

»»» NEWSLETTER «««

# SANDWELL AIR QUALITY

Working with faith centres to improve local air quality



## TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

### SMOKE CONTROL AREA

What is it?

»»» **READ MORE**

Sandwell will be a Smoke Control Area from 1 July 2024. Do you know the rules?



**READ MORE** «««

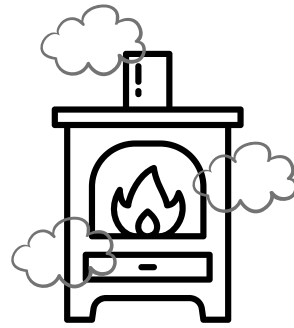
After more than 2 years of raising awareness about air pollution in 16 faith centres across Sandwell it's time for us to report back our findings to Defra whose grant funding enabled this project. Now more than ever we need your support to help understand the project's impact. Please encourage your faith community members to fill in the project survey, the link is on page 3.

### FINAL PROJECT SURVEY

Share with your centres!

# SMOKE CONTROL AREA

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



### »»» ALL OF SANDWELL IS NOW A SMOKE CONTROL AREA FROM 1 JULY

Previously, Sandwell had over 50 small pockets of Smoke Control Areas, created between the 1950's and 1970's. As the popularity of wood burning stoves is on the rise, the amount of harmful air pollutants (PM2.5) coming from wood burning stoves has been increasing. PM2.5 has a dangerous impact on health, so Sandwell Council has taken steps to protect the health of the entire borough from emissions by widening the Smoke Control Areas to cover the entire borough, just like Birmingham and Dudley.

## FROM 1 JULY 2024

- You cannot release smoke from a chimney.
- You can only burn authorised fuel, unless you use an appliance approved by Defra (also known as an 'exempt appliance' or 'Defra approved appliance').

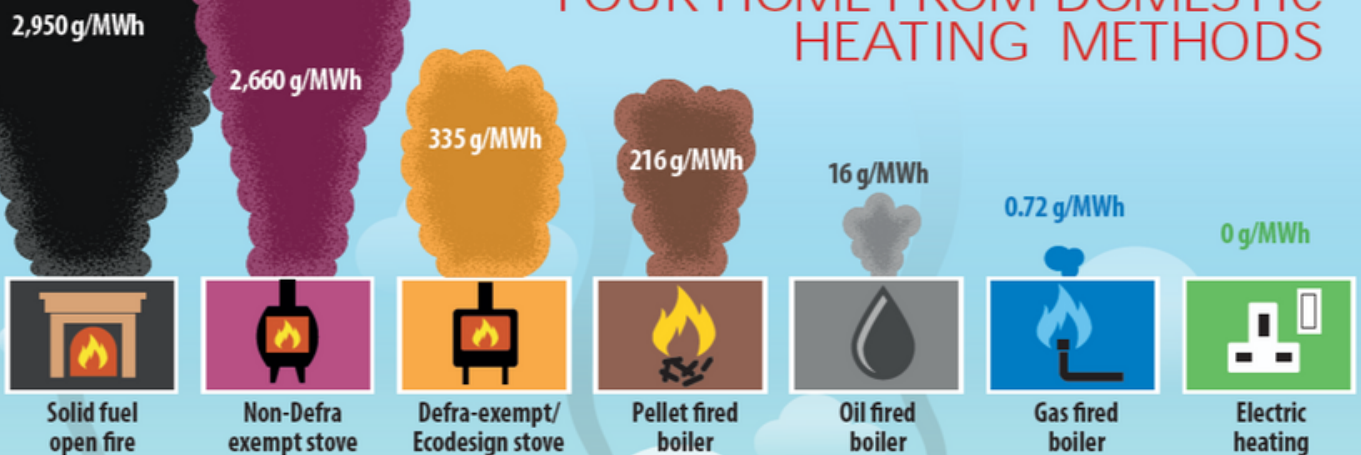
### »»» MONEY, HEALTH & THE ENVIRONMENT

Research shows that in a typical urban household, the annual cost of using an existing wood burner is 15% higher than a gas boiler. When a household uses a newly installed wood burner for 20% of its heat, its yearly cost is 24% more than a gas boiler.

The only situation where burning wood to heat your home is cheaper is if your wood is free- but salvaged wood is often dangerous for your health. Scrap wood that hasn't been properly dried or seasoned or has coatings such as varnish or paint can be extremely toxic when burned. Damp or treated wood can also cause tar to build up inside chimneys and flues resulting in chimney fires.



## RELATIVE PM<sub>2.5</sub> EMISSIONS IN YOUR HOME FROM DOMESTIC HEATING METHODS



VERY DIRTY

LESS DIRTY

CLEAN

# FINAL PROJECT SURVEY

## >>> ASK YOUR CENTRE MEMBERS

Defra (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) who helped fund the 'Faith Communities for Clean Air Project' want to understand more about it's impact. To do this we have a final evaluation survey. Your feedback is essential. Was it worth doing? Did it have any impact on you or your family? Have you made any changes to reduce your air pollution emissions?

Let us know at this link, by scanning the QR code below, or completing one of the paper copies in the lobby of each centre or find the survey online at <https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/consumer-advice/air-quality/6>

The survey is available in English, Nepali, Arabic, Punjabi, Kurdish, Urdu, Kurdish and Gujarat.

## >>> LEADER FEEDBACK

Thank you to the project leaders from each of the centres who has filled in the feedback form. If you are missing the form or haven't filled it in yet, please get in contact with us via email. Your feedback and thoughts on the project are invaluable to the project, and will help shape the way air pollution is tackled in Sandwell in the future.



## >>> TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE AIR QUALITY PROJECT

Email Sophie at [sophie\\_morris@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:sophie_morris@sandwell.gov.uk) if you would like to provide more feedback about the project or if you have ideas of what you would like to see Sandwell Council implement to support improvements in local air quality!

**SCAN THIS QR CODE WITH YOUR SMART PHONE CAMERA:**

