Wood Heater Change Outs – A Reality Check

James E. Houck, Ph.D.

Benefits of Change Outs

- <u>Health</u> Reduced Air Pollutants
- Contribute to the goal of attainment of federal fine particulate (PM2.5) standards (NAAQS)
- Reduced number of home fires less creosote (fewer chimney fires)
- Safer Units fewer burns, less indoor carbon monoxide exposure, plus hearth and chimney inspection at time of installation
- New units have higher efficiencies less fuel consumed – lower fuel cost for home occupants

Documented Clean Wood-Burning

Candidates for Installation

- Cordwood Stoves (Catalytic and Non-catalytic), new EPA certified units (40 CFR, NSPS)
- Cordwood Inserts essentially same as stoves but designed to fit into existing fireplace cavity, EPA certified units
- Outdoor Cordwood Boilers, a.k.a. hydronic heaters, EPA qualified units (also indoor and pellet fueled) <u>http://www.epa.gov/burnwise/owhhlist.html</u>

Documented Clean Wood-Burning

Candidates for Installation (cont.)

- Pellet Stoves, Inserts, and Furnaces all clean burning as compared to cordwood stoves, some EPA certified, some boilers qualified
- Fireplaces EPA qualified units <u>http://www.epa.gov/burnwise/fireplacelist.html</u>
- Masonry Heaters all clean burning, high cost, upper end homes only
- Fireplace Retrofits EPA qualified units <u>http://www.epa.gov/burnwise/fireplacelist.html</u>

Opportunity for Change Outs – Nationwide Most Stoves are Still Old, High- Emitting Units



Health Concerns

Majority of wood-burning air emissions are health injurious, incomplete combustion of organic compounds

- Carbon Monoxide
- Respirable Particles, solid or liquid droplets, less than 1 micron in size from combustion sources
- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC), vapor phase

Exposure

- Discharge at only 10 ft to 30 ft above ground level exacerbates human exposure
- 41 million single-story homes (32%)
- 43 million two-story homes (33%)
- 8.7 million manufactured and mobile homes (7%)



Exposure

Individuals most sensitive to air pollutants (very young, very old, infirm) spend most of their time indoors in residential settings where the home heaters are located

Indoor air originates from outdoor air – Occupied Single-Family Houses – 0.5 to 2.5 air exchanges per hour



20% Moisture Douglas Fir Fuel, Conventional Woodstove, Low Burn Rate



Health Concerns

- Carbon Monoxide Even though there are ambient and industrial standards, no level is good, carboxyhemoglobin
- Particles from combustion (< 1 μ) reach the deepest levels of the lungs, chemical exchange with blood, particles from wood-burning emissions are appx. 90% organic compounds, many are toxic, mutagenic, or carcinogenic
- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) many are toxic, mutagenic, or carcinogenic

Conventional Uncertified Wood Heater Title III Hazardous Air Pollutants

Emission
Factor
(g/Kg)
0.308 g/Kg
0.010 g/Kg
0.046 g/Kg
1.08 g/Kg
2.43 mg/Kg
0.197 g/Kg
0.331 g/Kg
o.o8o g/Kg
1.9 mg/Kg
ND
0.727 g/Kg
13 ng/Kg
0.012 g/Kg
3.24 g/Kg

Naphthalene	0.091 g/Kg
Phenol	0.147 g/Kg
Polychlorinated	$a = a = m \alpha / V \alpha (DCD)$
biphenyls	$0.50 \text{ pg/kg} (PCD_{TEQ})$
Propionaldehyde	0.096 g/Kg
Styrene	0.117 g/Kg
2,3,7,8- Tetrachlordibenzo-p- dioxin	2.30 ng/Kg (Dioxin _{TEQ})
Toluene	0.320 g/Kg
o, m and p-Xylenes	0.099 g/Kg
Polycyclic Organic Matter	0.315 g/Kg (16-PAH)

	Р			
Appliance	Pounds/Ton	Grams/Kilogram	Reduction (%)	
Conventional Stove	37	18.5		
Non-Catalytic Stove	12	6	68	
Catalytic Stove *	13	6.2	65	Reduc
Pellet Stove	4	2	89	in
Masonry Heater	6	3	84	
Conventional Stove with Densified Fuel	25	14	24	Emiss

Appliances	Efficiency	Mass Particulate Emissions/Delivered Heat		
	(%)	lb/MBtu	g/MJ	Reduction (%)
Conventional	54	3.89	1.68	
Non-cat. Stove	68	1.14	0.49	71
Catalytic Stove*	72	1.02	0.44	74
Pellet Stove	78	0.31	0.13	92
Masomy Heater	58	0.59	0.25	85
Conv. with Densified Fuel	57	2.79	1.20	27

Conventional = Uncertified

Certified Woodstoves Continue to Improve

Comparison of Average Certified Emission Rates for Old and New Phase 2 Cordwood Stoves

	Woodstove	Number	Average Emission	Percent
Time Period	Туре	of Stoves	Rate	Reduction
Time Feriod			(g/hr, 5H	(%)
			equivalent)	
First 5 years of	Non-			-
certification	catalytic	115	5.1	
(1088, 1002)				-
(1988-1992)	Catalytic	110	2.9	
Currently certified	Non-			19.6
woodstoves (certified	catalytic	137	4.1	
or renewed in the last 5				6.9
years)	Catalytic	23	2.7	

"last 5 years" was 2000 to 2005

Outdoor Wood Boilers Have Improved Dramatically

- Average of 12 models prior to 2005
- Average of 27 EPA qualified models (annual average values)
 4.7 g/h

71.6 g/h

Fairbanks is Federally Nonattainment for Fine Particles a.k.a. Respirable Particles or PM_{2.5}

- Particles produced by combustion less than 1 micron and as such less than 2.5 microns (PM_{2.5})
- 24 hour standard now 35 μg/m³ (prior to Dec. 2006 was 65 μg/m³)
- Annual standard now 12 $\mu g/m^3$ (prior to Dec. 2012 was 15 $\mu g/m^3)$



More fuel burned (fuel oil, wood, coal, waste oil, motor vehicle fuel) in cold weather plus temperature inversions more common in cold weather

Winter Comparison - Number of Daily Values Exceeding PM_{2.5} Standard of 35.5 µg/m³ in Downtown Fairbanks



Table 6: Summary statistics for Fairbanks State Office Building site, 2004 to 2009.



Wood Heater Change Outs and Attainment

- Number of 24-hour wintertime exceedances most likely to be reduced by wood heater change outs
- With the lowering of the federal annual standard from 15 µg/m³ to 12 µg/m³ in Dec. 2012 and continued future growth, wood heater change outs may be of value for future attainment of annual standard (see annual design values in previous slide)
- Wood heater change outs may contribute slightly to the maintenance of the urban Fairbanks CO attainment – most CO from vehicles

Safety

- Wood heating stoves and fireplace inserts responsible for 11,000 home fires per year in the U.S. causing 228 civilian deaths and more than \$366 million dollars in property damage (NFPA 2003-2006)
- **190 deaths** per year due to carbon monoxide poisoning from space heaters (CPSC 1999-2002)
- Creosote buildup in chimneys and chimney connectors is responsible for another 25% of home heating fires

Cost Savings Due to Increased Efficiency

- Assume 5 cords/yr in uncertified stove
- Assume \$275/cord
- Assume 54% efficiency for uncertified stove and 68% efficiency for certified non-catalytic stove
- Cost per year uncertified stove 5 X \$275 = \$1375
- Cost per year for certified non-catalytic stove for same heat output 5 X (54/68) X \$275 = \$1092
- Cost Savings \$1375-\$1092 = **\$283 or 21%**
- Analogous cost savings by replacing uncertified stove with certified catalytic stove = \$344 or 25%

Libby, Montana 2005-2008 Wood Heater Change Out – A Case Study



Libby – Heating Season Attribution of PM_{2.5} Sources (2003/2004)

Local and regional dust (road and wind blown)	1%
Local and regional (15% regional) ammonium nitrate	5%
Local and regional (40% regional) ammonium sulfate	3%
Local wood smoke	66%
Cooking (commercial frying and grilling only considered)	1%+
Regional (background) organic compounds and elemental carbon	6%
Vehicular exhaust	7%
Heating oil	1%
Propane	<1%
Diesel exhaust from trains	3%
	Total 93%

Notes: The local NH_4NO_3 and local $(NH_4)_2SO_4$ which together are about 6% of the average $PM_{2.5}$ concentration in Libby during the heating season are probably primarily from vehicular exhaust and fossil fuels emitting gaseous NO_x and SO_2 , some may be from RWC. It is likely that the contribution of heating oil, vehicular exhaust, and diesel exhaust from trains is higher at the courthouse monitoring site due to its proximity to those sources and the estimate provided above for them is from an emission inventory for the airshed as a whole.

Annual and Heating Season Mean and Maximum Particulate Values

Year*	Heating	Means	(µg/m ³)	Max. 24-hr Value (µg/m ³)		98 th Percentile Value (µg/m ³)
		PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	PM _{2.5}
2003		25	15.6	91	47	43
	2003-2004	35.9	27.3	76.0 (2/3/04)	42.5 (12/17/03)	
2004		28	14.0	81	40	38
	2004-2005	40.8	27.0	106.0 (2/3/05)	75.3 (1/19/05)	
2005		30	15.8	126	75	51
	2005-2006	32.7	26.0	74.0 (2/10/06)	51.1 (11/3/05)	
2006		28	15.3	100	44	41
	2006-2007	27.1	22.0	96.0 (2/17/07)	41.2 (11/1/06)	
2007		24	11.1	104	35	32
	2007-2008	27.9	22.5	44.0	42.3 (1/4/08)	
Stan	ıdard	50 μg/m ³ (Annual)	15/12 μg/m ³ (Annual)	No Standard	65/35 μg/m ³	

Note: 98th percentile and not the maximum 24-hour value determines compliance with 24-hour standard, i.e., surveying every three days yields 122 samples per year whereas the top two values "don't count."

*Annual data taken from EPA Monitor Values Reports – Criteria Air Pollutants.

Cumulative Count Libby, MT Woodstove Change-out, July 2005 – March 2008



Note: Count is for the beginning of respective month.

Days $PM_{2.5}$ Exceeded 35 μ g/m³

Year (winter)	Days Above 35 µg/m ³	
2004/2005	1/19/2005, (75.3 μg/m ³) 1/22/2005 (52.8 μg/m ³) 2/3/2005 (45.9 μg/m ³) 11/5/2004 (39.7 μg/m ³) 11/23/2004 (37.7 μg/m ³) 2/27/2005 (35.0 μg/m ³)	
2005/2006	11/3/2005 (51.1 μg/m ³) 12/24/2005 (47.7 μg/m ³) 1/14/2006 (43.9 μg/m ³) 1/17/2006 (40.5 μg/m ³)	
2006/2007	11/1/2006 (41.2 μg/m ³) 12/22/2006 (40.0 μg/m ³) 12/25/2006 (39.6 μg/m ³) 11/4/2006 (36.2 μg/m ³)	
2007/2008	1/4/2008 (42.3 μg/m ³)	Down one!

to

Summary – Air Quality Reductions from Woodstove Change-out and Potential Application to Other Nonattainment Areas

	2004-2005 Mean (Pre-Change-out)	2007-2008 Mean (Post-Change-out)	Reduction
FRM PM _{2.5} (µg/m ³)	27.0	22.5	16.7%
$PM_{2.5}$ Normalized* (µg/m ³)	26.7	21.7	18.7%
PM ₁₀ (μg/m ³)	40.8	27.9	31.6%
PAH (ng/m ³)	351.8	104.4	70.3%
Phenolic (ng/m ³)	391.4	151.0	61.4%
Organic Carbon (μg/m ³)	17.9	12.2	31.8%
Days $PM_{2.5}$ Exceeded 35 µg/m ³	6	1	_

*Using $PM_{2.5}$ data paired with days with valid HDD data.

Note: The reduction percentages among different parameters are surprisingly different.

Consumer Reasons for Selection of

Wood Heating Options

Energy independence – Non-interruptible fuel supply

 Economic and recreational value of firewood harvesting

> 58% Minnesota survey 2007-08 66% National 1993 (DOE survey)

 Green Awareness – Climate Change Advantages Carbon Dioxide GHG credit for biomass Methane fugitive emissions from Natural Gas
Fuel Economy

Economy – Realistic Scenarios

- 3 households, all same heating demand, 115MBtu energy input per heating season, all heaters 80% efficient
- Household #1, Electric Furnace, 22¢/kWh = \$7415
- Household #2, Fuel Oil Furnace, \$4.00/gal = \$3316
- Household #3, Outdoor Wood Boiler, \$275/cord = \$1375