending Smoke Control Area. Oxford City Council has approved plans to consult on the expanding its longstanding Smoke Control Areas to cover the whole city. The proposals will be subject to a public consultation this winter, and agreement by the Secretary of State. Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates September 14, 2023. Oxford City Council has approved plans to consult on the expanding its longstanding Smoke Control Areas to cover the whole city. The proposals will be subject to a public consultation this winter, and agreement by the Secretary of State. Smoke Control Areas (SCAs) aim to prevent people from burning high-polluting fuels, helping protect the public from microscopic particles (PM2.5) which can get into lungs and cause serious health conditions. Oxford currently has 23 Smoke Control Areas, which cover about 48% of the Oxford area- including the city centre, and urban areas such as Headington, most of East Oxford, Blackbird Leys, Abingdon Road, Botley Road and Jericho. The new plans include a public consultation on a draft Smoke Control Order which will replace the patchwork of current Smoke Control Areas with a single Smoke Control Area for the whole of Oxford. This will mean that several areas of the city including north Oxford (from Summertown up to Wolvercote), Rose Hill, Littlemore, New Headington, Old Marston, and parts of the Temple Cowley could be covered by the new Smoke Control Area. The plans follow in the footsteps of Reading Borough Council, which is currently consulting on plans to introduce a single Smoke Control Area across Berkshire's County town. What is a Smoke Control Area? Smoke Control Areas aim to reduce the smoke that can be released from domestic and commercial chimneys. In a Smoke Control Area, residents and businesses must burn solid fuel in a way that is both clean and safe. Within a smoke control area, residents and businesses will still be able to buy and use solid fuel, provided that they: Use an approved wood-burning stove or appliance. Or, if they are unable to use an approved stove or appliance, they must use an authorised fuel type. Houseboats are not covered by existing Smoke Control Area legislation and so not covered by the single Smoke Control Area proposal. But Oxford Council regulates with a 'eco-moorings' trial and by issuing best practice and guidance for boaters through its Do you Fuel Good? campaign. Bonfires and barbecues are also not covered by Smoke Control Areas, and there is separate guidance on the Council's website. Under the proposals, nothing will change for those living in the parts of Oxford already covered by a Smoke Control Area. Oxford's first Smoke Control Areas were introduced in 1958 – six years after the Great Smog of London, which covered the capital for five days and resulted in some 12,000 deaths. A map of the existing Smoke Control Areas can be found on the City Council's website. If the City Council witnesses smoke from the chimney of a domestic or commercial building, it can issue fines of between £175 and £300. selling or buying unauthorized fuel for use without an approved appliance in a Smoke Control Area can face fines of up to £1,000. Next steps. Following approval at Cabinet last night, the Council plans to consult on the proposals this winter, and residents and businesses will be invited to share their views. The decision to extend the Smoke Control Areas will also be subject to approval by the Secretary of State. Health impact of air pollution. The WHO estimates that around 7 million deaths each year are linked with air pollution – with air pollution now estimated to be competing with other major global health risks such as unhealthy diet and tobacco smoking. In September 2021, the World Health Organisation published new guidelines which recommends stricter limits on the 'safe' level of air pollution, including

PM2.5. WHO advised that there is no level at which pollutants stop causing damage. Over the last decade alone (from 2011 to 2021), emissions from fine particulate pollution (PM2.5) from domestic wood burning [increased by 124% in the UK](#). How the Council is tackling air pollution. In Oxford, the city's latest air quality annual status [report](#), shows that PM2.5 levels are still slightly above the current recommended WHO guidelines and, [66% of all local fine particulates \(PM2.5\) come from domestic heating](#), compared with only 21% coming from transport. This includes the use of [solid fuel stoves](#). In 2021, the Council approved its [Air Quality Action Plan 2021-2025](#). In 2022 Oxford City Council launched its '[Do You Fuel Good?](#)' campaign. The [campaign aims to educate and inform people who use wood burning stoves and open fireplaces on the harms they cause](#). "I am pleased that we will be moving forward in our efforts to tackle toxic air pollution in our city. We know that smoke and air pollution can lead to severe health issues, and implementing a single Smoke Control Area will aid us in [reducing both indoor and outdoor particulate pollution across the city.](#)" Councillor Anna Railton, Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford, and Climate Justice.

Australia, Sydney. Sydney faces months of smoke as authorities race to conduct hazard reduction burns. New South Wales (NSW) Rural Fire Service (RFS) says it is 'significantly behind' schedule and will 'continue to do hazard reductions as long as it's safe'. September 11, 2023. [Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates](#). The [New South Wales](#) Rural Fire Service commissioner says that as long as it's safe, firefighters will continue conducting hazard reduction burns over the next few months, which could result in smoke being trapped in the Sydney basin. Sydney awoke to a blanket of smoke over parts of the city on Monday from hazard reduction burns at the weekend. "Smoke goes in there overnight and the inversion layer comes in and just traps that in the morning until a bit of a breeze picks up," the commissioner, said on Monday. "it does have health impacts on others." The RFS measures its hazard reduction burns by the financial year. Last year, up to 30 June, only 24% of the program was completed, and Rogers said "it was similar the year before" due to the extreme rain. "We're significantly behind and hence, we'll continue to do hazard reductions as long as it's safe," he said. Communities are being urged to prepare [for what is likely to be the most significant bushfire season](#) since the 2019-20 black summer fires. Air quality [degraded](#) to "very poor" conditions in Sydney's east on Monday morning, with residents urged to remain indoors and keep their windows and doors closed until conditions improved. The smoke could linger for days, emergency services warned. According to the NSW RFS, smoke settled over Sydney on Sunday afternoon and Monday morning. "While the smoke will begin to clear later this morning further burning is scheduled for today and as a result smoke is expected to remain over parts of Sydney and the Central Coast until midweek," a spokesperson said. The RFS issued a smoke warning just after 5.30am, urging asthma sufferers and those with a lung condition to keep their puffers handy and reduce outdoor activities if smoke levels were high. The smoke was caused by hazard reduction burns in Sutherland, Ku-ring-gai, Hawkesbury, Hornsby, and the Central Coast. Heavy smoke settled in areas close to the burns and in the eastern suburbs, the RFS said. According to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, air quality in Sydney's east degraded to "very poor". Randwick recorded 102.8µg/m³ PM2.5 fine particles between 6 and 7am. The NSW premier, Chris Minns said. "Obviously, hazard reduction burns are far better than a bushfire raging down your street. This is necessary work that the RFS and Fire and Rescue NSW are undertaking." [Sydney blanketed by smoke for a 4th day due to hazard reduction burning | AP News](#) Sydney is blanketed under thick wood smoke for a fourth consecutive day due to hazard reduction burns in preparation for the wildfire season. [Sydney blanketed by smoke for a 4th day due to hazard reduction burning | KRDO](#) SYDNEY (AP) — Sydney is blanketed under thick wood smoke for a fourth consecutive day due to hazard reduction burns in preparation for the ...[Sydney blanketed by smoke for fourth consecutive day | The National](#) Sydney has been blanketed under thick wood smoke for a fourth ... day due to hazard reduction burning in preparation for the wildfire season.[Thick Haze Blankets Sydney, Australia | | oleantimesherald.com](#) (14 Sep 2023) Sydney has been blanketed under thick wood smoke due to hazard reduction burns in preparation for the wildfire season.[Sydney blanketed by smoke for a 4th day due to hazard reduction burning - Toronto Star](#) SYDNEY (AP) — Sydney was blanketed under thick wood smoke for a fourth consecutive day on Thursday due to hazard reduction burns in preparation ... Wyoming, Carbon County, Hanna. RAWSEP View: There were several arguments brought up against a Wyoming small town's proposed ordinance to clean up junk and trash, which also included some regulation of wood smoke coming from wood burning stoves. Commenters seemed to think they would naturally pile up junk and trash, and therefore would naturally be fined if the ordinance passed. The first objection was to limiting wood smoke coming from wood burning stoves. The second objection was that there were fines, which people thought they would naturally incur, which they could not afford to pay. Third, there were rules, which Wyoming is not familiar with. Only the caretaker of the town cemetery, which is the landmark the town is most famous for, said that the cemetery should be kept clean. After the meeting, during which some residents may have been cowed or silenced by shouting commenters, some residents apologized to the Mayor for the shouting of commenters. A1)[Commenters balked at revisions to the town code,](#)

including measures limiting smoke coming from wood-burning stoves that some people use to heat their homes.

A2) There were fines in the proposed ordinance for those who did not clean up their own junk and trash. One man said he wanted freedom from cash and invoked his Christian faith. He had recently moved to Hanna from Salt Lake City, which he described as “a liberal (city) “The code enforcement officer (in Salt Lake City) was coming around every summer,” the commenter said, a situation he doesn’t want to see repeated in his new hometown. A3) A woman commenter said the ordinance would add red tape. “This is not California, this is not Colorado,” she said. The woman also accused the Mayor of smirking at the audience. A4) Another commenter suggested that the Mayor and some council members had junk vehicles in their yards. The spirit of Hanna, which apparently includes high tolerance for junk and trash, hasn’t changed since its mining heyday in the early 20th Century, and it should be kept intact, she said. A5). Several commenters said the fines would be too much for retired people on fixed incomes or those who commute to jobs far from Hanna. A6) The steepness of the fine and proposed appointment of a code enforcement officer were objected to. A7) There were angry posts on a Hanna social media site leading up to the meeting and there was a petition against the junk ordinance.

B1) A few Carbon County Sheriff’s Office deputies and a Wyoming state trooper were on hand to provide security.

B2) The ordinance would have allowed the town council to appoint a code enforcement officer, and would have implemented fines of up to \$750 per day for failure to clean up trash, junk vehicles and other eyesores. B3) town officials gave up trying to clarify the proposed ordinance to the crowd. B4) Nobody spoke in favor of the proposed measure, which the council then voted to reject. B5) Hanna has a problem with junk, loose trash and abandoned buildings, the Hanna Mayor said after the meeting ended and most of the crowd had left. B6) After the meeting, a few residents chatted with the Mayor, and some even apologized to the Mayor. B7) The proposed ordinance, a revision of the town’s existing junk code, was intended to help clean things up, the Mayor said. But given its hard rejection earlier that evening, there probably won’t be any more attempts to revise it, the Mayor said. Instead, Hanna will keep trying to hire a marshal “either full-time or part-time” to enforce clean-up regulations and other municipal codes. C1) one of the primary caretakers of the miners’ cemetery as president of the Hanna Basin Museum and Historical Society said Hanna town council meetings are usually attended by few people, so the commenters behavior was unprecedented. On one hand, she saw the need to keep cemetery and or house lots clean and tear down abandoned buildings but she said, “I felt that some of the proposed amendments to the ordinance were extreme for the town of Hanna”.

Wyoming, Carbon County, Hanna, population 683 <https://cowboystatedaily.com/2023/09/13/riled-up-hanna-residents-cuss-out-town-council-over-junk-ordinance/> The ordinance would have allowed the town council to appoint a code enforcement officer ...

wood-burning stoves that some people use to heat their homes. Resident ... "This Is Not California!" Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates.

A Hanna Town Council meeting on Tuesday over a proposed ordinance cracking down on junk and trash. September 13, 2023. Hanna, in Carbon County, has a population of 683. Junk, Trash, Abandoned Buildings. The town of 683, which sits off an isolated stretch of U.S. Highway 30 southwest of Medicine Bow, doesn’t have a town marshal, the Hanna Mayor said. The town had a population of thousands during the height of coal mining there, which began to taper off in the 1980s. Hundreds of miners died in accidents over the decades that the underground mines were operating, most notably during massive explosions in 1903 and 1908. Many of the miners who died in those explosions are buried in a [cemetery just outside of town](#), which is considered to be one of Wyoming’s most important historical sites. California, Oroville [Large wood pile fire lights up the morning sky in Oroville | News | actionnewsnow.com](#) Action News Now A large fire lit up the early morning sky in Oroville Thursday morning. CAL FIRE said wood piles and wood chips are burning on Georgia Pacific Way ... [Large pile of wood burning in Oroville - CBS News](#) CBS News A fire burning in a large pile of wood scraps in Oroville is expected to burn for hours, say firefighters. California, Sierras, Weatherman specializes in PM2.5 [Dennis Mattinson's Weather - September 14, 2023 - Sierra Wave](#) He specialized in the monitoring, measurement and movement of particulate matter 2.5 and 10 microns in size (known as PM-2.5 and PM-10). He also ...

