

Episode 56JO. October 5, 2023. Vermonter says you can't burn your way out of climate change.

Vermont [Phil Merrick: You can't burn your way out of climate change - VTDigger](#) Anyone that thinks that burning woody biomass can be a climate solution is just plain wrong. ... So the misconception is that we burn the wood, the ... **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates Corporation, a non-profit.** You can't burn your way out of climate change any more than you can spend your way out of debt. Society-wide, we have demonized fossil fuels. They are the obvious target. They produce "new" carbon pollution, where trees produce carbon pollution that is already in the carbon-cycle. [Opinion](#) Phil Merrick: You can't burn your way out of climate change. Biomass plants are inefficient and expensive to operate. We just have to know the truth about them and legislate accordingly and they will close themselves. October 4, 2023. This commentary is a resident of Burlington. Anyone that thinks that burning woody biomass can be a climate solution is just plain wrong. It's an easy mistake to make, right? Trees grow back. So the misconception is that we burn the wood, the trees reabsorb the carbon. Full cycle. Renewable. But it's not like that. It's like this: **Trees growing is business as usual; burning biomass is additional.** The "trees grow back" argument ignores the fact that they grow back regardless, and have been growing back all along. **Burning biomass is additional emissions of greenhouse gases that are not balanced out by additional trees growing back. Burning biomass does not cause the trees to grow. They are not the cause of the trees growing any more than a coal furnace is.** I could just as easily say that burning tires is carbon-neutral because the trees grow back. Think of it like nature is a big bank for carbon and we all rely on the bank's assets growing every year. And every year the McNeil (and Ryegate) biomass plants take more loans and **go deeper into carbon debt without ever paying anything back.** They point at the bank's assets growing and say, "See, it's OK; **we keep taking loans because the bank continues to have more.**" All of the prevailing arguments that support the carbon neutrality of biomass for energy as is being done at McNeil and Ryegate are based on **false accounting.** They claim that the forests of Vermont sequester twice as much carbon every year than they lose to harvesting, so it's OK to burn some of it for electricity. On the surface, this seems like a reasonable argument. But **in carbon accounting, just like financial accounting, you can only make claims on your own stuff.** You can't simply apply the carbon absorbed by trees statewide to one entity, or one industry. **It's claiming communal profit for a single industry.** Besides, Vermont forests are still over **half a billion tons of carbon in debt** compared to pre-industrial times. And **if our goal is to pay down that debt as much as possible,** then burning a portion of it is the wrong approach. You can't burn your way out of climate change any more than you can spend your way out of debt. Society-wide, we have demonized fossil fuels. They are the obvious target. They produce "new" carbon pollution, where trees produce carbon pollution that is already in the carbon-cycle. But climate change is because of excess carbon in the atmosphere regardless of source. Had we not polluted our oceans, **cut down our forests,** eroded our soils, etc., the fossil fuel impact would have been a fraction of what it is. **Cutting trees will never reduce global warming.** Well-managed forests are a real thing. Foresters in Vermont are well-trained professionals who have respect for the natural world and have a lot of experience in managing forests. But it turns out that **adding biomass for electricity to the harvest mix leads to greater emissions. Most foresters that I know don't know this** and have been led to believe that biomass is a green, renewable energy source. They have been told that burning biomass is carbon-neutral. This is absolutely wrong. I think that **if they had been schooled in the truth, few foresters would approve. Once the truth is known, biomass plants will not survive. They can't survive economically without the sale of renewable energy certificates.** Biomass plants are inefficient and expensive to operate. **We just have to know the truth about them and legislate accordingly and they will close themselves.**

South Africa, Natal [KZN wood factory's hopes of R1bn export go up in smoke - TimesLIVE](#) INFERNO Firefighters are hard at work extinguishing a fire that has been burning since Saturday at NCT in Richards Bay, KwaZulu-Natal. According to ... South Africa, Durban, Richards Bay [Rumours of toxic fumes from burning wood chips, massive job losses are false, says mill](#) IOL ... Bay. Meanwhile, the company said rumors were circulating about toxic fumes from the burning wood chips and imminent and massive job losses. Durban – NCT Forestry, the company affected by the fires in Richards Bay, has assured the public that rumours about toxic fumes from the burning wood chips and imminent and massive job losses are speculation. Rumours of toxic fumes from burning wood chips, massive job losses are false, says mill. **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates Corporation, a non-profit.** Firefighting efforts are continuing at the NCT woodchip mill in Richards Bay. October 4, 2023. Durban – NCT Forestry, the company affected by the fires in Richards Bay, has assured the public that rumors about toxic fumes from the burning wood chips and imminent and massive job losses are speculation. The NCT general manager provided an update on the fires on Tuesday.

He said that aerial bombers and a large contingent of ground forces and specialized machines were being used to prevent the fire from spreading to any of the neighbouring industries and residents. He said considerable assistance was being rendered by NCT forest operations, the municipality, and many local businesses. He said NCT was grateful for this support and goodwill. All of these contributors would be formally acknowledged and thanked once the fire was deemed to be under control.

Arizona, Phoenix [Salt River landfill fire: Why it smells like smoke in metro Phoenix - AZCentral](#) ... PM-2.5 (particle pollution from fine particles) monitors have remained within the good air quality index category for the Phoenix area for the 24 ...California, Los Angeles [Los Angeles Metro Air Quality Map - KTLA](#) ... wood burning. Other common sources include dust and wildfire smoke. Ozone and carbon monoxide pollution is also common although less visible ...California, St. Helena [St. Helena Police Log, Sept. 27-Oct. 2 - The Napa Valley Register](#) 2315 — An officer smelled wood burning near Main/Vidovich and saw smoke behind a restaurant near Main/Charter Oak. It was just a barbecue. People ...Florida, Sarasota [What you need to know about the Sarasota air quality alert linked to Canada wildfires](#) Sarasota Herald-Tribune The 2 p.m. Tuesday air quality reading for PM 2.5 in Sarasota County was 169 parts. Sarasota County issued an air quality advisory Tuesday ... Florida, Sarasota [Breathe easier: Sarasota-Manatee air quality no longer measures as unhealthy on website](#) Sarasota Herald-Tribune Wednesday, registered 49 parts per million of PM 2.5, “inhalable particles” generated by the wildfires in Canada. That reading registers within ...Oregon, Jefferson [Wildfire season continues despite rain | Jefferson Public Radio](#) ... wood burning stove," he said. According to the South Central Oregon Fire Management Partnership, which covers South Central Oregon and Northwest ... Oregon [Oregon, nine states sue EPA over wood stove pollution that threatens tens of thousands in the state](#) Oregon Capital Chronicle Wood smoke contains fine particles and pollutants such as benzene and formaldehyde that can cause burning eyes, runny nose and bronchitis, according ...Every year wood heater smoke “contributes hundreds of thousands of tons of fine particles throughout the country – mostly during the winter months,” ..... wood stoves are a key source of pollution. Wood smoke contains fine particles and pollutants such as benzene and formaldehyde that can cause burning ...Central America [Wood cookstove use linked to gastric cancer risk - News-Medical.net](#) ... wood smoke, mediate the effects of wood cookstove use on GC. Thus, cooking on wood stoves promotes cancer development. Researchers have proposed ...United Kingdom [Rishi Sunak proposes raising smoking age one year every year - LADbible](#) Rishi Sunak proposes raising smoking age one year every year. China [Impacts of exposure to humidex on cardiovascular mortality: a multi-city study in Southwest China](#) BMC Public Health - BioMed Central We obtained environmental data from local environmental monitoring centers, including 24-h average fine-particulate matter (PM2.5; µg/m<sup>3</sup>) and daily 8- ...India [An environmental justice analysis of air pollution in India | Scientific Reports - Nature](#) We then evaluated associations between total, anthropogenic and source-specific PM2.5 exposures and SES variables using fully-adjusted multilevel ... PM2.5 and Gallery Art [Artist calls for submissions to online air pollution gallery - AirQualityNews](#) Shown left is a work titled Particulate Matter 2.5 and Particulate Matter 10 ... Due to the small size of many of the particles called PM 2.5, they can ... PM2.5 and Inflammation [Can air pollution cause inflammation? Scientists are starting to unravel the connection.](#) National Geographic In the lab, they were then able to show that the cells of people with prior long-term exposure to PM 2.5 and black carbon emissions produced ...

