

12:02:31 From Beth Girshman to Everyone:

hello everyone, I'm located in Conway, Mass, thanks for this webinar! Beth Girshman

12:04:26 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

Jonathan Parrott - Chesterfield

12:04:28 From Joe Strzegowski to Everyone:

Joe Strzegowski, Conway Planning Board and woodlot owner. Thanks

12:04:44 From Tiffany Thibodeau to Everyone:

Yes, thanks for this webinar! I'm in Worthington and work for Hilltown Land Trust

12:04:54 From Bob OConnor to Everyone:

Bob O'Connor, MA Environmental Affairs Office in Boston

12:05:06 From Cosmo LaViola to Everyone:

Cosmo LaViola – UMass Grad Student – Savoy, MA.

12:05:36 From Dunbar Carpenter to Everyone:

Dunbar Carpenter, analyst at Mass Energy & Environmental Affairs, Somerville

12:14:15 From Charlie Cary to Everyone:

Charlie Cary, Wood Energy Recyclers

12:15:15 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

Forest - Derived material resulting from timber harvesting is not a source of fuel because the market is oversaturated. Timber harvesters leave their slash in place because removing it would be cost prohibitive.

12:22:59 From Janet Sinclair to Everyone:

We have plenty of studies about wood burning and air pollution.

12:23:12 From Jane Winn to Hosts and panelists:

Burning is still polluting and climate changing! We need to stop burning!

12:25:15 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

Dr. Pelletier from UMass School of public health proved that modern wood heating does not significantly impact local air quality...Its emissions are similar in volume to a distillate boiler.....However the species of pollution are notably different. Oil emissions are known to cause cancer, wood emissions are better characterized as irritants

12:27:39 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

Research on wood smoke is primarily associated with wildland fire.....open burning w/ profoundly different air quality impacts.

12:30:14 From Janet Sinclair to Everyone:

John. many scientists do not agree with you.

12:32:10 From Janet Sinclair to Everyone:

I agree that there is no such thing as "waste wood". Time to think about this differently.

12:32:38 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

Please provide citations. There are simply no North American studies assessing the health impacts of modern wood heating. To associate a pellet boiler with a fireplace is like comparing a Tesla to a dump truck. European data support Dr. Pelletier's conclusions.

12:36:23 From Kate Conlin to Everyone:

Language is how we understand/misunderstand the world. Waste wood is definitely not waste I think we all agree! Byproduct is better, but it seems to create a hierarchy that isn't good to introduce. Suggestions for new terms welcome!

12:38:22 From Janet Sinclair to Everyone:

John, the studies are countless about "what is in the air". The largest source of PM 2.5 is from wood burning here in MA. In England. This is old news. And then, what are the health effects of PM 2.5. This is pretty simple logic. Not sure why this denial continues.

12:38:39 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

Kate I absolutely agree with your sentiment. I speculate the word "waste" has been applied as it is a material type that is required to be removed and "disposed" of.

12:40:58 From Janet Sinclair to Everyone:

Why is giving free cord wood to low income people a thing for DCR to do. Do you think you might pay for the health effects that we are forced to deal with. Please don't say there are no health effects. This is established science.

12:41:12 From Henry Art to Everyone:

Ben and I moved away from "waste" to "residue" early on in his research. There is probably a still better term for this material that is an economic, not ecological word.

12:43:15 From Janet Sinclair to Everyone:

I would welcome air filters, health insurance co-pays for my health issues, pay for lost days at work. and WOW--lots of money for 50 cords a year. In Buckland you gave \$113,000. Better to help people with cleaner heating sources, which would be almost anything else.

12:43:40 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

Janet, the term PM2.5 simply refers to particulate size. This size category is a concern as it small enough to pass from lungs into the bloodstream. That said, PM2.5 includes benign material as well as extremally toxic elements. It is short sighted to imply that all components of this particle size category should cause concern. For example our roads produce significant but intermittent PM2.5 signatures....correlated to snow events. Putting salt and sand on the roads for ice management results in considerable air quality impacts....this PM2.5 includes high levels of silica and chlorides both very bad actors.

12:45:18 From Janet Sinclair to Everyone:

There is NO circumstance where burning wood is necessary. Plain and simple. Let's be honest, okay?

12:45:44 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

In an era of solar and energy storage it is worth recognizing that wood is at its very simplistic, chemical level is Stored Solar energy.

12:46:02 From Janet Sinclair to Everyone:

John. you are cherry picking.

12:46:44 From Ben Kargère to Everyone:

"Wood waste" must be removed from where it is. If downed wood, for example, was not removed from roadways it would only take a few weeks for everyone to notice and see it as an issue

12:47:15 From Ben Kargère to Everyone:

I appreciate the clarifications @Jonathan Parrott.

12:47:16 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

Janet, please recognize that there are other perspectives than yours. Wood burning is a choice for some, a necessity for others. Modern wood heating is NOT a conventional technology.

12:50:59 From Beth Girshman to Everyone:

I disagree with Janet, both from years of personal experience as well as science. Let's be honest, fine - but honest people can disagree with you. I live in an owner built, extremely energy efficient, passive solar home, built with local lumber from the land I live on. I have heated my home for past 5 years with trees that were blown down during the Conway tornado of 2017, acquired less than 200 yards from the house. We also have left plenty of downed wood in place for soils, habitat and food sources for various critters/fungi/etc. I have a newer catalytic converter stove. My choices are WAY less polluting than having to heat with trucked in oil/propane or using electricity that may be generated with coal. Every evening I make a fire in the stove, I give thanks to the trees that made it possible. The unexpected gift of the tornado as well.

12:53:11 From Kate Conlin to Everyone:

Yes, Beth! Using firewood provides a connection to the land and the ability to give thanks. And an input of labor into the whole process, making it closer and part of lived experience.

12:54:45 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

To echo Ben's explanation....all arboricultural wood waste must be chipped (for removal and handling reasons). As a consequence this material's half life is measured in weeks....it will be rotted and gone within a year. Why this fact is important is to recognize that this CO2 is going to be released...nothing we can do about it. Decomposing wood releases EXACTLY the same CO2 as burning wood.....its the came carbon. Both reactions are deemed oxidative. Please note that both reactions (Burning & Rotting) also release EXACTLY the same heat.

12:55:23 From Ben Kargère to Everyone:

@Cosmo LaViola. I discussed composting with Rich Pantermehel in Ashfield and Dicken Crane in Dalton, which are likely the two largest composters of this type of wood in the area. There is not a large market for compost and it is generally not economically viable.

12:56:42 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

Ben is correct, wood fiber is added to compost to add carbon and act as a bulking agent. Please note that despite the virtues of this end use it still does not prevent the wood's carbon release.

12:58:05 From Ben Kargère to Everyone:

Agreed Jonathan. Composting does little to prevent carbon release

12:59:53 From Emily Boss to Everyone:

<http://www.westernmasswood.org/>

13:00:27 From Emily Boss to Everyone:

<http://www.masswoodlands.org/media/1364/cultivating-edible-woodland-mushrooms-resources-and-readings-feb-2023.pdf>

13:00:52 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

The inconvenient truth is that our roads, wires and human spaces result in enormous volumes of waste wood....3million tons (Umass Amherst) per year. What should we do with this material? If used as fuel in a modern wood heating appliance it will not result in an unwanted air denigration (that is from cars, oil boilers etc) but make a meaningful difference in decarbonizing our rural heating carbon profile.

13:01:27 From Cosmo LaViola to Everyone:

@Ben and @Jonathan... I'm assuming there's not a market because topsoil and compost is being brought in from other sources for contracting, landscape projects, etc. Any thoughts on what the Carbon footprint and ecological impact is for these sources in comparison to utilizing local wood chips and food scraps?

13:02:34 From Chris Stelzer to Everyone:

Per Andre, I don't think there are Enough Indigenous to Process all the fallen wood...BUT the indigenous ideas are very important in the discussion. As soon as you said trees are living beings with relationship to the land and to us - I felt "Of course!" But in all other Forestry conversations, it is assumed that wood is a \$ commodity. It is like the difference in discussing a deer vs meat.

13:02:42 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

Each ton of pellets equals more than a ton of CO2 displacement (vs using distillate). This is not a universal solution but instead part of a mosaic of the solution we must implement to combat climate change.

13:06:13 From Andre Gaines to Everyone:

@chris yes that is why it's so important for us to come together to view and mirror ancestral knowledge on how we Steward the land Rather than the way money drives the way to Steward.

13:09:05 From Beth Girshman to Everyone:

@andre essential points, thanks for presenting

13:09:25 From Ben Kargère to Everyone:

@Cosmo Laviola. Dicken Crane gets wood chips from local arborists. What he does at Holiday Brook Farm is awesome, but isn't really an economically feasible use of wood chips (for others to start doing). I encourage you to talk to him if you have questions.

13:11:15 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

Charlie makes an excellent point...the 5 waste to energy plants in Massachusetts consume approximately 10,000 TONS of trash per day.

13:11:47 From Charlie Cary to Everyone:

There is also wood residue coming from the forest products industry that make products out of wood. Wood crating, wood pallets, truss manufacturing, furniture plants, housing construction and other wood products plants all produce wood residue. This wood is often dried and make great wood fuel. Why aren't we doing more research into the emissions from using this material as fuel as this activity keeps carbon in the ground and stimulates local economies.

13:12:48 From Cosmo LaViola to Everyone:

@Andre 100% agree regarding much of what you said. Nothing is really "waste". As a state and country we need to honor the treaties and include indigenous peoples and TEK in environmental decision-making/planning.

13:13:25 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

The Commonwealth has 265 megawatts of trash combustion equal to ~ 1,000 acres of solar. These facilities earn WECs....waste to energy credits

13:15:07 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

Current ISO NE data....13% renewable energy across the 6 New England states. "Renewables" is 1/4 trash energy. These data are 5minute interval...current

13:16:37 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

Arboricultural waste wood must be chipped and it includes too much bark to be used in any product other than fuel

13:17:41 From Andre Gaines to Everyone:

I'm sorry I need to go. I'm looking forward to connecting in the future for health and balance in our lands. please feel free to reach out andre.gaines85@gmail.com

13:19:04 From Cosmo LaViola to Everyone:

I need to go as well. Thank you for the presentations and panel discussion.

13:19:15 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

In an oversupplied market (too much chip) end users have their pick of the litter...accordingly manufacturers has adopted equipment and practices that do not accommodate a lower quality feedstock.

13:19:26 From Lisa Hayden to Everyone:

Thanks everyone for joining!

13:20:16 From Lisa Hayden to Everyone:

We'll continue the conversation and can share the link to the recording if you need to leave.

13:20:57 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

Eversource is responsible for more than 40,000 miles of powerlines....trees are the #1 threat to this infrastructure. Veg management is necessary to ensure our e-future. This results in massive quantities of wood waste. What shall we do????

13:23:09 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

I am 100% in favor of using wood waste in an upcycled durable good (C storage). However, I fear most in the Commonwealth simply are removed from the scale of the Arboricultural wood waste disposal challenge.

13:24:08 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

Remember Umass Amherst estimated that we produce more than 8,000 tons per day...every day

13:25:43 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

The MassCEC woodstove change out program was remarkable. I hope that it is refunded as Gov Healey moves to refund the MassCEC.

13:26:20 From Ben Kargère to Everyone:

I agree! Incentives are key @Sean

13:26:52 From Beth Girshman to Everyone:

yes, @jonathanparrott, the woodstove change out program is how I managed to upgrade to catalytic converter stove. write your legislators to refund the Mass CEC!

13:28:32 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

If folks are curious the Coolie Dickinson Hospital in Northampton has been heated with 2 tractor trailer loads of wood chips (~50 tons) per day since 1983. This has ensured that the hospital has a clear conscience for more than 40 years.

13:32:24 From janet sinclair to Everyone:

the cooley Dickinson project would not be approved if it was proposed today,

13:32:27 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

Remember sequestration RATES are what is important.....management stimulates growth...growth is sequestration

13:33:12 From Beth Girshman to Everyone:

thanks panelists! and for your research, @benkargere.

13:33:23 From janet sinclair to Everyone:

The science is that upgrades to your wood stove don't help much.

13:33:40 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

Janet is correct. Just like Sean mentioned standards are raising. CDH would not be approved today. That said, a modern version of it should.

13:34:14 From Kate Conlin to Everyone:

Thank you to all!

13:34:25 From janet sinclair to Everyone:

can this chat be saved and sent to people.

13:34:52 From janet sinclair to Everyone:

but jon, it wouldn't

13:35:01 From Jonathan Parrott to Everyone:

it will