

What is the Stove Industry Association?

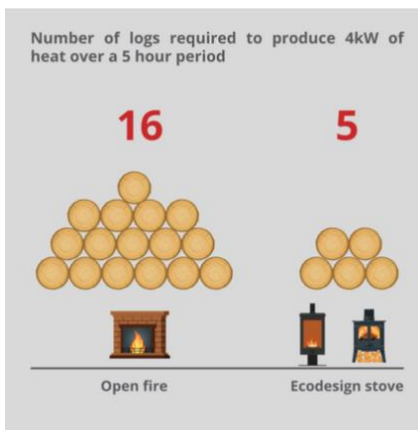
The [Stove Industry Association](#) is a UK wide trade association, formed to promote the benefits of modern wood burning stoves and biomass appliances. Members include manufacturers, distributors, suppliers and retailers of stoves, flue and chimney systems, fuel, glass and components, as well as industry stakeholders such as testing laboratories, chimney sweep associations and competent persons schemes. In 2019, the SIA expanded to form the SIA Retail Group of independent stove and fireplace retailers who support the Group's pledge to promote the latest low carbon, low emission, Ecodesign compliant appliances.

From the outset, the SIA has sought to inform the public and governments about the carbon and cost saving benefits of wood burning stoves. The SIA has also successfully shown that modern wood burning stoves can reduce particulate emissions from wood burning compared to open fires and older wood burning stoves.

Key facts about wood burning stoves

A cost-effective way of heating homes:

- With an estimated 155,000 households in fuel poverty in Wales, access to a low cost, effective, efficient, and controllable source of single space heating is a necessity.
- Modern wood burning stoves using wood logs is one of the cheapest ways to heat your home, costing 72% less than electric heating, 13% less than mains gas and 23% less than an air source heat pump.
(Based on price per kWh of each heating type. Source: <https://nottenergy.com/resources/energy-cost-comparison/>).
- The average cost of a year's supply of kiln dried logs is £600-700.
- A wood burning stove will provide radiated heat to other rooms in the home, reducing the demand for fossil fuelled central heating.
- A modern Ecodesign compliant wood burning stove will use significantly less fuel than an open fire – just a 1/3 of the logs are needed to produce the same amount of heat.
- A good quality wood burning, or multi-fuel stove will cost between £1,000 to £1,500 on average – and installation costs approximately the same again.



A sustainable fuel source:

- Wood fuel is 100% renewable and sustainable when it is responsibly sourced from sustainably managed forestry.
- Modern wood burning stoves are entirely independent of the energy grid, offering a consistently reliable source of affordable heating, even in the event of a power cut.
- Heat pumps operate at a steady rate and are grid dependent – a modern wood stove can be paired with a heat pump to deliver fast, controllable, and low carbon heat to deal with temperature fluctuations and in the event of a power cut.

Low emissions and low carbon:

- The Ecodesign Regulation became a legal requirement in the UK on 1st January 2022 and sets tough new standards for wood burning stoves well beyond what used to be required for the UK CA mark.
- An Ecodesign compliant wood-burning used in the correct way emits up to 90% less PM_{2.5} than an open fire and up to 80% less than some very basic older stoves.
- Ecodesign stoves has technologically advanced designs which are engineered for optimum combustion (more information available on request).
- The emissions from Ecodesign stoves make up a very small percentage of total UK particulate matter emissions; 0.7% of total UK PM_{2.5} for stove using all solid fuel types and just 0.09% from Ecodesign stoves using dry wood. (Source: [National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory](#) & [Defra](#), 2021 figures).
- Ecodesign stoves are rated A-A+ according to Eco Label Energy ratings – stoves are rated A++ to G and the higher the rating, the better they can produce heat using less fuel. By comparison, open fires are rated G, the least energy efficient.
- The SIA encourages homeowners, where they can, to replace an open fire with a modern, Ecodesign stove, such as a [clearSkies certified model](#). All stoves certified within the scheme have had compliance with Ecodesign standards and Defra smoke control area exemption independently verified.
- Wood logs have the lowest carbon intensity of any domestic heating fuel – 87% less KgCO₂e per kWh than gas, 90% less than electricity and 74% less than an air source heat pump. (Source: <https://nottenergy.com/resources/energy-cost-comparison/>)
- Using renewable, sustainably sourced wood fuel instead of gas results in a typical carbon saving of over half a tonne of CO₂e a year.
- Over the course of a week's real-world use, despite media headlines to the contrary, a Euro 6 HGV produces 13 times more PM_{2.5} emissions than an Ecodesign wood-burning stove, such as a clearSkies certified model.



The Environment Air Quality and Soundscapes Wales Bill

The Bill will give Welsh Ministers the opportunity to set long term targets relating to air quality in Wales. The Bill places a duty on Welsh Ministers to make regulations in relation to the pollutant PM_{2.5} - most commonly linked to higher rates of mortality. There is also a requirement for the Clean Air Plan and National Soundscapes Plan to be updated following each Senedd election.

The Bill also amends the process for creating Local Air Quality Management by introducing two new requirements – an annual review of air quality by local authorities and a requirement that Air Quality Action Plans must contain a projected compliance date agreed by Welsh Ministers.

The enforcement regime for Smoke Control Areas (SCAs) is also changed. Currently, there are criminal offences for domestic burning which goes beyond set limits and use of unauthorised fuel, but Welsh Government intends to turn this into a civil enforcement regime and match the law in England. The Bill does not alter the rules on fuel and appliances which can be used in Smoke Control Areas, only the enforcement regime, which Welsh Government claims will lead to fewer prosecutions as there is a chance to take preventative measures.

Other parts of the Bill (but not directly connected to the SIA) introduce powers to tackle vehicle emissions, promoting awareness of air pollutants and a duty on Ministers to set out their intentions in relation to noise and soundscape, including the reduction of noise pollution.

What is the Stove Industry Association's view on the Bill?

The SIA welcomes the new Bill and is supportive of its general principles, as well as the setting of and reporting on air quality targets.

The SIA believes legislation that supports consumer choice and wellbeing is in line with both carbon reduction and sustainability, and anything that promotes best practice for domestic burning is one that is supported by the SIA.

The SIA is keen to engage with the Senedd and Welsh Government to ensure that this Bill is effective. Specifically, the SIA can assist with vital information and research on best practice for using wood burning stoves and reducing carbon emissions.

As the Bill progresses through each Stage, the SIA would like to outline some areas where it feels the Bill could build upon its core aims, and ask that the following is included within the Bill, or considered during the next Stages:

Sections 1-7 National air quality targets

- The SIA is supportive of the national air quality targets but wants specific dates and timeframes for these targets to be clarified within the Bill, or an indication from the Minister during Stage 2 as to potential timeframes.

Sections 9-11 (National air quality strategy) and Section 12 (air quality regulations)

- The SIA notes that the consultation on the review of the strategy does not currently reference industry, so it would be grateful if the industry is also included within the list of consultees on the face of the Bill.
- The SIA is a leading organisation with over 100 members, including the full range of manufacturers, distributors and retailers of fuel burning appliances, right the way across to chimney sweep associations. Approximately 80% of UK wide solid fuel appliance sales are manufactured by SIA members. The SIA strongly believes that representatives of industry can contribute to this type of consultation, including sharing information it has built up on domestic burning, and it is keen to ensure the strategy and regulations on air quality are robust and well thought out.

Sections 13-15 (local air quality management provisions)

- Finally, the SIA is also supportive of local air quality management provisions, and would welcome the opportunity to support local authorities with information for developing action plans which reference indoor domestic fuel under section 14.
- Although this does not necessarily need amendment within the Bill, an acknowledgement by the Minister and Members of the Senedd that the industry can help support local authorities in preparing and revising their action plans would be appreciated.
- For example, the SIA has experience in highlighting different types of domestic burning; raising awareness with the public on different types of fuel burning; and best practice communications via local authority websites which outline up to date information on solid fuel burning.