

Wood stove controversy: Energy vs environment

A large portion of downtown Portland used to be heated with wood residue before the switch to natural gas and individual gas or oil furnaces in every store, it was noted. The University of Oregon uses wood for heating and electric power generation. OSU used to burn wood, then switched to gas-oil, and now is looking again some at wood. Wood deserves another look on a big scale in many places. Boubel contends.

If continue open burning, the key to reducing air pollution from slash and field burning is "meteorological scheduling," says Boubel. "We have to better use the weather and meteorological condition so that smoke and pollutants are not trapped in the valley or carried toward Los Angeles had some extensive

air pollution problems this fall. At the same time, Portland had some air pollution alerts on otherwise beautiful fall days. "It doesn't mean that pollution controls failed in either city. Air stagnation allowed a pollution build-up. So we're still at the mercy of Mother Nature in spite of our man made gains," Boubel observed.

"Atmospheric scientists are making some tremendous strides in advancing our understanding of climate and weather," he noted. "That's a major plus in our battle against air pollution."

From his work as president of the Air Pollution Control Association, which has members in 40 countries, Boubel puts the U.S. and Canada "considerably ahead" of the rest of the world in air pollution control.

Western Europe and Japan are not too far behind. Some developing countries in South America, Asia and Africa essentially are operating without any air pollution checks or controls whatever.

"This infringes on neighboring countries because the pollution is carried by air currents. Acid rain has been a problem for years in Scandinavia. They point the finger at nearby industrialized England as the primary source."

Acid rain-that poses dangers to lake life and other areas of man's activities-is becoming a major concern in eastern Canada and the U.S., Boubel observed.

"Does Oregon have any acid rain problems? Of course. The whole state does in a very small way. That's because rain is naturally acid when it

falls. Even if you don't have any pollution source as such, the carbon dioxide in the air will be converted to carbonic acid in rain.

"That's why our Willamette Valley soils are termed 'acid soils,'" he continued. "For many crops, we have to use lime to neutralize that acidity. Grass seed is one crop that will grow well on acid soils but it poses some field burning pollution problems. It's another give-and-take situation."

Man is a plus-and-minus too, Boubel noted.

"Unleaded gas is more pollution free, for instance. But at a meeting in Edmonton, Canada, a couple of weeks ago, a Canadian scientist reported that as many as 50 percent of the vehicles in some places were being tampered with so that they

could use regular, leaded gas which is cheaper and more plentiful."

Energy needs and environmental aims often aren't in step, Boubel emphasized. "There's no way you can make a coal or shale oil power plant as pollution free as one fueled with natural gas. Even though we install extensive gas cleaning equipment, we're going to have more pollution. On the other hand, we've been able to tighten air pollution standards on steel mills, pulp and paper mills, etc. and realize some gains.

"But needs, common sense and solid scientific findings have to be put into balance in the best possible way if we are going to have both energy and a quality environment," he concluded.

Wood stoves have increased air

pollution in cities.

On the other hand, they've probably reduced forest slash burning--and air pollution. Wood previously left for waste burning in the forests has been cut up and carted home for wood stoves and for fireplaces.

"The plus-and-minus trade offs with wood stoves are pretty typical of what's happening on a big scale with environmental and energy problems," says an Oregon State University engineering professor who is back in the classroom after a year's leave to serve as president of the Air Pollution Control Association.

Richard W. Boubel sees more of the same--some going forward, some slipping back--in the years just ahead.

PORK CHOP SURPRISE

Pork Chop Surprise, flavored with Open Pit barbecue sauce - original flavor, and canned applesauce, combines a harmony of perfect flavors when served with cheese-topped baked potatoes and a crunchy salad of sliced cucumbers and green pepper rings. And, best of all, is the ease of preparation. Pork chops are placed in an "oven-to-table" baking pan, the sauce is poured over the top and they are baked. Remember, pork must be cooked thoroughly. And, while they are baking, so are the potatoes, which leaves just the salad to fix. When everything is done, set out the plates, a bucket of silverware, pitchers of beverages and enjoy the meal.



PORK CHOP SURPRISE

6 shoulder pork chops, 3/4 inch thick
1 cup all-purpose barbecue sauce, any flavor
1 cup applesauce
Place chops in a single layer in shallow baking pan. Combine barbecue sauce and applesauce and pour over chops. Bake at 350° for 1 hour and 20 minutes. Always cook pork thoroughly. (Make 6 servings)
MARINATED CUCUMBERS
2 medium cucumbers, thinly sliced
1 green pepper, cut in small thin slivers
1/2 cup prepared old fashion French salad dressing
Place cucumbers and green peppers in a bowl. Add dressing and chill at least 3 hours, stirring once or twice. Makes 3 1/2 cups or enough for 6 servings.

CHEESE TOPPED BAKED POTATOES

Scrub potatoes well. Slit tops and place 1/2 slice American cheese into each top. Wrap with foil and bake along with chops.



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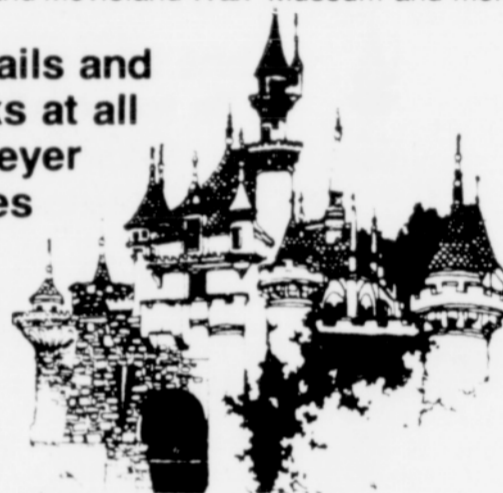
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