



# Stovax Heating Group explains the UK Government's 2023 Environmental Plan

## Why are we receiving queries about emissions?

There is a sudden rise in press, resulting from the UK Government's recent publication of the 2023 Environmental Plan. Many press articles are surfacing as a result, with negative sentiment that may cause consumers confusion and worry about the stoves they already own - or are looking to purchase.

## What is the Environmental Plan?

Five years ago, a 25 Year Environment Plan set out a vision, containing action to improve the health of the natural world. Government committed to reviewing this plan every five years, set into law in the Environment Act 2021. The 2023 Environmental Plan is the first revision.

It contains ten core goals, sharing the progress of all ten - including the targets and commitments made - and shares a plan of how we will continue to achieve the overarching goals.

Goal 2 is **Clean Air**.

## What is the plan for Goal 2: Clean Air?

Air quality in the UK has improved significantly in recent decades. There has been a decrease in all five major air pollutants: for instance, emissions of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) decreased by 18% between 2010 and 2020.

The solid fuel industry has played a major part in this positive progress, with manufacturers like Stovax delivering on Ecodesign compliancy since 2017 - 5 years before it became law in 2022.

## What has Government done so far?

- Published a Clean Air Strategy in 2019, setting out plans to make our air healthier to breathe, protect nature and boost the economy
- Reduced pollution from domestic burning by banning the sale of smoky coal/house coal, and restricting the sale of wet wood
- Put limits on sulphur content and smoke emissions from manufactured solid fuels
- Enabled local authorities to better enforce Smoke Control Areas, including issuing financial penalties

## What are Government's new plans for the solid fuel industry?

- Continue to tackle domestic emissions by reducing the maximum emissions for domestic burning appliances in Smoke Control Areas - this includes tightening the limits that new stoves in Smoke Control Areas must meet, reducing the limit from 5g of smoke per hour to a maximum of 3g
- Continuing to promote best practice when using a stove or fireplace
- Design and implement measures to drive a shift away from older, more polluting appliances, to newer appliances that meet new emission standards
- Challenge local authorities to improve air quality more quickly by assessing their performance and use of existing powers, while supporting them with clear guidance, funding, and tools
- Re-align regional air quality zones in line with local government boundaries to drive effective coordinated action



Continued overleaf...

## Key information that will help you with answering enquiries:

### Will my stove be banned?

The UK Government is not considering a ban on domestic burning in England. Government recognises that some households are reliant on solid fuel burning as a primary source for heating, hot water and cooking. A ban on domestic outdoor burning (bonfires, barbecues, firepits etc.) would also be considered disproportionate

### Will my old stove be banned?

The new limits only apply to models built after a certain future date – we are awaiting confirmation of this date. As long as you are abiding by local smoke restrictions, you can continue to use your stove

### Can I use my current stove in a Smoke Control Area?

You can continue to use a DEFRA-exempt appliance, burning authorised fuels, in both Smoke Control Areas or Clean Air Zones

### Does a Stovax product meet the new smoke limits?

We are thrilled that 95% of our current range already complies with the proposed Smoke Control Area limits of maximum 3g of smoke per hour. Our world-class design teams are working hard on the small fraction that remains

### How do I know if I live in a Smoke Control Zone?

Head to [www.stovax.com/smokecontrolmap](http://www.stovax.com/smokecontrolmap) – this will take you to the UK Government's interactive map of all the Smoke Control Zones in England

### Will I get fined for using my stove?

In a Smoke Control Area, you can only burn wood on a DEFRA-exempt appliance, or burn authorised smokeless fuels. These rules have been in place for many years, and are a positive implement intended to improve the air quality of these zones. There is a limit on how much smoke you can release from a chimney – in England, you may receive a £300 fine for releasing too much smoke in a Smoke Control Area, or up to £1000 for burning unauthorised fuel without an exempt appliance. Look for the Ready to Burn logo if burning wood – this mark helps you easily identify solid fuels that are legal to burn at home in compliance with air quality regulations. For authorised smokeless fuels, refer to the DEFRA exemption website: [www.stovax.com/authorisedfuels](http://www.stovax.com/authorisedfuels)

## Key helpful tips to give the customer about burning right:

### Burn dry wood

Poor quality/wet wood has a high moisture content, resulting in poor combustion and the production of harmful emissions. Look for wood between 14-20% moisture for optimum burning, and ensure it has the Ready to Burn logo



### Keep stove door closed

When the stove is closed, the products of combustion almost exclusively exit through the chimney

### Use an Ecodesign stove

We are proud to hold the UK and Ireland's largest range of Ecodesign Plus appliances.

[www.stovax.com/ecodesignplus](http://www.stovax.com/ecodesignplus)



### Ensure the stove is sized correctly for the environment

A 5kW stove run at 2kW will not burn at required optimum clean burn temperatures

### In all cases, please ensure that you comply with any smoke regulations in your area

