What do Virginians Think About Firewood?

This factsheet is part of a series based on findings from Household Firewood Use in Virginia and North Carolina: A Survey of Consumer Opinions and Activities
1: SURVEY OVERVIEW • 2: CURRENT FIREWOOD USE • **3: FIREWOOD USE PERCEPTIONS** • 4: FUTURE FIREWOOD USE

Opinions About Firewood Use Firewood BENEFITS and CHALLENGES % = respondents that agreed "somewhat" to "very much" to the questions "How agree/ disagree/ important are the following benefits to you for burning firewood for any use" and neutral strongly agree strongly disagree "Do any of the following challenges discourage you from burning firewood?" Solution: annual Firewood connects people with nature. (69%, 26%, 5%) chimney cleanings! Structural Fire Hazard Leisure (71%) Some insurance policies Concern (31%) even give incentives to homeowners. Firewood is a sustainable energy choice. (63%, 27%, 9%) Solutions: Store firewood Forest Fire Hazard away from the house. Concern (31%) Dispose of ashes properly. Forest Health (56%) Firewood is easy to find. (62%, 23%, 15%) Solutions: Many local Time to Gather or dealers offer free delivery Use Firewood (28%) Firewood comes in Firewood use increases when other energy Environmental "Grah & Go" hundles prices go up. (54%, 40%, 7%) Purposes (41%) Firewood is worth the cost. (47%, 46%, 8%) **Physical Difficulty** Using Firewood (28%) Lifestyle Purposes (41%) Firewood is a cost-competitive heat source. (46%, 36%, 19%) Solution: Smaller fire pits Place to Burn Financial Reasons (39%) provide opportunities Firewood (27%) for backyard fires. Firewood quality is predictable. (39%, 39%, 22%)

Firewood Spreading Tree Pests

While a large majority of respondents were aware and concerned that firewood transport may spread tree pests, **almost** 3/3 knew nothing or very little about what they could do to prevent the spread of trees pests from firewood. Heat treating firewood solves many invasive insect issues and also increases the marketing opportunities for selling firewood out of state. Producers can find funding opportunities through the Agriculture and Forestry Industry Development (AFID) grant program.







This factsheet is based on findings from *Household Firewood Use in Virginia and North Carolina: A Survey of Consumer Opinions and Activities.* Funded by the Virginia Department of Forestry and North Carolina Forest Service in 2021. For more information on the study and resources on marketing firewood, visit <u>firewood frec.vt.edu</u>