

Key Arguments Against the Scottish New Build Heat Standard and the proposed Heat in Buildings Bill

Woodburning stoves are the lowest carbon emitting heating available for homes, with a carbon intensity 1/19th of direct electric heating.

As we strive to reduce our emissions in the move to a net zero world why are we seeking to exclude the lowest carbon emitting source of heat from the market? A modern woodburning stove emits approximately 1/5th the emissions of a heat pump (at current grid carbon intensity). Sustainable forestry produces wood fuel, so why not use it in a modern efficient stove and achieve affordable low carbon heat? Manufactured mineral fuel producers are also reducing their carbon emissions by incorporating biogenic material. The latest stoves emit up to 90% less particulate matter than an open fire whilst burning a third of the fuel for the same heat thus giving an even greater emissions reduction.

Woodburning stoves give the fuel poor the ability to heat their home cheaply, reducing gas and electricity bills while maintaining low carbon heat.

The cost of renovating existing housing stock (insulation, heat pumps, new radiators etc.) should not be underestimated and nor should the importance of local or *secondary* space-heating in household's heating strategy. The fireplace setting is ingrained in our national psyche and a modern state-of-the-art woodburning stove allows sustainable low carbon heat for all. There are many reports of vulnerable householders who have invested in new heat technology and been faced with soaring electric bills. The fact is that a solid fuel stove complements all other low carbon, steady state heat emitters by being able to provide low carbon top-up heat almost instantly in the room it is needed rather than having to wait for the whole house to be heated. A modern stove can be beneficial for older, poorly insulated properties as they are highly effective at providing space heating and reducing condensation, helping to alleviate mould and damp.

Modern woodburning stoves offer security and resilience to householders but also to the electricity grid and gas networks.

Having a modern stove as a local space heating appliance ensures heat is always available in the event of a power cut and offers a cushion against fluctuating gas and electricity prices. A modern stove as a secondary heat source offers grid resilience and protects the vulnerable by ensuring a reliable source of heat in the event of power cut and/or extreme weather conditions. Encouraging replacement of open fires and old stoves with modern Ecodesign stoves will, reduce carbon emissions, reduce fuel use, reduce smoke emissions, and increase energy security and resilience. If we wish to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality, switching an open fire or older stove with a modern, Ecodesign compliant stove model (e.g. one that is [clearSkies certified](#)) should be actively encouraged.

The stove industry contributes around £60 million annually to the Scottish economy and supports 2,000 jobs, producing highly engineered technology which is low carbon and reduces other emissions significantly compared to open fires.

In addition to the direct supply chain the wood stove industry directly facilitates sustainable woodland practice. Thinning of woodland is essential for ensuring biodiversity, and generates wood logs, the sale of which are an essential economic driver in sustainable management practice. It should be noted that many of these jobs are also part of the rural economy and

Scotland is blessed with excellent woodland coverage. UK-wide, the stove industry is estimated to be around £750million per annum supporting 25,000 jobs.

A real fire brings wellbeing benefits, a focal point for family life, mental health benefits and economic and financial benefits.

We would argue that being able to provide heat for your family is a basic human right. Many householders produce or amass their own wood to burn, and burning this on a modern stove provides controllable, low carbon heat in the space it is needed. Can the removal of this right be justified? Furthermore, a recent study shows that there are significant benefits of residential combustion beyond just a secondary heating source, and that the benefits are multifaceted and likely vary between individuals.