

## CLEAN AIR STRATEGY (CAS) — WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

The UK government aims to reduce particulate matter emissions by 30% by 2020, and by 46% by 2030 aiming to improve public health. Clean Air Zone (CAS) sets ambitious, legally-binding international targets to reduce emissions of five of the most damaging air pollutants (fine particulate matter, ammonia, nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide, non-methane volatile organic compounds) by 2020 and 2030.

- Legislate to prohibit the sale of the most polluting fuels.
- We will ensure that only the cleanest stoves are available for sale by 2022.
- Change existing smoke control legislation to make it easier to enforce.
- We will give new powers to local authorities to take action in areas of high pollution.
- Look for opportunities to align our work on air quality, clean growth and fuel poverty in future policy design.
- Improve awareness of the environmental and public health impacts of burning.

Restriction of fuels, there will be some exceptions such as to allow smaller businesses longer to restructure and comply but as a broad rule...

- Traditional bagged household coal—February 2021
- Loose coal from a merchant — February 2023
- Wet wood smaller than 2m3—February 2021

### Handy Websites

- [www.hetas.co.uk](http://www.hetas.co.uk)
- [www.woodsure.co.uk](http://www.woodsure.co.uk)
- [www.coalmerchants.co.uk](http://www.coalmerchants.co.uk)
- [www.smokecontrolsefton.co.uk](http://www.smokecontrolsefton.co.uk)

## SMOKE CONTROL AREAS (SCA'S)

Certain areas of Sefton have been declared as SCA's. See these areas in the maps below or visit [www.sefton.gov.uk](http://www.sefton.gov.uk) and search for "Smoke Control Areas".

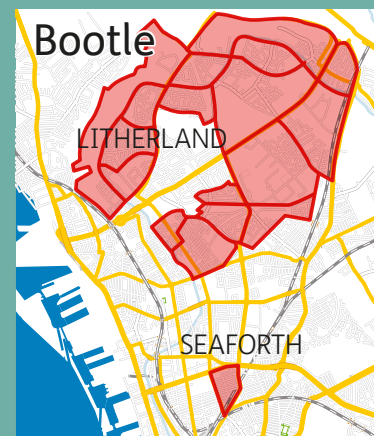
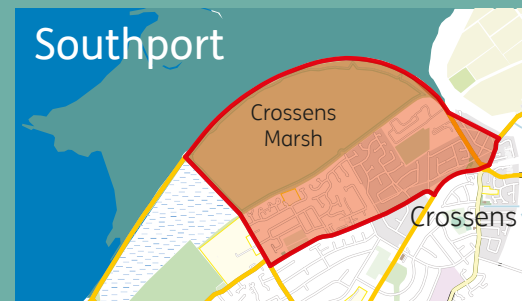
The only fuels which can be burnt in SCA's are

- Anthracite
- Semi-anthracite
- Gas
- Low volatile steam coal
- Other authorised smokeless fuels

Alternative which you can use in a DEFRA

Exempt appliance eg log burner (Wood)

Breaking the rules of a SCA can lead to a £1000 fine.



## GETTING THE BEST OUT OF YOUR STOVE



Sefton Council 

## REGULAR MAINTENANCE OF THE STOVE

It is important to have your stove regularly maintained by a professional, however, there are some things which you can do yourself to ensure your stove runs efficiently, this is safer for your family and the environment.

- Remove the ash from a wood burner every few days, wood burns well on a bed of ash but too much ash can be dangerous.
- Dip a piece of damp newspaper into this ash and use it to clean the glass of your stove—too much ash building up can mean that the stove is not burning optimally though.
- Use the correct fuel for your stove.
- Test the rope seals around the door when your stove is cold. The door should trap a piece of newspaper when shut, if it does not then you have a seal issue. Your stove will be less efficient and will release carbon monoxide into your home, so it is best to replace every few years.
- Clean the outside using a soft, dry cloth—a wet cloth can cause rust.
- Light and control the burning in your stove according to the manufacturers recommendations — a chimney sweep can help with this if you are unsure. A flue thermometer can help you to determine if the fire is burning properly.
- Ensure that your Carbon Monoxide alarm is working and by regularly testing it and replacing the battery as necessary.

## FUEL

The type of fuel you use in your stove can have a large impact on the emissions from your stove as these emissions can be harmful, it is important to use the best fuel possible! The fuel used must suit the stove, for example coal cannot be burnt on a log burner, log burners are manufactured differently to multi-fuel burners.

### Wood

It is strongly advised to not burn “wet” fresh cut wood. Wet logs have a high moisture content, this means they when they are burnt, energy needs to be used to dry them. By using wood with a moisture content lower than 20% you will get more heat from the same sized log. Wood can be kiln dried or seasoned and dry wood will usually feature a “ready to burn” label. It is also important to only burn pure wood. Paint, lacquer and other contaminants on waste wood will give off harmful pollutants.

### Coal

Traditional house coal produces a lot of polluting smoke which is bad for the environment, your stove and even your health! Smokeless coal burns hotter than traditional and for up to 40% longer!

### Alternative Fuels

Burning rubbish is even more harmful than fresh logs and coal as it produces even more pollutants and often particularly dangerous chemicals when burning plastic and other toxic substances. On the other hand, pure wood briquettes are an effective fuel which burn incredibly cleanly.

Even though these approved fuels may seem more expensive, they are of a higher quality and the same amount of fuel will give you a fire that burns hotter for longer and they can reduce maintenance costs—this makes them better value overall.

## BUYING AND INSTALLATION

If you have been handed this leaflet by a retailer then you have likely already brought your stove, ask the same person for an installer recommendation!

If you have not yet chosen your stove, ask to see the Eco Design and DEFRA exempt stoves, these are certified as less polluting and so are better for your families health. There are a lot of complicated steps to installation including checking the integrity of the chimney, following building regulations and keeping yourself and your family safe—mistakes can be fatal! Lots of installers are registered with a Competent Persons Scheme (CPS), this means that they can sign off their own work as meeting building regulations. The main CPS for solid fuel is HETAS. If you use a non-competent person then you will be liable to pay the fee for a building control visit, this will cost you £204! If building control notice any problems then you will also be liable for the cost of fixing these but could also be risking your health and safety.

## SWEEPING

It is incredibly important to make sure that your chimney is professionally swept. As a result of burning, creosote can build up in the chimney, this can lead to a chimney fire or carbon monoxide poisoning.

If you were to encounter these problems and do not have a certificate to prove that your chimney has been swept then your home insurers could refuse to pay out!

A professional is a member of a professional body such as National Association of Chimney Sweeps, Sweep Safe or Association of Professional Independent Chimney Sweeps. It is advised that you get your chimney swept...

### Annually

- Smokeless Coal

### Twice a year

- Bituminous House Coal
- Wood

If you would like any more information on any of these topics, please visit [www.hetas.co.uk](http://www.hetas.co.uk), [www.sefton.gov.uk](http://www.sefton.gov.uk) or phone 0345 140 0845