

[Press release: Call for evidence to help improve air quality launched](#)

Householders and businesses are being asked for their views on proposals to cut harmful emissions caused by the burning of dirtier fuels.

A [call for evidence](#) on the use of house coal, smokeless coal, manufactured solid fuels and wet wood used for heating homes has today been launched to help the government reduce harmful emissions of soot and smoke, as action continues to improve air quality.

The government is considering a range of options to tackle these emissions, these include:

- Encouraging consumers to switch from house coal by only allowing the sale of low sulphur smokeless alternatives
- switching from wet wood to dry wood
- the introduction of sulphur limits for all smokeless solid fuels
- and new powers for local authorities to take action for persistent smoke offences where local amenity is harmed
- The government is not considering banning domestic burning, and is not seeking to prevent the use or installation of wood-burning stoves

The call for evidence will inform our understanding of what impact these measures could have if introduced.

While we are keen to encourage consumers to switch to cleaner wood burning, which will directly benefit them in their homes and improve the local environment, the government is not considering banning domestic burning. Many households have installed wood-burning stoves, and we are not seeking to prevent their use or installation.

While air quality in the UK has improved significantly in recent decades, with reductions in emissions of all of the key pollutants, domestic burning of house coal (the typical black fuel), smokeless solid fuels (smokeless coal, for example, or manufactured solid fuels which are made from coal and other ingredients) and wood are the single largest contributors of harmful particulate matter (PM) emissions, accounting for around 40% of total UK PM_{2.5} emissions in 2015. In fact, a wood burning stove can emit more PM than a diesel HGV or passenger car.

The tiny particles in smoke can enter the bloodstream and have been found in internal organs risking long term health issues as well as having more immediate impacts in some people such as breathing problems or asthma attacks.

Environment Minister Thérèse Coffey said:

We all have a role to play in improving the air we breathe. Many of

us enjoy a cosy fire in our homes, but burning dirtier fuel has a real impact on the quality of air for our family and friends around us.

We must be mindful that pollution is about more than just transport. Poor air quality affects public health, the economy, and the environment, which is why we are determined to do more. However, if we make the switch to burning cleaner domestic fuel, we can continue to enjoy burning wood and smokeless coal in stoves and fires in our homes.

Many consumers are unaware of the impact on their health or the environment from burning solid fuels, or indeed which are the cleanest fuels to buy. That is why the government is already working with industry to raise consumer awareness of the benefits of cleaner fuels, such as 'Ready to Burn' wood, where a logo clearly identifies wood that is certified as clean and ready to burn.

Consumers can already take action by buying the most efficient stove, using high quality fuel and regularly servicing their appliance.

Last year the government confirmed it would end the sale of all new conventional petrol and diesel cars by 2040 as part of a £3.5 billion plan to tackle nitrogen dioxide emissions. The UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations produced by Defra and the Department for Transport, outlined how councils with the worst levels of air pollution at busy road junctions and hotspots must take robust action.

The call for evidence will feed into the government's Clean Air Strategy, which will be published for consultation in 2018. This will further address wider sources of air pollution.

Open consultation: Air quality: domestic burning of house coal, smokeless coal, manufactured solid fuels and wet wood – call for evidence

We are seeking evidence and data on the use of solid fuels such as house coal, smokeless coal, manufactured solid fuels and wet wood for domestic heating.

We are interested in the effect on householders of shifting from burning the more polluting fuels such as house coal and wet wood, towards less polluting

fuels such as low sulphur smokeless fuels and dry wood.

We are also interested in the effect on businesses, for example on those selling stoves, fuels or providing maintenance services for whom domestic burning forms an integral part of their business.

Your responses will feed into the government's Clean Air Strategy which will be published for consultation in 2018. This will set out how we will work towards our international commitments and continue to deliver air quality improvements in the UK.

Barony Brexit event a big draw

Continuing uncertainty over Brexit means farmers should waste no time in reviewing their businesses and also make full use of developments and technology.

Transparency data: Teesport Harbour Revision Order 2008 time extension

Updated: EIA Consent Decision notices added

PD Teesport applied to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) under article 6 of S.I. 2008 No. 1160, the Teesport Harbour Revision Order 2008 (the Order), for an extension of the period for completion of the works authorised by the Order by 10 years, setting a new deadline of 7 May 2028 for the completion of the works.

The MMO granted the time extension of the Order on 1 May 2018.

Due to file size constraints not all documents have been uploaded to the public register, if you wish to be provided with these please contact the harbour orders team via the harbourorders@marinemanagement.org.uk inbox.

News story: Have your say on marine planning in England

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is inviting stakeholders to get involved in the next stage of the marine planning process for the North East, North West, South East and South West.

Workshops are running throughout February and March and will provide an ideal opportunity for stakeholders to check progress towards the development of marine plans in their area. The workshops will be supported by an opportunity to respond on-line.

The engagement will focus on:

- Draft marine plan area visions.
- Draft options to address issues in each marine plan area.

For more information on marine plan areas and to subscribe to marine planning follow the links below:

[North West](#)

[South East](#)

[South West](#)

[North East](#)

Consultation workshops are taking place on the following dates and locations:

Area	Location	Venue	Date
North West	Whitehaven	Beacon Portal	07/02/18
North West	Liverpool	Adelphi Hotel	08/02/18
South East	Chatham	Sun Pier House	21/02/18
South East	London	The Wesley Euston	22/02/18
South West	Newquay	The Headland Hotel	06/03/18
South West	Plymouth	Future Inn	07/03/18
South West	Weston-super-Mare	The Winter Gardens	08/03/18
North East	Seahouses	The Hub	20/03/18
North East	Newcastle	Copthorne Hotel	21/03/18
North East	Middlesbrough	Middlesbrough Football Club	22/03/18

You can [sign up](#) for the workshops now.

Further information

- There are 11 English marine plan areas, including inshore and offshore

areas. Each area will be covered by a marine plan by 2021 with a 20 year view of activities.

- Marine planning addresses the key issues for the marine area, including the coast, estuaries and tidal waters, as well as developments that impact on these areas. The plans will include a vision and objectives together with policies to achieve them.
- Marine plans are used by public authorities as part of the decision-making process for all new activities and developments in or affecting the marine area.
- Marine plans build on the requirements of the Marine and Coastal Access Act and the Marine Policy Statement.

About marine planning

MMO has produced a short animation called 'What is marine planning?' to explain marine planning.

[Video](#)

Find out more about [marine planning](#).