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Annual Membership Amount \$ _____

Monthly Giving Program Amount \$ _____

Signature _____

Please make checks payable to **GASP**. Send this form with payment to: GASP, Wightman School Community Building, 5604 Solway St. #204, Pittsburgh, PA 15217.

All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Group Against Smog and Pollution, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Dept. of State by calling 1-800-732-0999.

What is GASP Doing About Wood Smoke?

GASP is battling harmful wood smoke on many fronts. We have developed educational materials and hands-on activities about wood smoke, and will be informing citizens, municipal leaders, and law enforcement officers in hundreds of municipalities about these issues and the new Outdoor Wood-Fired Boiler regulations promulgated by the PA DEP. Municipalities need to know the law, but also to understand that they can pass more stringent ordinances to prevent and remove nuisances and protect public health.

We will also provide residents with information on alternatives to burning, such as where to recycle various materials or compost yard waste or even your Christmas tree.

If you live in Allegheny County and smell smoke from a neighboring fire, that neighbor may be violating the County Odor Regulation. Call the Health Department at 412-687-2243 to register a complaint.

GASP works on many more issues than wood smoke. GASP manages a *Citizens Smoke Reading Program* -- empowering people to understand emissions that they see and instructing them how to report violations. GASP continues to serve as a *strong watchdog organization* by reviewing the permits of major sources of pollution, such as coal-fired power plants and coke factories, and by reviewing proposed regulatory changes. GASP also serves on a number of important local task forces, committees, subcommittees and advisory boards as an *active voice for the environment*.

Help GASP Extinguish Emissions

Through increased public awareness and pressure, GASP can accomplish more to clean our air. While some of us enjoy campfires, burning the wrong things or at the wrong time is harmful to human health, and potentially illegal. Southwestern PA still has some of the worst air in the country, thick with PM2.5—some of which comes from our backyard burns.

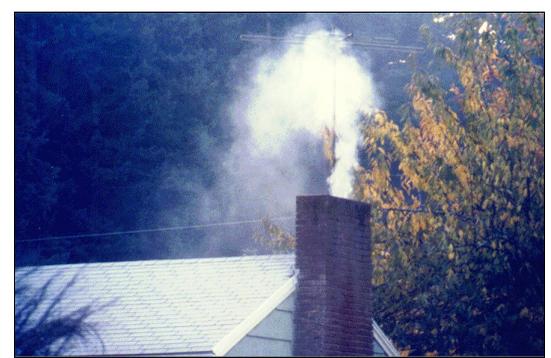
Volunteer

Fighting for clean air isn't a job for a few people. There are many ways you can help GASP with a donation of your time, such as becoming a smoke reader, writing letters to newspapers or comments to the local health department, the DEP, or the EPA, or even helping stuff envelopes. Check out our website for opportunities and details about GASP's initiatives.

Donate

Your financial contribution is key to GASP's continued achievements. We'll use your donation effectively. Please consider catalyzing our work with an annual or monthly donation by check or credit card. Thank you!

How Safe is Wood Smoke?



Smoking chimney via ecy.wa.gov

Many of us have fond memories of singing or telling stories around a campfire, or roasting hot dogs or marshmallows. But many of us also know of neighbors who seem willing to burn anything, at any time.

Is wood smoke harmless? If not, is some burning worse than others? What is GASP doing about the problem?



Group Against Smog & Pollution

www.gasp-pgh.org • 412-325-7382

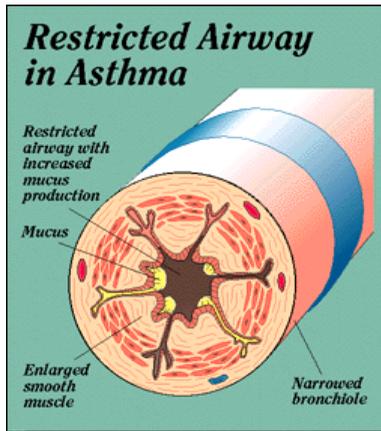
Education made possible with funding from the PA Department of Environmental Protection

Health Effects of Wood Smoke

Smoke from wood burning contains scores of toxic chemicals, many of which are carcinogenic and are shared by tobacco smoke, such as benzene, formaldehyde, and toluene.

Wood smoke also includes very small particles, the most dangerous of which are called PM2.5 because they are 2.5 microns in diameter or smaller. These particles can easily pass into the most tightly-sealed home, and can lodge deep in the lungs or cross into the blood, carrying toxins with them.

Exposure to PM2.5 has been linked to higher rates of many illnesses, including asthma, chronic bronchitis, arrhythmia, stroke, and premature deaths. The Pittsburgh area already suffers from PM2.5 levels that are too high. Wood smoke increases PM2.5 and can significantly impact those who burn and their neighbors. When the wind is still or during an Air Quality Action Day, be a good neighbor and avoid unnecessary burning.



If You Do Burn, Follow These Tips

Follow these guidelines to save money, reduce air pollution, and stay safe:

- Store wood outside, off the ground, and keep it covered
- Use only dry wood (moisture under 20%), aged through summer and for at least 6 months
- Start the fire with dry kindling
- Burn hot — smoldering fires are dangerous and inefficient
- Remove ash regularly to maintain good airflow
- Install smoke and CO detectors



Moisture meter, via epa.gov

NEVER burn the following:

- Wet, rotted, moldy, or diseased wood
- Driftwood, plywood, or particle board
- Painted, coated, or pressure-treated wood
- Garbage, cardboard, or plastics—they release even more toxins and damage your wood-burning appliance

New Outdoor Wood-Fired Boiler Rules

Outdoor wood-fired boilers are typically housed in a shed and heat a liquid that is transferred to a structure for heat. Just one OWB can emit as much PM2.5 as 8,000 natural gas furnaces, and there are no federal standards on OWBs. Pennsylvania recently adopted regulations that put limits on sooty OWBs. New boilers must:

- Meet EPA’s “Phase 2” requirements for PM2.5 emissions
- Be 50’ from nearest property line
- Have a permanently attached stack at least 10’ high above the ground
- Burn only clean wood/pellets or other approved fuels such as natural gas

More information at www.depweb.state.pa.us/

These rules are minimums, and municipalities can enact stricter laws if wood smoke is a problem in their area.

Cleaner is Better

Wood burning is one of the dirtiest ways to provide heat. Please consider other options, such as natural gas, are appropriate for your heating needs.



Count on me to “catalyze” GASP!

There are two easy ways to support clean air and become a member of GASP.

1 Make a donation.

- \$500 Clean Air Protector
- \$250 Clean Air Defender
- \$100 Grassroots Patron
- \$60 Grassroots Contributor
- \$40 Grassroots Supporter
- \$15 Low Income/Student Rate
- \$___ Other

2

Sign up for automatic monthly giving.

GASP’s monthly program is a convenient way to automatically charge your monthly gift to a credit card. Automatic giving allows you to divide contributions into smaller payments.

- Sign me up to give \$___ monthly.

Your card will be charged the last day of each month, and you will receive an annual statement each January.