Metts Cited in The Appalachian Voice Article

Dr. Tricia Metts has been cited in a news article in *The Appalachian Voice* that examines the use of wood stoves in rural central Appalachia and the potential impact defective stove operations can have on indoor air quality. The article, called “Smoke in the Hills: Wood Stoves in Appalachia,” estimates up to 30 percent of Appalachian homeowners use wood stoves as a primary heat source because of its low-cost benefit.

In the article, Dr. Metts comments, “There are high levels of poverty in this part of the country. We don’t see a lot of EPA-certified, modern and properly maintained woodstoves.” While co-authoring a survey of census data, she and her fellow researchers found “out of 117 US counties designated as high priority for research on health effects of household air pollution from burning solid fuels, 34 were in the Appalachian region.” The Environmental Protection Agency maintains wood stove change-out programs for families who cannot otherwise afford to upgrade to a modern, efficient wood stove.

Dr. Metts is an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Health in the College of Public Health. Her research focus includes Indoor chemistry, indoor air sampling and analysis, indoor air quality in rural Appalachian homes, air pollution associated with residential solid fuel combustion. Her work has also been published in *Environmental Health Perspectives* and the *Journal of Environmental Protection*.

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*The Appalachian Voice* is a free bimonthly newspaper that has covered environmental, outdoor and cultural news in the Appalachian mountains since 1996. *The Appalachian Voice* newspaper was first published in the winter of 1996, as a publication of the Sierra Club Southern Appalachian Highlands Ecoregion Task Force. A year later, the club grew into the environmental organization Appalachian Voices, which has continued the publication of the *Voice* to today.