

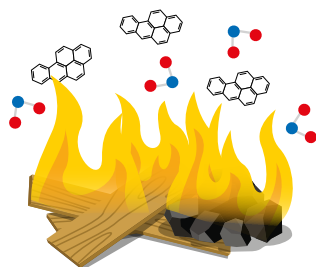


HOUSEHOLD HEATING AND AIR QUALITY

Saving energy and money

Almost 80% of the energy used in EU households is for heating and hot water. Cutting emissions from household heating improves the quality of the air we breathe, benefits our health and the environment and saves money.

Although emissions from residential heating are decreasing, they are still a major source of air pollution. More action is needed to encourage the switch to cleaner fuels and more efficient heating, which is good for the air, good for the climate, and good for our wallets.



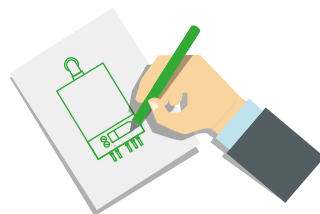
Particulate matter, benzo[a]pyrene and volatile organic compounds from **burning wood and coal** harm human health.



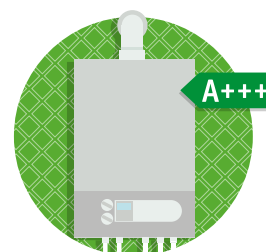
Over **400 000 premature deaths** in the EU every year are linked to air pollution.



In Europe, **about 50%** of primary fine particulate matter emissions are related to heating.



Efficient eco-design boilers can emit **over 80% less particulate matter** than traditional ones.



More efficient heaters can save up to **135 million tonnes** of **CO₂** by 2030, helping to **fight climate change**.

District heating can **reuse waste heat** from existing industry and clean energy sources.

Not all wood and coal are equal. If they are used, choose **high-quality, low-polluting** types.

Good practice household heating

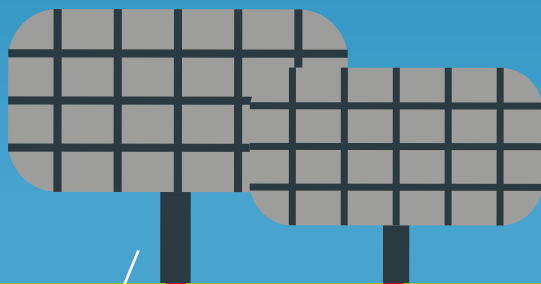
If wood and coal are used, install efficient, low-emission boilers that comply with EU eco-design rules

Use Solar power

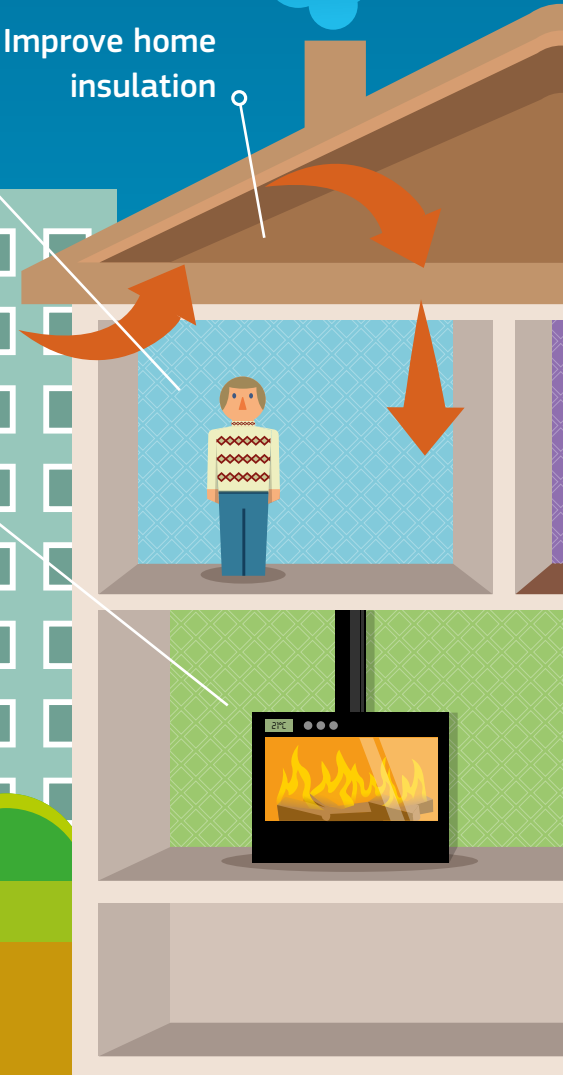
Carry out energy audits

Put on a jumper

Improve home insulation



Use district heating



LIFE support for cleaner residential heating

The EU LIFE programme funds environment and climate action, with a budget of **EUR 3.4 billion** for **2014-2020**. For example, these two LIFE-funded projects are improving air quality in European homes.



Małopolska air quality plan

Małopolska in southern Poland is one of the most polluted regions in the EU. Here, old household boilers are a major source of air pollution, linked to breathing problems and some forms of cancer.

The project provides advice to help local governments develop policies to modernise household heating in their region. Households can then switch to cleaner energy, such as district heating or boilers that comply with the latest rules.

<https://www.powietrze.malopolska.pl/en/life-project>

Ways to cut heating emissions

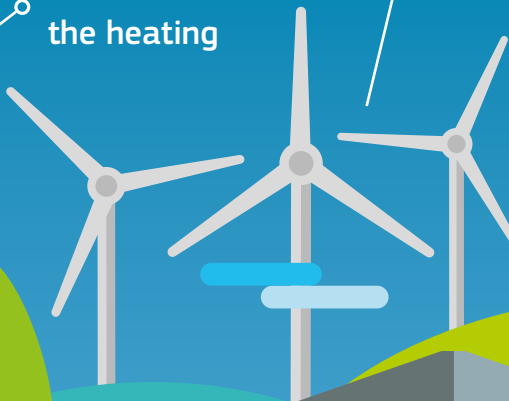
Install thermostats and automatic temperature controls



Turn down the heating



Use wind power



Use biogas



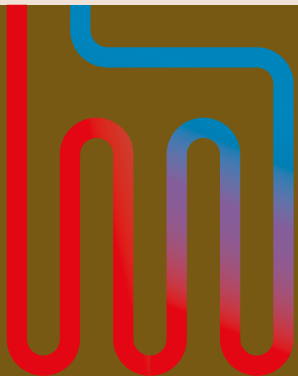
Stop using waste, wood, coal and fuel oil



Install heat pumps



Take advantage of geothermal energy



Efficient solid-fuel boilers can save EU consumers collectively over **EUR 140 million annually** by 2030.

Individual households can save up to **EUR 1 050** over the lifetime of a highly efficient solid-fuel boiler compared to a conventional model.

Clean Heat

This project aims to reduce particulate emissions from wood burning, which is still a common means of producing heat and heating water in many areas of Europe.

It shares data with consumers and decision-makers to raise awareness of the harm caused by traditional burning of wood as fuel. It promotes alternative heat sources, cleaner stoves and boilers, wood-stove labelling and effective ways to measure particulate emissions — allowing for better-informed choices about sustainable heating.

<https://www.clean-heat.eu>



Eco-design update

New EU eco-design rules will apply to solid-fuel boilers and stoves that produce up to 500 kW heat (enough for a large home or business), from 1 January 2020, and will start to apply to solid-fuel stoves that produce up to 50 kW heat from 1 January 2022.

In addition to standards on heating efficiency, there are also strict caps on emissions of particulate matter, nitrogen oxide and carbon monoxide.

The rules include requirements for additional information on using and repairing boilers safely, and on suitable fuels and their emissions.



EU initiatives

EU initiatives to protect Europe's air include the following.

EU Clean Air Forum. Brings together decision-makers, stakeholders and experts to discuss topics such as health, energy, agriculture and funding.

Dialogues with EU Member States. Regular meetings between the European Commission and individual Member States on air quality.

Environmental implementation review. Commission reports every 2 years on progress of Member States in implementing EU rules.

Suitability check of ambient air quality directives. Regular Commission reviews to eliminate red tape, gaps and conflicts with other rules.

#CleanAirEU

EU funding and actions for cleaner air:

 <http://bit.ly/2xA9sCY>

 https://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/index_en.htm

 https://twitter.com/EU_ENV

 <https://www.facebook.com/EUEnvironment>



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