

—Slug:.....COMM-0844.wc.wet\_firewood\_meter  
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—Article Number:.....42732

[REDACTED]

**Notes from editor (not for publication):**

[REDACTED]

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Local libraries have moisture meters to test firewood  
2 moisture content

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5 TEXT BODY:

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6 With the home heating season here, those who heat with  
7 wood may be wondering if their firewood is dry and ready to  
8 burn. Vermonters can check out a moisture meter for free from  
9 several local public libraries. This is thanks to a statewide loan  
10 program from the Department of Libraries and the Department of  
Environmental Conservation (DEC).

11           Using this small, hand-held device, one can make sure  
12   firewood is dry (with 20% moisture or less) before burning. Dry,  
13   seasoned wood burns hotter and cleaner than wet wood, saving  
14   both money and energy while making less smoke.

15           “To prevent poor air quality and safeguard public health,  
16   it is key to follow proper wood burning practices, said DEC  
17   Commissioner Misty Sinsigalli in a news release. “Using dry,  
18   seasoned wood reduces smoke, cuts air emissions, and protects  
19   our families, neighbors, and the environment.”

20           During the wintertime, residential wood smoke is a main  
21   contributor to fine particle pollution and contributes to poor air  
22   quality days, especially on calm, clear, and cold winter nights.

23           Fine particle pollution consists of particles less than 2.5  
24   micrometers in diameter, also known as PM2.5. Fine particles are  
25   so small they can be inhaled and cause serious health problems.  
26   Fine particles are also the main cause of reduced visibility (haze)  
27   in scenic areas.

28           Participating libraries include Brooks Memorial Library in  
29   Brattleboro, Whiting Library in Chester, Moore Free Library in  
30   Newfane, Putney Public Library, Rockingham Free Public Library,  
31   Springfield Town Library, Townshend Public Library, Vernon Free  
32   Library, and Butterfield Library in Westminster.

33           For more information about the moisture meter loan  
34   program, visit [bit.ly/844-meter](https://bit.ly/844-meter).

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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35

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*LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:*

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LINKS:

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VIDEO:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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