



PRESS RELEASE

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Renewable heating and fuel alternatives combat climate change and rising energy prices

The challenge of protecting our environment and making the most of household budgets feels like it's never been greater. It can be all too easy to put environmental concerns on the back burner when there are money worries too, but renewable options don't have to cost the earth.

Tanau Caernarfon Fires is keen to help local residents understand the benefits of renewable heating and fuel alternatives that could both assist with tackling rising costs while safeguarding the environment.

Pam Jones, Senior Sales Manager, Tanau Caernarfon Fires explains; "The cost of living crisis is dominating headlines and the squeeze on household incomes is only set to tighten with a further rise in energy prices later in the year. Wood burners are a tried and trusted way to heat your home, with modern stoves being the most efficient and eco-friendly options ever."

The main environmental concern regarding wood burning stoves is the release of Particulate Matter (PM) into the atmosphere from burning wood or solid fuels, specifically PM2.5, and the effect this has on air quality.

"What many homeowners don't realise," continues Pam Jones, "is that modern stoves can be much safer for the environment, they are rigorously tested for efficiency and emissions under new UK legislation. A new wood burning stove emits up to 90% less emissions than an open fire and up to 80% less than a stove that is 10 or more years old, and burning the right fuel also makes a huge difference."

The HETAS Cleaner Choice scheme exists to help people to make more informed choices when choosing an appliance that will reduce their own air quality impacts. Calvin May, HETAS Head of Technical Services adds, "The Cleaner Choice scheme has been designed to be easy to understand and clearly signposts the cleanest-burning appliances and fuels. While focused on particulate emissions, approval also provides assurance that the appliance listed meets all the relevant regulations in the UK, including safety and performance requirements, correct operation, and correct installation for HETAS registrants.

In terms of fueling wood burning stoves, using 'Ready to Burn' wood fuel gives a better burn due to its lower moisture content of 20% or less. This means that it burns with less smoke than wetter wood, which also helps reduce pollution from burning. The 'Ready to Burn' certified fuel scheme is backed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and you can easily spot the right fuel by looking for the 'Ready to Burn' logo."

HETAS Chief Executive, Bruce Allen comments, "Currently, indoor heating is the only part of the whole domestic burning arena that's regulated but this is just one small part of the whole picture. While there aren't regulations for outdoor stoves and wood-fired ovens, there are still

steps you can take to make them more efficient. Using 'Ready to Burn' fuel for these appliances can reduce their environmental impact. The Government is looking at air quality from all sources and we would always encourage people to consider their impact on the environment in the absence of legal requirements."

Here, Tanau Caernarfon Fires shares their top tips for reducing the environmental impact of new and old stoves alike:

- Ensure existing appliances are properly checked with an annual service by a HETAS registered competent tradesperson to make sure it's working safely and efficiently.
- When purchasing a new appliance, look out for HETAS Cleaner Choice approval. These stoves must meet more stringent emissions testing limits at multiple heat outputs in order to be approved.
- Burn 'Ready to Burn' fuel. This is wood verified to have a lower moisture content (up to 20%), or other solid fuels certified as meeting maximum particulate limits which are proven to reduce emissions.
- Operate the appliance and burn fuel in accordance with the appliance manufacturer instructions.

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