

Episode 56SR April 2, 2024. RAWSEP Talk Show Part 2, 3 constituencies. Starting with Outdoor Enthusiasts. Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates (RAWSEP) April 2, 2024. Talk Show Part 2, Three Constituencies, Starting with Outdoor Enthusiasts. Talk Show Part 2, Three Constituencies, we only have time for Outdoor Enthusiasts today. C:Hello Audience! Today the topic is Three Constituencies, a concept meant to knock your socks off with its relevance and timeliness! Are you ready to grasp the concept? Audience: Wowza! C:introducing 6 people, for 3 constituencies! 3 people concerned with saving our planet from catastrophic climate change! And 3 people blocking those concerned with saving our planet from catastrophic climate change! C:First, two outdoor enthusiasts, one named Dirk who goes out there and messes it up! The second outdoor enthusiast cleans up after herself or doesn't mess it up to begin with, Tidy Tilda! You know who, Dirk: How did you get me here? I could be driving my all terrain vehicle all over the desert, kicking up some dust and rocks! And my Sierra Club says if I plant a tree every time I fire up my wood stove I'm golden! What's the matter with that? Tidy Tilda: When I go hiking I use a solar stove to heat my food (or sometimes when the wind is high I use a nifty wind powered stove that I can fit in my backpack). I stay in a tent heated by battery storage from solar panel energy collected during the day, in an emergency. But I don't camp in a tent in winter because that's stupid. I never burn wood because I am prepared to warm myself adequately for the weather I choose to camp in. I leave the wild places I visit as pristine as when I entered. You know who, Dirk: I could be lighting a gnarly beach fire! I want to be alone in nature! Why are you staring at me? This doesn't concern you, audience members! I have my own private Idaho! Tidy Tilda: Hey Dirk, I worked long and hard to pass ordinances against lighting wood fires on beaches, because the majority of people who are the recipients of your wood smoke don't like it. They have preternatural senses, like wild animals and like the most hardened outdoor enthusiasts have, that permit them to sense when they can't breathe because of wood smoke invading their yards and infiltrating their homes. Animals also flee from wood smoke. The beaches you light fires on have populations of human beings around them that can, if not see you, sense the air pollution you are creating. Don't you think our human senses are meant to protect us from danger, Dirk? You know who, Dirk: I eat Danger for breakfast! Every time I light a beach fire and feast on burnt marshmallows, the only food that can be well cooked on the challenging wood fire, I create marshmallow food with my bare hands! No potholders for me! See the singe on my fingers! Tidy Tilda: You live in your own little world, Dirk, in your mind. But in reality you live on this planet with other human beings. They want to enjoy a little nature too, and they want to enjoy it while breathing clean air. Otherwise they won't make it up a mountain, or walk (not drive) in the desert and see all the pretty colors. You know who, Dirk: Air pollution is a mirage. It can retreat as soon as you reach that Oasis just ahead, Carbon Neutrality of Wood Burning. I've planted enough trees to erase a thousand wood burning fires! Tidy Tilda: No dice, Dirk. It doesn't work that way, according to scientists. If you create particulate pollution and emit CO₂, as you will, from wood burning, planting a tree doesn't magically erase the PM_{2.5} and CO₂. My scientist colleague, Virtuous Verna, says that a tree can take decades or centuries to attain the maturity of the tree that you burned in your beach fire. In the meantime, in the decades and centuries before your planted tree matures, the PM_{2.5} and CO₂ that your beach fire emitted is just there, not erased, and actively hurting the people who inhale it, not to mention hastening climate change. I plant trees too. According to the Arbor Day Foundation, in one year a mature tree will absorb more than 48 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen in exchange. But a mature tree is not a particulate matter absorber. That stuff goes directly into your lungs, and the harder you exercise outdoors in the presence of PM_{2.5} the faster and deeper the PM_{2.5} enters your lungs. C:Lets close with our usual spiel. Wood burning is 90% PM_{2.5}, 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! Have a great day, guys! And keep it clean! Next time: our next two constituents, representing ... guess the constituency!

