

Pollution prevention is disease prevention.



“The trouble begins when solid matter starts to burn.”

“So don’t burn it!”



What can you do?

Wood smoke is bad for babies and animals.



Think about your pets.

“Smoke wastes our air!”

We all need clean air.



Breathing wood smoke is worse than breathing second-hand cigarette smoke.

1. To make the world a better place, use your sense of smell. Know what you are breathing. **If you can smell wood smoke, you are breathing it—and it goes all through your body.** You can prove this by taking a urine test the next day . . . just as athletes take tests for drugs like steroids.

2. Go to burningissues.org. Explore the site to learn more about wood smoke. If you’re looking for something specific, click on [Search](#) at the top of the page and use the Google search engine to find what you need within the **Burning Issues** site or on the entire web.

3. Write to newspapers, call or email television stations, call radio talk shows; spread the word.

4. Speak to school administrators and teachers. Ask them to involve students in research projects about the effects of breathing wood smoke—how it relates to health problems like Asthma, Cancer, Heart Disease, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and others listed on the **Burning Issues website**.

5. Think of ways to educate your friends, local scout troops, people in your neighborhood or at your place of worship. Make your own fliers & brochures or use the ones on **Burning Issues.org**.

6. Write to your government representatives. Educate your city officials, state and federal representatives, the governor of your state—the Surgeon General and the President of the United States. **Ask them to protect you from wood smoke.**

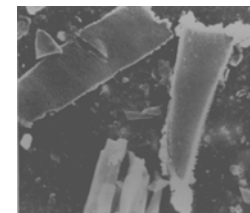
7. Google *toxic fabric softeners* on the web to learn about other dangerous pollutants.

BurningIssues.org

*A project of Clean Air Revival, Inc.
~ a 501-C3 organization.*

WOOD SMOKE IS FORTY TIMES MORE TOXIC THAN TOBACCO SMOKE

Wood smoke attacks our body cells up to 40 times longer than tobacco smoke (Pryor-LSU) and is 12 times more likely to cause cancer than the same amount of tobacco smoke (J. Lewtas-USEPA).



Wood smoke particles from a human lung enlarged 289 times.

toxicity directly into the blood stream.” (Prof. P.K. Hopke, Chemistry Dept. Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY)

People get sick from breathing wood smoke’s fine particulate matter (PM2.5), some even die: 30,000 every year in the United States (Joel Schwartz, USEPA) and almost two million worldwide. Some of these people would not have died at this point in their lives if wood smoke had not added to their health problems.

We don’t notice tobacco smoke as much these days, but now it is hard to go anywhere without breathing wood smoke.

CAN YOU SMELL IT?

Know Your Air

It's hard to imagine, but there was a time when you couldn't go anywhere without breathing cigarette smoke. **Asking people not to smoke was thought to be impolite**, even though non-smokers outnumbered smokers two-to-one.

People smoked in restaurants, inside movie theaters, and in stores—even grocery stores. They smoked in hospitals. Not just in the halls and waiting areas, but in rooms where sick people were resting or recovering from surgery—and in rooms where mothers were cuddling their newborn babies. People smoked while waiting in line at the bank or the post office. Postal workers smoked while they were sorting mail. People smoked on airplanes and buses and in the workplace, forcing fellow travelers and co-workers to breathe polluted air.

Slowly, people began to realize there was a heavy price that came with cigarette smoke.



When movie stars like John Wayne found out they were dying of Lung Cancer, they began telling their personal stories, pleading with others to stop smoking or never start. Tobacco companies fought against reform. Finally, people began to face the truth, and laws

were passed to protect everyone—smokers and non-smokers—from the toxins in tobacco smoke and second-hand tobacco smoke.

Now we have wood smoke—another source of pollution worse than tobacco smoke. Again, industry fights reform. Winter air indoors (W. Ott, 07) can be dirtier than the smoke from five cigarettes. Yuck! We need city and state laws to **PROTECT US FROM WOOD SMOKE !!**



"How can we choose clean air?"

One smoker can pollute a whole house or store, but just one wood burner can pollute an entire community or downtown area. We hope people won't burn when they understand why it is bad:

- One hour of breathing wood smoke reduces our ability to fight infection by 25 - 40%.
- Wood smoke is rich in *chlorinated dioxins*, persistent toxins in our environment that disrupt our endocrine systems and the way our bodies work. When smoke falls to the ground, *dioxins* get into the water and into the food chain along with *cadmium*, *lead*, *arsenic* and other poisons.
- First we breathe the bad chemicals—then later, we eat them.
- We can't **Just say NO!** to breathing—we have to breathe the air where we are, no matter how polluted it is. Facemasks help, but they don't filter wood smoke's small polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH's) that surround us and seep into our homes as poisonous gases. We can't prevent some fires or wildfires, so . . .

What are our choices?

We can **Just say NO!** to pizza and other food cooked with wood-burning ovens or grills.

And we can **Just say NO!** to toxic sweet-smelling fabric softeners & toxic air fresheners.

And **Just say NO! to these smoking culprits:**

- ~ Fireplaces ~ Picnic BBQ's ~ Pellet Stoves ~
- ~ Campfires ~ Both Old & New Woodstoves ~
- ~ Restaurant Grills and BBQ's ~ Candles ~

Can you think of others? Use your nose.

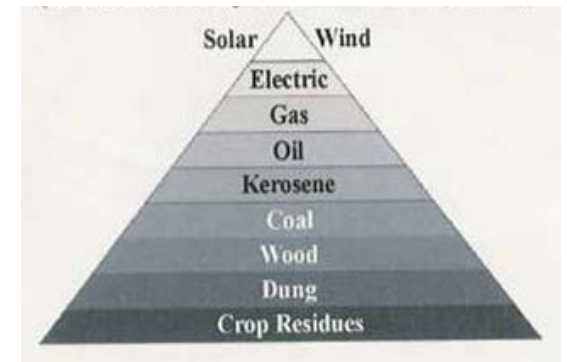
IF YOU CAN SMELL IT, YOU'RE BREATHING IT!

"You can't clean up smoke, so just don't make it in the first place!"



Energy Pyramid

Cleanest fuel on top to the dirtiest fuel on the bottom



Hooray! Wood beats DUNG !

But is worse than COAL ??

And the winners are . . .

SUN & WIND !!



Burning wood is BAD conservation strategy.

It is NOT a **GREEN THING** to do. It is NOT earth friendly—NOT a good alternative to gas or electric. Wood smoke is bad for people, animals, fish, birds and plants. Wood smoke can travel 700 miles, floating high, spreading over vast areas or creeping around near the ground, invading homes day and night. It can stay in the air for three weeks before falling to the ground or into ponds, lakes, streams, rivers and the ocean. It gets in your hair, on your skin and your clothes. You can smell it, and **IF YOU CAN SMELL IT, YOU ARE BREATHING IT !**

"Wood is a valuable resource—too precious to waste. We can do lots of neat things with wood. Please don't burn it."

