

AIR QUALITY WORKSHOP TO BE HELD AT KEENE STATE COLLEGE

Workshop is Wednesday, November 28th at The Madison Street Lounge, Young Student Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

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(KEENE) - Southwest Region Planning Commission and Keene State College are hosting a free workshop on small particle air pollution in and around Keene on Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at The Madison Street Lounge in the Keene State College L.P. Young Student Center. Through air quality monitoring and testing, we have learned that infrequent elevated levels of fine particle air pollution in the Keene area are linked to residential wood burning. Over the past few years limits set by the federal Clean Air Act for fine particle pollution have been exceeded on certain winter days due to a weather phenomenon known as air temperature inversions. However, there are ways to burn wood cleaner and more efficiently to help reduce air pollution in our communities.

Over the next several months, Keene State College and the Southwest Region Planning Commission will continue efforts to understand and address this air quality issue with support through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Healthy Communities Grant Program. "Our goal is to create a local map of real time monitoring concentrations connected to social media so Keene residents can participate in the science and make choices in real time about wood burning," said Nora Traviss, project principal and Associate Professor of Environmental Studies at Keene State College."

The workshop will be an opportunity for residents to learn about small particle air pollution and its associated health and environmental impacts in the greater Keene area. Attendees will learn about the science behind the issue, a variety of ways to stay up-to-date on air quality forecasts, tips to safely and efficiently burn firewood, recent research conducted by Keene State College, and more. Residents, municipal officials, health care providers, and community and business leaders are encouraged to attend. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of Southwest Region Planning Commission at (603) 357-0557 and visit www.swrpc.org/airquality.

Join your neighbors in protecting our air, our community's health, and the New Hampshire way of life – Learn Before You Burn!