



Outdoor Wood Boilers And Open Burning

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Outdoor Wood Boilers



Homeowners, especially in rural communities, are increasingly turning to outdoor wood burning units for their heating needs in the hope that these devices will be more economical than oil or gas furnaces, or indoor wood stoves, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.



Unfortunately, outdoor wood boilers pollute the air to a far greater degree than either an indoor wood stove or an oil or gas furnace, and this frequently leads to complaints by neighbors.



Outdoor wood boilers came on the market several years ago and they are not currently required to meet any national air pollution standards.



New York State's Attorney General's Office released a report in August 2005 documenting air pollution and health problems associated with outdoor wood boilers in New York State.

Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Vermont and New York joined in a 2005 petition to the EPA to nationally regulate the pollution the boilers produce.



EPA has pollution limits on indoor wood stoves manufactured since 1992. This has resulted in significant reductions in air pollution from these stoves.

Recent testing of particle matter pollution shows that outdoor boilers may emit:

12 times more than EPA- certified indoor wood stoves

1,000 times more than oil furnaces

1,800 times more than gas furnaces

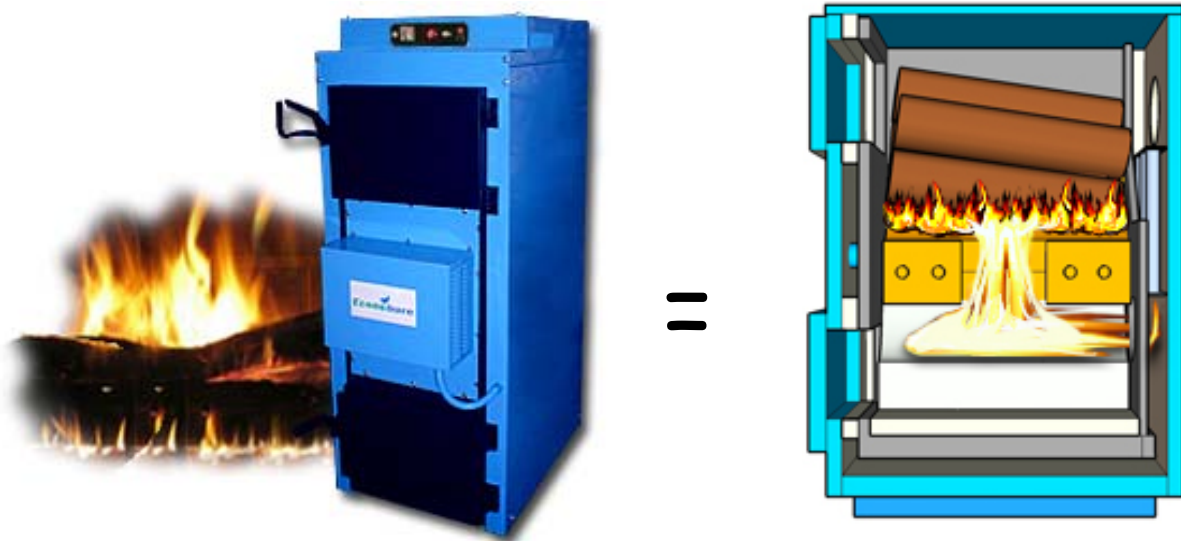


In January 2007, under a voluntary partnership agreement with EPA, key manufacturers have agreed to make cleaner outdoor wood-fired heaters available for purchase this year. The new heaters will be about 70% cleaner than models currently on the market.

Ten manufacturers, which make 80 percent of the units sold in the United States, have joined the partnership, agreeing to bring at least one unit meeting new performance specifications to market beginning in the spring of 2007.



The cleaner models will be marked by an orange hang tag showing that a unit meets the requirements of the program.



Under the voluntary partnership agreement the new models must emit no more than 0.6 pounds of particulate matter per million BTUs.

The models must be tested by an accredited third-party laboratory to verify that they meet these levels.



Health Effects

Smoke from any fire can affect your health, your family's health and your neighbor's health.

The pollutants emitted by outdoor boilers can cause or contribute to health problems such as asthma, heart and lung disease, cancer, eye, nose, throat and lung irritation, coughing and shortness of breath.

What is being done?

Many municipalities have taken legal steps to either ban the units outright or regulate the emissions from these units.

At the State level, a rule is currently being developed.

Five potential options have been identified. They range from no action to an outright ban, with 3 additional options that would set limits for particulate matter emissions and establish timetables for implementation.

Open Burning



Open burning is a major contributor to air pollution in our state. People commonly burn debris and trash in piles or in a barrel. New York's "Open Fires" regulation, Part 215, has not been revised since 1972. However, many municipalities around the state have open burning bans.



Currently, the burning of residential wastes in New York State is banned in any city or village, or in any town with a population greater than 20,000.



YARD WASTE



The current definition of Rubbish includes “trees or leaves, needles, and branches therefrom”.

Burning of all rubbish is prohibited in municipalities with populations greater than 20,000.

Farmers and homeowners in municipalities with populations smaller than 20,000 may currently burn yard waste.

Part 215.3(a) requires an air permit to burn trees, tree trimmings, leaves or brush, generated by land clearing or demolition.

Permits may also be required to comply with the Forest Fire Protection (Part 191) regulation.

Go to : <http://www.dec.ny.gov>

Look Under Subject Index for "Regulations"

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Burn Barrels produce smoke that is potentially hazardous to your family's health.

This is because of the nature of today's trash, which includes a lot of plastics and styrofoam.

Part 215 Open Burning

This regulation is being revised to ban open burning statewide, with the following exemptions:

- *Fire Training Exercises
- *Prescribed Burning of Forest Land
- *Agricultural Burning (of natural materials only)



Possible Alternatives

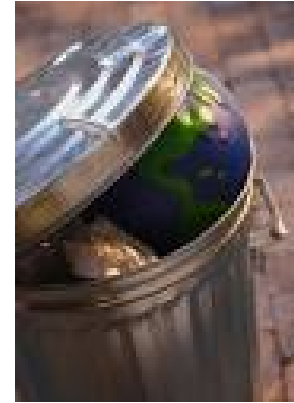


TO A TOTAL BAN

*Municipalities with populations less than 10,000 would be allowed to continue open burning

*Residential yard waste may be exempted from the definition of solid waste, but there would probably be a restriction of this burning to low population density areas or perhaps a 300-500 foot setback requirement

New Definitions of Terms



*Refuse

*Garbage

*Rubbish

*Medical Wastes

Don't Burn Yard Waste



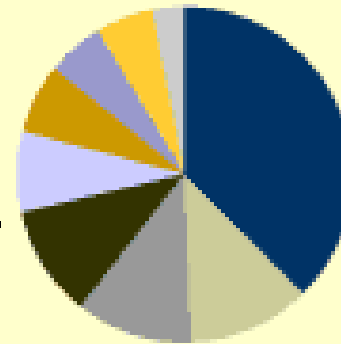
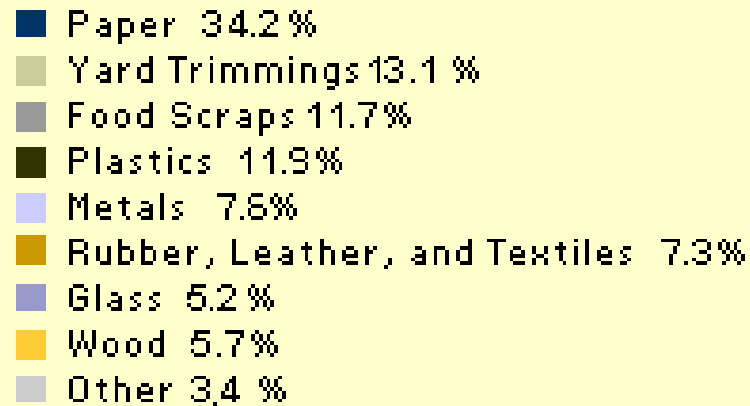
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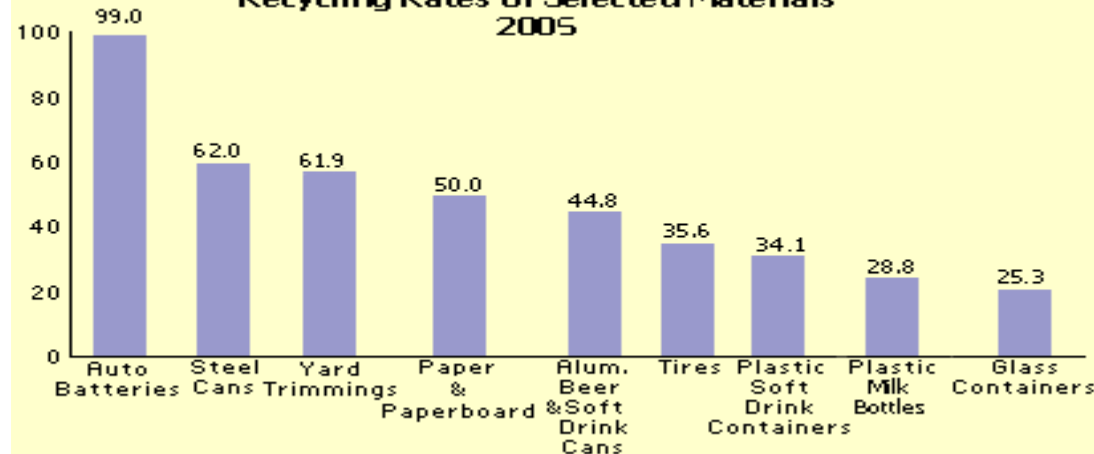
- *Encourage composting
- *Burning yard waste frequently leads to accidental fires

Don't Burn Paper...Recycle It!!

2005 Total Waste Generation— 245 Million Tons (before recycling)



Recycling Rates of Selected Materials 2005



What to Do With Household Trash?

REDUCE

AVOID EXCESS PACKAGING AND BUY IN BULK

REUSE

AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND
COMPOST KITCHEN AND YARD WASTE

RECYCLE

PAPER, PLASTIC, METAL AND GLASS





And with the rest:
Hire a Solid Waste Collection
and Disposal Service to
bring the trash to an
emission-controlled Municipal
Waste Combustor

WHY BURN????

No Good Reason To Burn Any Waste Material!!



Lots of Reasons Not To Burn....



Hazardous to your family's health

Dangerous to your personal property



Creates unnecessary air pollution

Thank You!

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