

Episode 57AW December 7 2024. EPA Environmental Justice Grant Funding may be clawed back.

In Episode 57AW 1A United States. EPA Environmental Justice Grant Funding may be clawed back. The nonprofit Dallas based Downwinders at Risk to conduct door to door screenings to check residents' homes for conditions that cause asthma. 1B United States. How Does Wildfire Smoke Travel? PurpleAir sensors set up hyperlocally at your home provide highly relevant readings directly where you are. 2 Massachusetts. Harvard University Doubles Down on Emissions Reductions. 3 New York. Trump Should Consider All the Good Congestion Pricing Could Do for His Hometown. Main Content. 0 Introduction. RAWSEP is interested in EPA Environmental Justice Grant Funding because RAWSEP has applied for Environmental Justice Grant Funding. RAWSEP grant requests were for funding for measures to educate the public about the adverse human health issues originating from the scientifically debunked theory of Carbon Neutrality of Wood Burning which specious theory props up government subsidies of industrial wood burning used to replace industrial coal burning lack of government intervention with few laws against air polluting indoor residential wood burning and lack of government intervention with few effective measures to curb wildfire wood burning. The similar orphans who are not protected by government intervention are in RAWSEP's view problems that can be solved by control of what are now personal decisions. It is difficult to change personal human behavior especially when destructive behavior is condoned because it is traditional and in some cases physically addictive behavior in the case of alcoholism and nicotine containing cigarette smoking. Some of the same people who now rail against corporate industrial air pollution from burning fossil fuels alone are at the same time creating preventable unnecessary air pollution in their own communities through wood burning and condoning the air pollution that wood burning causes because it has been labelled by the industries that provide the personal equipment of wood burning air pollution as traditional and perhaps addictive. We have been through deceptive ad campaigns like this when corporations pushed cigarette smoking ads and pushed alcohol ads in prime time on Network TV and those ads on Network TV have been for the most part shut down. There are widely publicized 12 step programs for quitting nicotine filled cigarettes and for quitting alcohol now. The nurses who used to smoke cigarettes at the entrances to hospitals in order to spare their coworkers but instead polluted the air of sick people attempting to enter ERs and Doctor's offices are relegated to less public entrances now in RAWSEP's editor's experience. That is some sort of step forward but are they kicking their addiction which presumably harms no one else if enough distance is observed? RAWSEP's concern can only extend so far. In the case of indoor residential wood burning distance is not the solution stopping entirely is the solution. Wood burning is shunted out of homes into the air of near neighbors. The article from PurpleAir in this episode explains how wood smoke travels. Wood smoke can travel long distances. Every indoor residential wood burner contributes incrementally to air pollution that contains both CO₂ and 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. RAWSEP's concern is with the air pollution from indoor residential wood burning that enters the yards and infiltrates the homes of near neighbors of indoor residential wood burners and sickens the near neighbors. The analogies of workplace cigarette smoking being banned and alcoholics drunk driving being banned if there is failure of a breathalyzer test are instructive as some sort of success stories. The analogy of a radar gun pointed at a particular car used to stop speeding and often drunk driving speeding can be applied to a PurpleAir PM_{2.5} monitor located hyperlocally hanging from the eaves of a near neighbor's house to stop air polluting indoor residential wood burning. There are laws that allow the use of radar guns as evidence of speeding and the results of collection of data can shut down car speeding and save lives. There should be laws that allow the use of PurpleAir PM_{2.5} monitors to use as collectors of data evidence of PM_{2.5} levels that exceed World Health Organization PM_{2.5} safe limits of 5 micrograms per cubic

meter in order to pinpoint where the air pollution is coming from and shut down each indoor residential wood burner one at a time if necessary. Even better than 12 step programs to stop indoor residential wood burning are Heat Pump rebates of up to \$8000 based on a sliding income scale in the United States in 2024 and similar programs in Canada the United Kingdom the Netherlands and Australia in 2024. RAWSEP of course applauds the efforts to stop fossil fuel burning but the fossil fuel natural gas can be used as a cleaner bridge than wood burning until wood burning stops entirely and while the truly clean renewables of wind solar and geothermal gain a larger foothold in the marketplace. Keep in mind that wood burning is 90 percent PM2.5 and wood burning emits 2.8 times the CO2 and PM2.5 as the fossil fuel coal burning. Wood burning emits 450 times the PM2.5 as the fossil fuel natural gas burning. These statistics are based on testing the cleanest burning wood stove in the United Kingdom the Ecodesign wood burning stove. A report by Ember in 2024 showed that wood burning at the Drax wood burning power plant emitted 4 times the air pollution as the Drax power plant had emitted when it was a coal burning power plant. Drax currently receives subsidies from the United Kingdom for its wood burning plant and also receives subsidies for carbon capture research Drax is attempting. Carbon capture does not work after decades of attempts. RAWSEP gives the same advice to industry as to indoor residential wood burners. Do not burn wood to begin with. There are clean alternatives in 2024. 1A United States. EPA Environmental Justice Grant Funding may be Clawed Back. The nonprofit Dallas based Downwinders at Risk to conduct door to door screenings to check residents' homes for conditions that cause asthma. Inside Climate News newsletter. [RAWSEP View](#). What types of organizations fear clawing back of funds? [Key excerpt from the article below](#). An applicant hoped to use grant money to hire more employees at his nonprofit Dallas based Downwinders at Risk to conduct door to door screenings to check residents' homes for conditions that cause asthma. He applied for a \$1.5 million grant earlier in November from another IRA funded environmental justice program. But now he's unsure he'll ever see that money. [RAWSEP View](#). Both Trump and congressional Republicans may try to rescind clean energy funding. How could Trump claw back the money? [Key excerpt from the article below](#). the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act passed in 1974 prohibits a president from refusing to release congressionally appropriated funds and prevents the president from substituting his own funding decisions for those of Congress. The legislation defines when federal funding is obligated by a contract signed between a federal agency and the recipient of federal funds such as an organization applying for a grant. That means the \$266 million dedicated to environmental justice under the Inflation Reduction Act which Congress passed in 2022 and already obligated is protected from being rescinded. But Trump may not respect that federal law and may try to seize or rescind obligated funds. Right wing think tanks have argued that the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is unconstitutional saying that Article II of the Constitution which obligates the president to faithfully execute the law also allows a president to forbid enforcement of the law. Trump suggested in a 2023 campaign video that he could simply choke off the money allocated under the Inflation Reduction Act. [RAWSEP View](#). How could Congress claw back the money? [Key excerpt from the article below](#). Congress would have to pass new rescission legislation to take away unspent money that Congress previously appropriated. Republicans could use the appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2025 which began in October and now appears likely to be in the hands of the newly elected Congress and Trump to do so. But in order to avoid the threat of a filibuster in the Senate they instead could use a budget reconciliation bill that only needs a simple majority the approach Democrats used to pass the IRA. Republicans are aiming to embark on a reconciliation bill soon after taking office in order to extend and expand Trump's 2017 tax cuts. [Excerpts edited for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization](#). December 7 2024. Hundreds of millions of dollars have yet to reach EJ organizations. EPA's Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program dedicated \$600

million in block grants. The Biden administration has so far awarded nearly \$266 million according to an EPA database leaving more than half or just over \$334 million vulnerable to reversal efforts from Trump officials or Republican lawmakers. Last week the EPA opened up the first round of applications for the Thriving Communities program giving hopeful applicants less than two months to navigate the complicated federal grantmaking process before Trump is sworn in. In fact several EPA regions have yet to open their application processes. In addition to the 11 regional grant maker organizations another 18 institutions were chosen to act as technical assistance centers known officially as Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers or TCTACs to help community organizations navigate the often complicated federal grant application process. During Trump's first term in office he withheld nearly \$400 million in military aid to Ukraine while pressuring President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to open a corruption investigation into Joe Biden and his family. The U.S. Government Accountability Office or GAO later ruled that Trump's actions violated the Impoundment Control Act. Trump will have an opportunity to appoint a new head of GAO next year when the 15 year term of the current Comptroller General ends. If Trump decides to withhold funds legal fights could go all the way to the Supreme Court. Time Is Just Not on the Side of the Grantees. The short amount of time roughly seven weeks before Trump takes office could be discouraging some community groups from applying for federal environmental justice grants at all. Applications for the Thriving Communities grant program haven't even opened in the EPA designated area that includes Texas and Louisiana home to the nation's largest petrochemical complexes and environmental justice communities. 1B United States. How Does Wildfire Smoke Travel? RAWSEP key excerpt. PurpleAir sensors set up hyperlocally at your home provide highly relevant readings directly where you are. Excerpts edited for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization. PurpleAir Newsletter. December 7 2024. November 28 2024. There are immediate physical threats if you are in the area of a wildfire. Fire is fast hot and creates thick smoke filled with toxic gasses which can make getting to a safe place very difficult. Fires exist and are used intentionally all across the world. However unintentional fires also exist across the world. That is what a wildfire is an unplanned fire that burns in a natural area such as a forest grassland or prairie. High winds can move smoke into communities far from a wildfire. This means that even if you aren't immediately threatened by a fire its smoke could still be affecting your air quality. Wildfire smoke will primarily travel with the strongest wind direction. The buoyancy of smoke and ambient atmospheric conditions determine how high and how quickly the smoke rises and where it travels. At surface level winds may not be as strong because there is a lot of friction from external sources. Higher up in the atmosphere many of those friction sources don't exist. It follows then that smoke doesn't primarily move at surface level. A majority of its movement happens higher up. The intense heat generated by an active wildfire drives smoke high into the air where it remains until it cools and begins to descend. When smoke is high in the air like this it can be subjected to heavy wind which is when it is moved from its original location. This results in the smoke dispersing over a much larger area. Research on wildfire smoke exposure is still developing to determine the effects of long term exposure but the short term effects are well known. Exposure over a period of a few days can cause respiratory and cardiovascular issues. A study of wildland firefighters found that exposure over the course of a few weeks resulted in reduced lung function. Long story short you probably don't want to breathe in large amounts of wildfire smoke for very long. There are a number of ways you can track wildfire smoke. The US EPA's Fire and Smoke map exists for the purpose of tracking the effects of smoke on air quality. The PurpleAir Map shows air quality readings from all public and online PurpleAir sensors. These readings can be used to track smoke. We recommend using the US EPA conversion if you're doing this. If neither of the options above can provide you with readings in your area you can purchase PurpleAir sensors to set up at your home. These provide highly relevant readings directly where you are. 2 Massachusetts. Main Inside Climate News

article. Harvard University Doubles Down on Emissions Reductions. Inside Climate News newsletter. December 7 2024. Will new clean energy funding on and off campus be enough to meet its ambitious climate goals? December 2 2024. With the Salata Institute for Climate and Sustainability Harvard established an entire school devoted to the climate crisis. **Excerpts edited for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization.** Cambridge Massachusetts. Harvard University has taken two major steps toward reducing its greenhouse gas emissions making significant investments in renewables and energy efficiency as it seeks to eliminate its use of fossil fuels by 2050. The investments come as the university's earlier emissions reductions of 30 percent since 2006 have been partially reversed as Harvard bounced back from the Covid pandemic while expanding its campus in the Allston neighborhood of Boston. As emission reduction efforts move forward relatively easy measures like swapping out inefficient lighting and adding solar panels on rooftops will give way to more costly fixes such as replacing gas fired boilers with electric heating systems. To help fund ongoing emissions reductions Harvard increased the size of its Green Revolving Fund money the university spends on campus decarbonization efforts from \$12 million to \$37 million. That makes it the largest such sustainability endowment in the nation. Other headlines from Inside Climate News. First in the Nation Geothermal Heating and Cooling System Comes to Massachusetts. Construction of Eversource's geothermal pilot project takes place in the parking lot of Mass Bay Community College in Framingham Mass. on Sept. 13 2023. This Low Cost EV Battery Kind of Runs on Salt and It's Having a Moment. 3 New York. Trump Should Consider All the Good Congestion Pricing Could Do for His Hometown. **RAWSEP View.** Congestion pricing aimed at the individual car owner decision maker like stopping indoor residential wood burning aimed at the individual resident decision maker will reduce the amount of air polluting PM2.5 and CO2 emitted by transport in New York City because the added cost of car travel will encourage public transportation which in aggregate is less polluting. And the toll will help pay for the less polluting public transit. **Excerpts edited for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization.** New York Times. Note. This article was originally published 09/28/2022 and updated 11/28/2024. Dec. 6 2024. After five months in limbo New York's congestion pricing program has been given new life. But it is still far from clear whether the plan to ease traffic **reduce air pollution** and raise billions of dollars for mass transit in New York City **will live or die.** Last month Gov. Kathy Hochul of New York announced a new heavily discounted version of the plan she had put on hold over the summer just as it was set to begin. Now the race is on to get the program up and running on Jan. 5 before President elect Donald Trump returns to the White House. And for good reason. During his campaign he vowed to kill congestion pricing in his first week back in office. The current plan would have most drivers paying a peak period toll of \$9 instead of the original \$15. Hochul's decision to suspend the plan which caught city and state officials off guard was viewed as political to help Democrats in the November election. The Biden administration has given New York the go ahead to start collecting the new tolls. The \$9 toll is slated to ratchet up to \$12 in 2028 and \$15 in 2031. The program is expected to generate less than \$1 billion. Even if the program begins before Mr. Trump returns to Washington its survival is in question. Republican lawmakers have promised to pass legislation shutting down the program if the new president can't terminate it with an executive order. Others are also trying to block it in court before Jan. 5. If the new plan is stopped it would be an enormous loss for the New York metropolitan area. **The air will be dirtier** the traffic worse and the city's subway bus and commuter rail system back on life support.