

## **Consultation on the draft revised Air Quality Strategy**

As you will doubtless be aware, Defra is seeking responses from local authorities in England to its revised Air Quality Strategy.

There is an expectation within the Strategy that local authorities will “take preventative action, through a local Air quality Strategy, rather than waiting for a legal limit to be reached”, and the purpose of writing to you today is to provide some relevant information on domestic indoor burning that we hope will be helpful to you in the development of local air quality strategy.

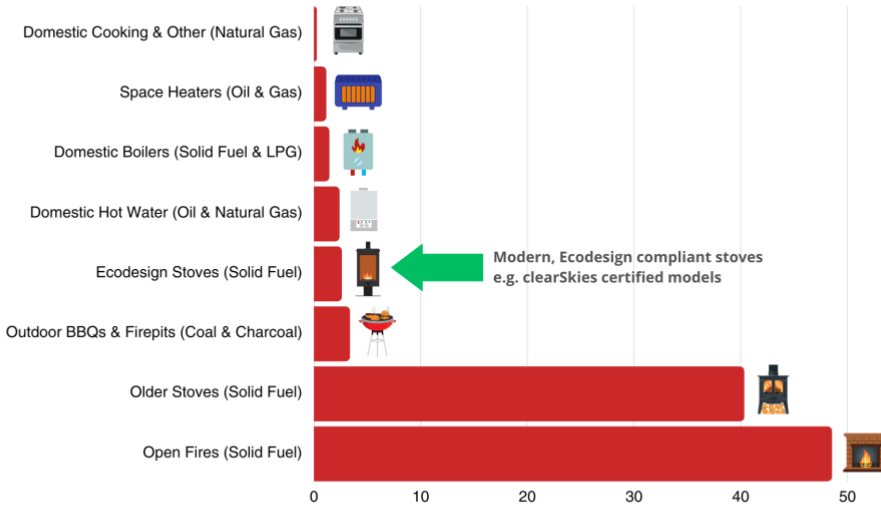
The Stove Industry Association (SIA) is the UK trade association for manufacturers, suppliers and retailers of solid fuel stoves and their component parts, such as flue and chimney systems, glass, and fuel. Our appliance manufacturing members, who represent approximately 80% of total UK stove sales, are committed to the ongoing development of their appliances to ensure minimal emissions and maximum efficiency. This was clearly evidenced in 2017 when the SIA Ecodesign Ready scheme, highlighting those stoves that already met the requirement of the then Ecodesign Directive, was launched in Westminster.

In 2020 the [clearSkies Mark Scheme](#) was introduced. This scheme provides consumers with an easily searchable and comprehensive database of stove appliances that meet the Ecodesign Regulation and have Defra Smoke Control Area exemption (all clearSkies Level 3 and above) and, BETTER the efficiency and emissions limits within Ecodesign (clearSkies Levels 4 and 5).

A clearSkies certified stove produces up to 90% less particulate matter than an open fire, and up to 80% less than an older, basic solid fuel stove model. This highlights a clear opportunity for local authorities to tackle emissions from domestic indoor combustion by recommending clearSkies certified appliances as the benchmark for new and replacement solid fuel installations.

To put this into context, of the 22.6987 ktonnes of PM2.5 [attributed to domestic combustion in the latest government data](#) (27% of total UK PM2.5 emissions), only 0.07678 ktonnes (0.3%) is from the burning of dry wood in Ecodesign stoves. Across all fuel types, Ecodesign stoves make up just 2.6% of PM2.5 emissions from domestic combustion. The chart below shows the full breakdown of the 22.6987 ktonnes:

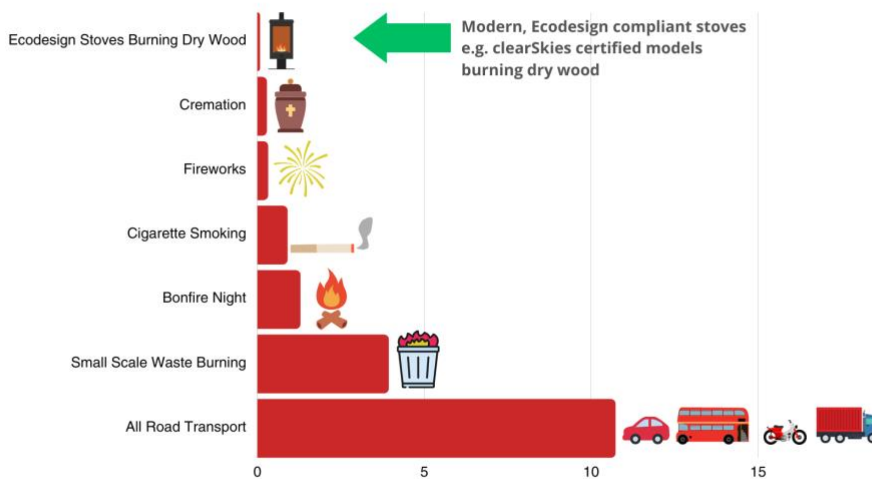
Activities that make up the 22.6987 ktonnes of PM2.5 from Domestic Combustion in 2021  
(shown by % of total)



Data Source: [https://naei.beis.gov.uk/resources/PivotTableViewer\\_2023\\_AQ\\_Final\\_v1.xlsx](https://naei.beis.gov.uk/resources/PivotTableViewer_2023_AQ_Final_v1.xlsx)

It should also be understood that in the context of localised PM2.5 emissions, which come from a wide range of different sources, burning dry wood in an Ecodesign compliant stove accounts for a very small percentage. The graphic below looks at some of these local sources:

Ecodesign stoves burning dry wood compared to other localised PM2.5 emission sources 2021  
(shown in ktonnes PM2.5 per source)



Data Source: [https://naei.beis.gov.uk/resources/PivotTableViewer\\_2023\\_AQ\\_Final\\_v1.xlsx](https://naei.beis.gov.uk/resources/PivotTableViewer_2023_AQ_Final_v1.xlsx)

Of the 2021 [total UK PM2.5 emissions across all sources \(83.2179 ktonnes\)](#), burning dry wood in Ecodesign stoves is responsible for just 0.09% (0.07678 ktonnes).

With many households reliant on solid fuel burning as a primary or secondary source for heating, hot water, and cooking, and many more seeking to invest in modern wood burning stoves because of spiralling domestic fuel bills and increased anxiety about supply dependency, it is vital that modern, Ecodesign stoves remain part of the energy mix.

The government has made clear its intention to take action to incentivise a shift from older, more polluting appliances and we hope the information provided here helps make clear the case for Ecodesign stove technology as a low carbon, low emission, cost effective heating source using sustainable and renewable wood fuel.

The SIA and its members are committed to an ongoing programme of consumer education on the importance of stove use – appliance choice – signposting to clearSkies certified stove models, installation – choosing a qualified installer registered with a Competent Persons Scheme, fuel choice, storage and refuelling techniques, and maintenance – general appliance maintenance and regular chimney sweeping and inspection. All of this is alongside our members' commitment to ongoing appliance product development, adherence to all applicable standards and providing the very latest consumer information.

We have a range of resources and information available on our website at [www.stoveindustryalliance.com](http://www.stoveindustryalliance.com) and should you and your team require any further information please don't hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



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