
Wood Smoke Curtailment Work Group – August 13, 2018

In Attendance:

Voting Members

Elisabeth Balster Dabney
Ross Atkins
Dr. Owen Hanely
Dave Turbovsky
Kendall Brehm
Mark Oppe
Ronald Johnson

Non-Voting Members

Nick Czarnecki
Bob Dulla
Cindy Heil
Brian Rogers

Facilitation Team

Michelle Ohnesorge

Work Group Discussion

- Remembering health-based standards when talking about actual and EPA standards
- Wood with moisture around 5% would be ideal, compared to the advertised 20%
- How do we reach the ~60% of people that are cutting their own wood?
- The cost to comply for some households is too high, so they take the risk of not complying
- People are suffering from permanent health problems because of the air quality, regulation would help
- If the majority of the area operated on natural gas, how many wood stoves could be in the equation and still reach attainment?
- Any type of program to assist residents should extend outside of the non-attainment zone
- A tiered usage rate for electricity to share the burden, under a certain number of kWh free and increase rate with every additional 100 kWh the person uses
- What is the total number of days in non-attainment for the area over the next couple of years? How much is this going to affect wood burners?
- Are woodstoves outside the non-attainment area affecting the air inside?
- Specific area of flat land in North Pole (Hurst Road to Moose Creek Bluff) is an issue, possibly creating a land use plan for that specific area would help
- Fine tuning the burn restrictions would be a good faith gesture to increase compliance, not all air quality is the same over the entire non-attainment area
 - If restrictions are always called in a certain area it might be an incentive for those people to comply
 - Lack of technology available to get into too small of portions, could possibly divide North Pole into two area
- For the magnitude of curtailment needed, enforcement will have to follow
- Would the police be able to enforce? Why would we want to have multiple enforcement agencies?
- A form could be created to require a wood buyer to sign guaranteeing they are not burning wet wood (to allow sellers to sell wet wood, especially to those that buy for the next year)
- Wood sellers should distribute moisture meters
- Ringing trees in a publicly managed wood lot with help from point sources could create a way to get dry wood

- “Get a Year Ahead” program idea
 - With some source of funding give people some additional wood to save and dry for a year
 - This would be a tangible educational program
 - Residents would then physically see and feel the difference of keeping a year ahead wood pile and how it burns better (drier, and cleaner)
- Property tax exemptions for change-outs/retrofits