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Puget Sound
Clean Air Agency
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Beyond Burn Bans: The Puget Sound Wood Smoke Control Program

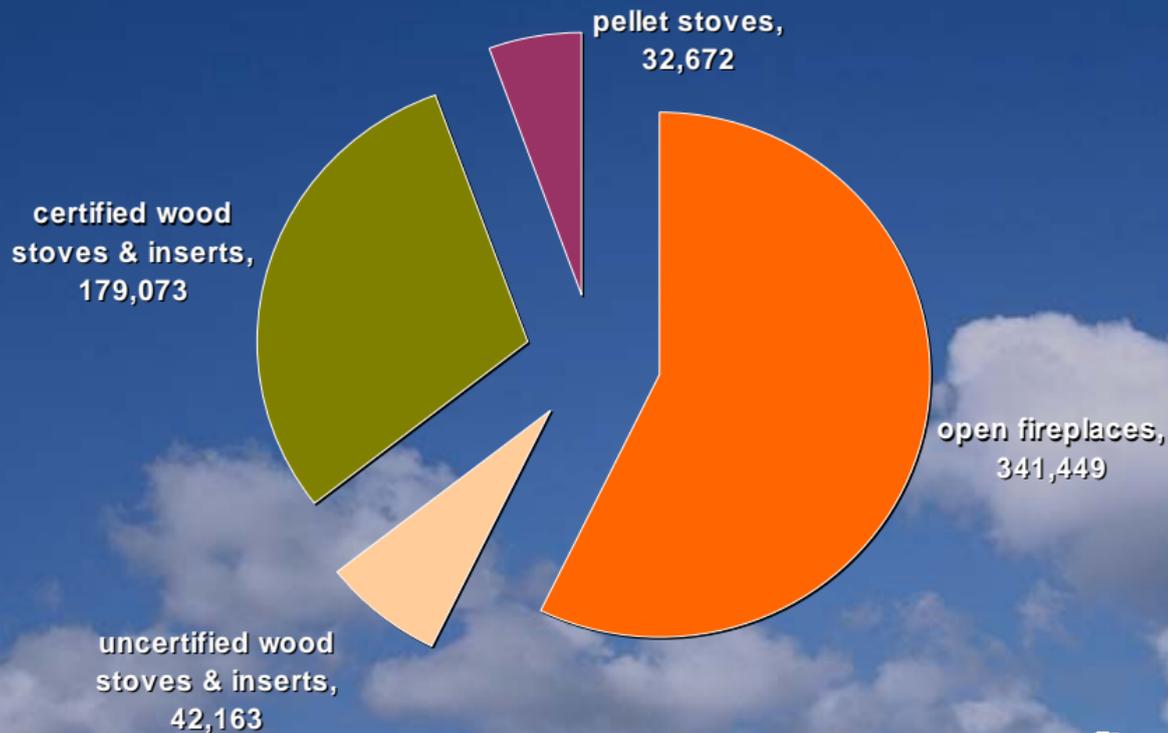
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Where is Wood Smoke Coming From?

- **1.2 Million residences in our jurisdiction**
- **Nearly 600,000 fireplaces and woodstoves in use**
 - **Nearly 350,000 fireplaces**
 - **Over 200,000 wood stoves and fireplace inserts**

Our Wood-Burning Inventory



(From 2002 PSCAA Emission Inventory)

Wood Smoke and "The Law"

- **Wood burning is allowed under Washington statute**
- **Emission standards for new wood-burning appliances**
- **No requirement to retrofit/remove old appliances**
- **Limitations imposed for**
 - **Opacity of smoke**
 - **Legal fuel types (properly seasoned fuel wood, coal, paper to start a fire)**
 - **Burning during impaired air quality ("burn bans")**
 - **Nuisance smoke**

What's Our Program?

- **Promote change to a cleaner form of heat**
- **Promote pollution prevention**
- **Call and enforce Burn Bans**
- **Respond to complaints**
- **Conduct public education**
- **Discourage installations of wood-burning devices in new high-density developments**

Promote Change to a Cleaner Form of Heat

● Advertising

- Joint promos with HPBA dealers and local utilities
- Direct promos by gas company and others

● Funding – Where do we get the \$\$\$

- State woodstove account
- Direct agency subsidy
 - ▲ Paid for disposal
 - ▲ Pay a portion of the change out
- SEP's
 - ▲ Being paid a portion of the cost of their employees changing to gas
- Permit mitigation (e.g. Hampton)

● Implementation

- Media campaigns
- Events (fire depts, home shows, fairs)
- Those annoying burn bans (if you really want to heat with wood you need to upgrade)

Promote Pollution Prevention

● Proper burning practices

- Emphasize that smoke is wasted fuel, wasted money
- Many homes have oversized wood stoves, which residents damper down; small, hot fires are best
- Hearth Products web site (www.burningclean.com)

● Weatherization

- Connect people with existing energy conservation programs

● Compressed wood logs

- For open fireplaces this is the most realistic option
- Potential wood smoke emission reduction is over 70%
- Switching to gas logs would be best, but can be expensive

Call and Enforce Burn Bans

- **Two-stage burn ban program under state law**
 - Stage 1 – $35 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3 \text{PM}_{2.5}$ – No fireplaces or uncertified stoves
 - Stage 2 – $60 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3 \text{PM}_{2.5}$ – No wood burning
- **Exemption if only source of adequate heat**
- **Designed to discourage the use of uncertified stoves**
- **Agency has no legal right to enter residences to determine source of smoke during burn ban**
- **Enforced using opacity standard**
 - Teams of 2 inspectors patrol areas known for wood smoke complaints
 - Mail tickets to resident for opacity violation

Respond to Complaints

- **Affected person completes complaint form**
- **Agency informs neighbor about complaint**
 - Sends brochure about health effects
 - Asks for written response—what will they do to address complaint?
 - Informs that will send copy of response to complainant
- **Agency sends complaint response to complainant**
- **Upon subsequent complaints, agency sends inspector to location to check for violations**
- **If violations, take enforcement action; if none, close case**

Conduct Public Education

- **Health effects of wood smoke and legal restrictions on wood-burning activities**

- Media releases during burn bans
- Brochures
- Web site
- Links to health sites
- Electronic mailing list

Discourage Installation in New High-Density Developments

- **New residences with wood-burning fireplaces**
 - = more sources we'll have to deal with
 - burn bans
 - change-out promotion
 - burning behavior change
- **Discourage installation of wood burning appliances in new multiple-unit buildings and dense single-family housing developments**
 - Comments on SEPA documents
 - Developing program to work with local planning agencies
 - Goal is model ordinance

What Advice Do We Have

- **PATIENCE - This is going to take years**
- **People are in denial - Burning is in our genes**
- **Manufactured logs are a cost-effective option for open fireplaces**
 - Huge potential for emission reduction, no capital investment
- **Most Importantly: focus the message on the wood smoke not the wood burner**
 - There is strong political support for wood heating
 - There is no political support for wood smoke

The Ultimate Answer is the Patch

STRANGE BREW / *John Deering*

