

## Practical Activities to Promote *Safer, Cleaner* Wood Heat

**Thank you** for attending the ATCEM Woodsmoke session. Our speakers have hopefully given you some **food for thought**, and you know more than you did when you got up this morning about why and how burning wood (*or just about anything*) can be harmful.

**But what's next?** It's a safe bet that wood heat, which has many benefits, is **part of everyday life in your community**, and maybe even your own home. If that's the case, and **those woodstoves and wood piles aren't going anywhere**, what can be done?



On the other side of this page, there are **3 no-nonsense activities you can start with**. Scientists have shown that these activities can **remove a decent chunk of the toxins and gases** in woodsmoke, mostly just by resulting in hotter fires. **Some of you reading this may first want to know**

**more** before starting out, or may appreciate talking about your situation with a trained professional. If that's you, feel free to talk with one of these helpful folks:

can help you use instruments to measure air quality	<p><b>Leif Albertson</b>, University of Alaska Fairbanks Phone: (907) leif.albertson@uaf.edu</p> <p><b>Chris Fish</b>, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Phone: (907)729-3489 cfish@anthc.org</p> <p><b>Karin Landsberg</b>, AK Dept of Environmental Conservation Phone: 907-269-4913 karin.landsberg@alaska.gov</p>	<p>can help with all-things wood-burning</p> <p>has great Alaska materials to educate your community</p>
will help you find more examples and funding	<p><b>Gillian Mittelstaedt</b>, Tribal Healthy Homes NW Phone: (206)512-3293 gmittelstaedt@thhnw.org</p> <p><b>BurnWise</b>, an EPA Program Phone: (919)541-5398 brockman.larry@epa.gov</p>	<p>the go-to place for free outreach tools: posters, PSAs, pamphlets...</p>
works in Fairbanks – tons of good wood burning info	<p><b>Cindy Williams</b>, AK Dept of Environmental Conservation Phone: (907)451-5172 cynthia.williams@alaska.gov</p> <p><b>Ali Hamade</b>, AK Division of Public Health Phone: (907)269-8000 ali.hamade@alaska.gov</p> <p><b>Sue Flensburg</b>, Bristol Bay Native Association Phone: (907)842-6241 sflensburg@bbna.org</p>	<p>knows a lot about how smoke affects the lungs, heart and body</p> <p>did a great tribal survey &amp; study of wood heat</p>

### Activity #1: Show How to Measure Moisture in Wood Piles

#### WHAT'S INVOLVED?

- Purchase a meter that measures the moisture content in wood.
- Recruit students or volunteers to help you go door-to-door to homes with a woodstove.
- Use the meter to measure the wood supply at each home. Show differences between moisture content in seasoned versus green wood, between covered versus uncovered wood, between wood dried for 2-3 months, versus a year, etc.
- Leave each household with a copy of the "Wet Wood is a Waste" brochure.

#### WHAT'S THE MESSAGE YOU'RE SENDING?

Wood that is freshly cut or dried *less* than 6 months is known as *Green Wood*. Green wood has between 25% – 60% moisture content. Firewood dried 6 – 12 months is known as *Seasoned Wood*. It has between 15% - 20% moisture. Lower moisture means lower levels of smoke, toxins and gases



#### WHAT DO YOU NEED?

- Moisture meters can be bought on-line for under \$30. On Amazon, search "Digital Moisture Meter"
- Order free copies of "Wet Wood is a Waste" from EPA BurnWise (*see other side for their phone #*)

### Activity #2: Demonstrate Heat Output of Seasoned versus Green Wood

#### WHAT'S INVOLVED?

- Use a thermometer to demonstrate the difference in heat produced when burning green wood versus seasoned wood (burn in two different homes or same stove, but two different days).
- Invite families to attend the demonstration. For each wood type (seasoned versus green), be sure to use the same kindling, same fire-building method and same size and number of logs. Attach thermometer to stove, measure temperature reading at start-up phase and peak burn phase.

#### WHAT'S THE MESSAGE YOU'RE SENDING?

Green wood puts out about 4,000 BTUs per pound. Seasoned wood puts out up to 8,000 BTUs per pound. In short, seasoned wood gives you more heat for less work and less money.

#### WHAT DO YOU NEED:

- A thermometer called a "thermocouple" can be bought on-line. Search "Cole Parmer Thermocouple". Under \$40 shipped.
- Order free copies and mail the "Learn Before You Burn" postcard to every home in your community (*Order from EPA BurnWise – phone # on other side*)



### Activity #3: Organize a Chimney Cleaning and Stove Repair Event

#### WHAT'S INVOLVED?

- Organize a community event and invite a stove manufacturer or repair technician to join you (in person or Skype) to explain the key steps in woodstove maintenance, repair and safety.
- See how many folks you can get signed up for a chimney sweep event. Ask around to see how you might fund a community-wide chimney sweep, cleaning as many chimneys as possible during their visit.

#### WHAT'S THE MESSAGE YOU'RE SENDING?

Proper use, maintenance and repair of a stove is a big deal. If the device or chimney doesn't function well, you lose heat and gain smoke – not a great situation. As WoodHeat.org puts it, "The chimney is the engine that drives a wood heat system".

#### WHAT DO YOU NEED?

- Call Karin Landsberg or Cythnia Williams (*see phone #s on other side*) to order copies of the AK DEC Woodstove pamphlet, which includes great stove maintenance tips.
- The Hearth, Patio & BBQ Assoc ([www.hbpa.org](http://www.hbpa.org)) can help you find the closest retailers or technicians to your community.

