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**From:** jan.greenfield@mac.com  
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**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENTS AGAINST OWB'S

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
 REVIEW COMMISSION

To the Keepers of the Public Health in Pennsylvania,

We have only begun in recent years to become aware of the great threat that burning wood is to the health of our generation and those to come. Our non-profit, completely volunteer organization in Minnesota (NAB -- Neighbors Against the Burner) has spent the last 3 years collecting scientific studies on the hazards of incineration. Unfortunately, burning wood is one of the most dangerous of activities due to the relatively large amount of **dioxins** (one of the most toxic chemicals known to man -- recall Agent Orange in Viet Nam) that are released into the air with the combustion of wood.

I am sending you links to the many well-documented articles we have accumulated on our website in the hopes that knowing the facts of these dangers will provide the foundation you need to ban the use of OWB (Outdoor Wood Burners.) Burning wood for heat or for entertainment was rather popular before these many hazards became known to us. But now we must not only consider the threat to our public health but also the negative consequences to our planet as the released CO2 contributes to global warming.

Thank you for giving your full attention to this very important public health issue!

Best regards,

Janice Greenfield  
 NAB Webmaster  
 Highland Park, MN

**From:** <http://www.neighborsagainsttheburner.org/faq>

## Bioaccumulation

Because the harmful effects of incineration are cumulative, they may take years or decades to finally overpower our immune systems. Independent scientists (researchers who have not been paid by those in the incinerator and garbage-processing industries, who stand to profit by "proving" that burners are safe) studying the effects of burner emissions are discovering alarming relationships between the incidences of serious diseases – cancers, reproductive system disorders, immune system disorders, heart and lung disease, asthma and other breathing disorders (especially the increases in childhood asthma), ADHD and other brain-function disorders in children, and fetal health disorders – and patients' proximity to burners. For current research, see:

- [Massachusetts Medical Society Opposes Biomass Plants](#), *Greenfield Recorder*, January 26, 2010.
- [Climate Advocates Should Build Ties with the Public-Health Community](#), *grist*, December 8, 2009.
- [America's Most Toxic Cities](#), *Forbes*, November 2, 2009.
- ["The Price of Pollution: Cost Estimates of Environment-Related Childhood Disease in Minnesota"](#)
- [Minnesota Ranks #7 in Top Ten States in U.S. Incinerating PVC's](#)
- [Pollution Can Change Your DNA in 3 Days, Study Suggests](#), *National Geographic*, May 17, 2009.
- ["Using the Precautionary Principle: A Citizen's Guide"](#) by Paul Connett, November 17, 2009.
- [Connection Between Plastics in Environment & Rising Obesity Rates](#), *PBS NOVA: Ghost in Your Genes*, 2007.
- [MPCA Sees Rise in Mercury Levels in Northern Pike, Walleye from State Lakes](#)
- ["Lead, Smoke Exposure in Kids Linked to ADHD"](#)
- ["Lead Exposure Endangers Children"](#)
- ["An American Life Worth Less Today"](#)
- ["Lobbyists Fight Clean Air Rules"](#)
- ["The Health Effects of Waste Incinerators: Risk Assessment"](#)

- "MPCA Air Quality Index"
- China's Incinerators Loom as a Global Hazard, *NYTimes.com*, August 12, 2009.
- "Dioxin and Breast Milk: the French Island Incinerator"
- "The Inuit's Struggle with Dioxins and Other Organic Pollutants."
- "Dioxin Documentation"
- Panel Finds Smog-Mortality Link, National Academy of Sciences, April 23, 2008.
- BodyBurden: The Pollution in Newborns, Environmental Working Group, July 2005.
- Toxic Link to Endometriosis, Endometriosis Association, 2005.
- Prevent Cancer Now: Let's Say "No" to Incineration in Canada

## Global Warming

- Why Biomass Wood Energy is Not the Answer, *Counterpunch.org*, January 12, 2010.
- Health & Safety Risks of Carbon Capture and Storage, *Journal of the American Medical Association/JAMA*, January 6, 2010.
- Cap and Dividend, *On the Commons*, 2010.
- "The Story of Cap & Trade", by Annie Leonard, a ten-minute, highly-accessible video about why Cap & Trade is NOT a solution to global warming.
- Green Nightmare: Burning Biomass is Not Renewable Energy, Huffington Post, December 17, 2009.
- "Low-carbon Future: We Can Afford to Go Green", *New Scientist*, December 2, 2009.
- "They'd Shoot Trees, Wouldn't They? Climate Laws Encourage Deforestation, Scientists Say", *Wall Street Journal*, October 22, 2009.
- "Who Says It's Green to Burn Woodchips?", *The Independent*, 10/25/09.
- "Al Gore Calls on World to Burn Less Fuel & Wood to Curb 'Black Carbon'", April 28, 2009.
- Biofuels Deemed A Greenhouse Threat, New York Times, February 8, 2008.
- Study: Bio-fuels may actually be accelerating global warming, Chicago (AFP), February 14, 2009.
- Next Generation Biofuels: Bursting the New 'Green' Bubble, *ETC (Action Group on Erosion, Technology & Concentration)*, January 15, 2009.
- "Hoodwinked in the Hothouse: False Solutions to Climate Change"
- "A Red Flag on Green Energy Plan" by Mary Stuart Booth, MA Environmental Energy Alliance, *Boston Globe*, May 22, 2009.
- Persistence Stops a Train--& Global Warming Slowed, *grist*, August 27, 2009.
- "Fuzzy Logic on Wood-burning" by David Baumann, *The Berkshire Eagle*, April 11, 2009.
- "Risky Business: Burning Wood & Other Biomass for Energy"
- "Wood Ash: The Unregulated Radwaste"
- "The Clean Energy Scam" by Michael Grunwald from *TIME Magazine*, March 27, 2008.
- "Particles Cause Climate Change: Why Wood Burning is Not Carbon-Neutral" from Science Daily, July 19, 2006.
- "Black Carbon Emerges as a Main Contributor to Global Warming" from World Resources Institute, March 30, 2008.
- Wood is New Coal as Polluters Use Carbon-Eating Trees, *Bloomberg.Com*, June 2, 2009.
- Damage to Forests from Climate Change by Megan Dold, *IUFRO (International Union of Forest Research Organization)*, April 17, 2009.
- Key Role of Forests "May Be Lost" by Mark Kinver, *BBC News*, April 18, 2009.
- Read Rabl, A., A. Benoist, et al. (2007). "Editorial - How to Account for CO2 Emissions from Biomass in an LCA." *International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment* 12(5): 281.
- Incineration of Municipal Solid Waste: Impact on Global Warming, *CitizensWasteInfo*, 2006.
- "Potential of Cellulosic Production from Municipal Solid Waste"
- "The Biofuel Illusion"

- "Global Civil Society Opposes Charred Earth Policy", *Rainforest Alliance*, Hamburg, Germany, April 6, 2009.
- "Woodchips With Everything", *The Guardian*, March 24, 2009.
- "Biochar: Another False Solution to Climate Change", *Organic Consumers Association*, March 20, 2009.
- "Stop Promotion of Biochar!", *Ecological Internet*, April 2, 2009.
- "Chemicals: Scientists Find New Toxin in Pine Tree Fires"
- "Poultry-Powered Plants Pollute More Than Coal?"
- "Why are biofuels losing steam in Europe . . . and barreling ahead in the U.S.?"