

TIMES HERALD

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Environment would benefit from outdoor wood furnaces

Every time I pass a gas station these days, I am reminded of the rising cost of fuel. As we look ahead to the coming winter and the prospect of higher home-heating costs, many local residents are searching for effective, alternative energy sources.

One very viable alternative is an outdoor wood furnace. Heating my home with one has proven to be safe, effective, cost-efficient and an environmentally friendly alternative to gas, oil or electricity.

Compared to burning wood indoors, an outdoor wood

furnace can provide homeowners with health benefits and lower medical bills associated with improved indoor air quality. Outdoor wood furnaces eliminate the risk of home fires and provide a higher degree of safety by removing the wood burning from inside the home, because the combustion takes place outside.

Wood when burned results in no net increases in carbon dioxide. On the other hand, fossil fuels when burned cause a net increase in carbon dioxide, which is believed to be responsible for the heat-trapping

greenhouse effect. In fact, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency concluded emissions from outdoor wood furnaces are "of the same as other stick wood-burning appliances."

I urge you to consider an outdoor wood furnace and most importantly, consider the facts about this very viable energy source.

Jerry Sobocinski
Memphis, Aug. 2