

Recommendations

Recommendations for the Federal Government

- The federal government should ban outdoor wood furnaces until safer technologies are found.
- If the federal government supports the idea of outdoor wood furnaces for the purpose of heating, then it should support research on how to make them safe. At the very least, the federal government should stop giving tax credits for their purchase.
- The government should determine the levels of particulates, carcinogens and carbon monoxide emanating from an outdoor wood furnace.
- The EPA's stated mission is "to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment." With that as its mission, the agency should recommend a ban on outdoor wood furnaces until safer technologies are found.
- The federal government should set air safety standards for inside air, including PM_{0.5} particles, just as it has set standards for outside air.
- Healthful air emission standards should be applied to outdoor wood furnaces.

Recommendations for State Governments

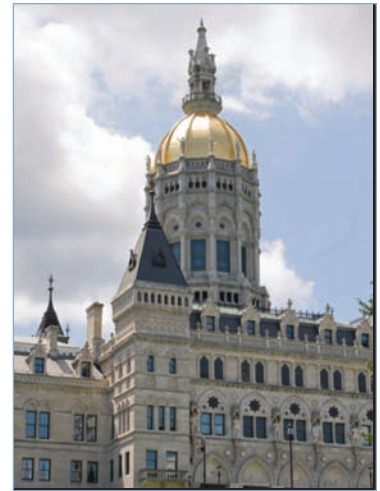
- States should ban outdoor wood furnaces until safer technologies are found.
- States should set air standards that are stringent enough to protect human health, and require OWFs to comply.
- States should add "wood smoke" to their Public Health Nuisance Codes so that state health departments and local health departments are required to enforce wood smoke nuisance cases.
- States should put outdoor wood furnace information on their websites and explain why OWFs are dangerous to human health.
- States' air standards should take into account peak exposures, as well as the current 24-hour average exposures.

Recommendations for Towns

- Towns should ban outdoor wood furnaces through their planning and zoning commissions or appropriate governmental agencies.
- Local health departments should enforce wood smoke public health issues in ways that protect an individual's health.

Recommendations for Individuals

- People should find other ways to heat their homes rather than installing outdoor wood furnaces, which harm neighbors' health and property values.
- People should work with their town planning and zoning commissions to have outdoor wood furnaces banned in their towns.
- People who are being harmed by an outdoor wood furnace should contact their state or local health department and ask to have the offending outdoor wood furnace closed down under their state or local public health nuisance code.
- Individuals living in homes impacted by wood smoke from outdoor wood furnaces might want to purchase an air monitor that measures and records the particulates inside their houses. Monitors such as this sell for about \$250. See pages 32–34, Appendix A, for instructions for using a monitor of this type. Having actual documentation of the smoke infiltration inside a home may cause state or local health departments, or other government agencies, to act in ways that will protect human health.
- Patients who are being treated for respiratory issues should discuss their exposures to an OWF when being evaluated by their physician, as other health issues related to these exposures might be involved.



Healthful air emission standards should be applied to outdoor wood furnaces.