

Talking points for Woodstoves

1. EPA has been regulating woodstoves since 1988. The current dust up is focused on the update they completed in 2015 and was it better or not than the original certification program.
2. The peak sales of woodstove were back in the late 1970's during the 2nd Arab Oil Embargo, in fact, most of the stoves in homes predate the EPA's 1988 program. 11 million old stoves are still in use.
3. Old stoves are often in homes that are very hard, or very expensive, to heat so the best way to deal with them is to change them out for newer, EPA certified stoves. EPA, and many states, including Vermont and Massachusetts, have sponsored changeouts, and EPA has used settlements with coal fired power plants to fund many major changeout programs.
4. In 2013 EPA, joined with the Hearth Industry, and the American Lung Association to host a \$2 Million woodstove changeout program in Central Mass, Eastern Connecticut, and Rhode Island. This was a result of an enforcement settlement with Dominion Power's Brayton Point plant in Somerset, Massachusetts.
5. The true failing of the EPA when it comes to woodstoves is that they stopped checking on how new stoves perform in real homes in 1992, so there has been no way to measure the true impact of changes in stoves, or test methods, since then. All the arguments about testing, or performance are focused solely on laboratory results, and not on real world performance.
6. The testing that was done in the early 1990s did reveal one fact that is very important today; the newer stoves have sharply lower rates of Methane emissions than the older, smokier, stoves. So, changing out old stoves not only reduces particulate pollution, but also reduces this very potent greenhouse gas.