



Isabelle Silverman

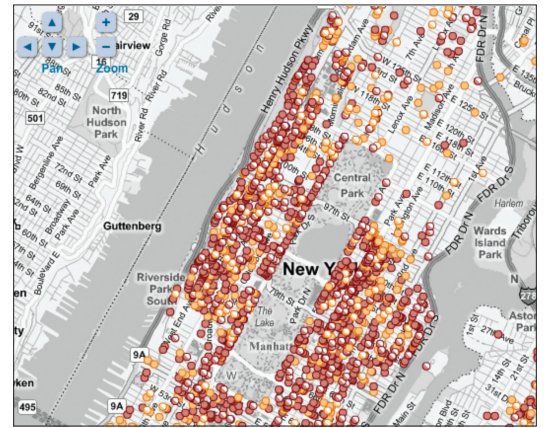
The San Remo

The campaign to ban dirty heating oil

Every day, all year round, iconic buildings such as the San Remo, the Dakota and the Flatiron Building belch toxic black smoke from their smokestacks, the result of burning dirty sludge oil in the boiler. Although the vast majority of buildings in New York City use cleaner fuels, about 10,000 buildings across the five boroughs continue to burn the dirtiest grades of heating oil known as No. 4 and No. 6 oil, literally unrefined sludge from the bottom of the barrel.

900,000 buildings in New York City already burn cleaner fuels.

Buildings burning dirty oil constitute about 1% of all structures in the city, yet they produce more soot pollution than all of the cars and trucks on city roads, combined. The result: New York City air fails to meet federal standards for soot and ozone. The American Lung Association gives our air quality a failing grade. New York's air does not have to be like this. Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) is spearheading a campaign to phase out dirty heating oil in New York City over the next ten years. We are also working to identify innovative new ways for buildings to finance their switch to cleaner fuels.



Our interactive map pinpoints all city buildings that burn dirty fuel and can be found at edf.org/dirtybuildings.



Yuki Kokubo

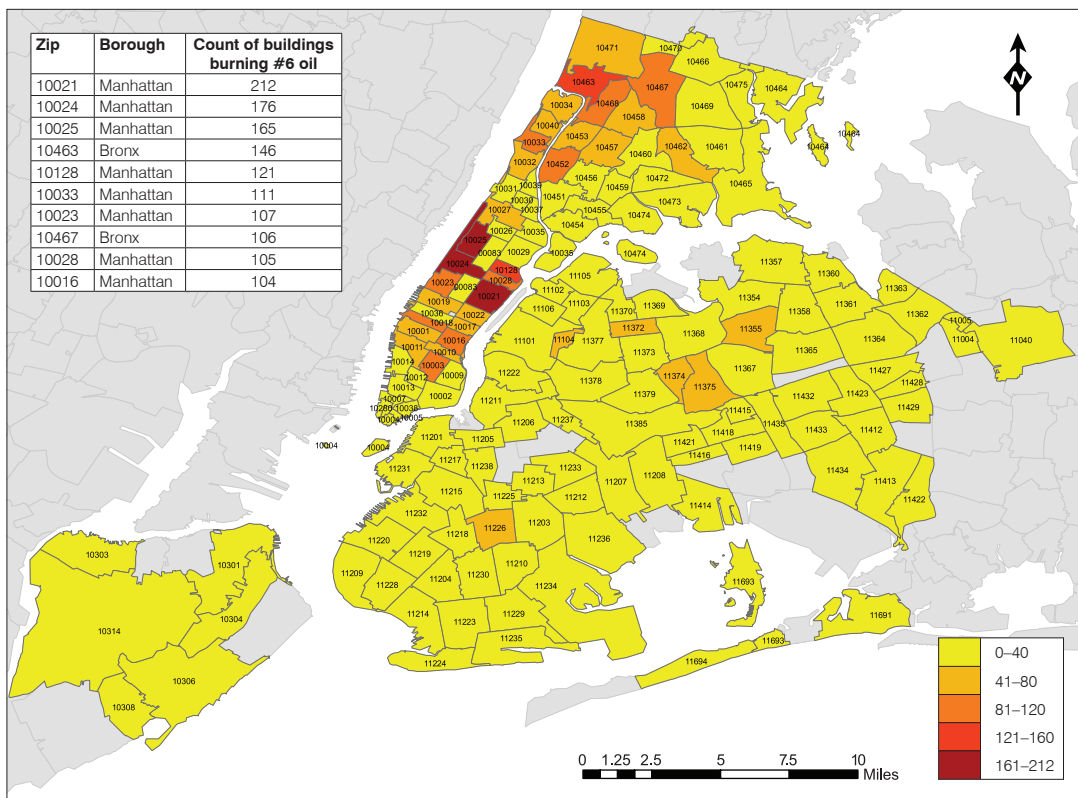
No. 2 heating oil (left) generates 93% less soot than No. 6 heating oil (right).

The worst neighborhoods

Some of the worst air quality in the city can be found on the Upper East Side and the Upper West Side, where the highest concentrations of sludge-burning buildings are located. Smokestacks on those buildings blanket the neighborhood with soot and heavy metals—pollutants that aggravate asthma and other respiratory problems, increase the risk of cancer and cardiovascular disease and even cause premature death. Children are especially vulnerable.

NYC AIR

Substituting cleaner fuel in just one 200-unit apartment building has the same effect as taking 33 delivery trucks off the road.



Number of buildings by zip code burning No. 6 oil.

Cleaner air, lower costs

Switching to cleaner fuels brings healthier air to your neighborhood and can save you money, especially when coupled with improved energy efficiency.

EDF is proposing policy and financing solutions to phase out dirty heating oil by 2020. In December 2009 we rolled out our new study: *The Bottom of the Barrel: How the Dirtiest Heating Oil Pollutes Our Air and Harms Our Health* (edf.org/dirtybuildings).



Patth McConville

86% of the city's heating oil soot pollution is generated by about 1% of the buildings.

What you can do

Check the interactive map on our website to find out whether your building is burning No. 4 or No. 6 oil. The map can also help you identify other buildings in the area that might be interested in sharing the cost of bringing a natural gas line to your neighborhood.

If your building is burning dirty heating oil, there are several options:

- Switch to No. 2 heating oil or natural gas (the cheapest heating fuel)
- Switch to natural gas, with No. 2 heating oil as a back-up
- Install a co-generation system that runs on natural gas and produces both heat and electricity for the building
- Check to see if steam heat is available from your utility company

Contact your building's management or board about switching. On our website at edf.org/dirtybuildings, you'll find more information and sample letters to send the building owner or managing agent. And rally your neighbors. After all, it's their air—and their health—too.