

Clean Air

- ◆ Through these new changes the most polluting solid fuels will be taken off the market.
- ◆ Unapproved solid fuels will be prohibited from sale and distribution across the State.
- ◆ These measures will help to improve the environment and to protect human health from the harmful emissions which result from the burning of solid fuels.
- ◆ Only “**APPROVED SOLID FUELS**” will be available for purchase in the State. These fuels must meet specified emission criteria.

Health

- ◆ Each year in Ireland some 1,300 people die because of poor air quality caused by fine particulate matter primarily associated with domestic solid fuel burning.
- ◆ These deaths come because of increased fine particulate matter in the air which can cause **strokes, heart diseases, lung cancer, acute and chronic respiratory diseases**. There are many other illnesses and conditions, such as dementia and impacts on the central nervous and reproductive systems, which have been linked to or are exacerbated by poor air quality.
- ◆ Air monitoring results in 2021 from EPA stations across Ireland show that fine particulate matter (PM2.5), mainly from burning solid fuel in our homes, and nitrogen dioxide (NO2) mainly from road traffic, remain the main threats to good air quality," the EPA said.
- ◆ By using “**APPROVED SOLID FUELS**” you are making a choice for better health and a cleaner environment for you, your family and your neighbours.

How To Contact Us

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Change is in the Air

The new Solid Fuel Regulations have been introduced to improve air quality and to protect human health.

CARLOW
COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHEATHARLOCHA



What Can I Burn ?

Coal Products

All coal products must now meet new standards for emissions. Traditional smoky coals cannot meet the new standards and are prohibited from sale.

Wood

Fuel products which are 100% biomass including wood products and wood logs, these fuels must achieve a moisture content less than 25% (reducing to less than 20% by 2025).

Turf

Whilst there is no ban on the burning of turf, the new regulations prohibit the sale of turf via online and other media, retail and public places.

The new regulations do not impact on turf cutting rights.

The new regulations do not prohibit or restrict the cutting, burning, and gifting of turf by those who hold traditional turf cutting rights.

Other

Fire logs and fire bags will be subject to the new regulations.

Firelighters and wood kindling are permitted for ignition purposes.

The burning of turf is permitted as long as it does not cause a significant level of air pollution or a nuisance under the Air Pollution Act 1987.

In addition, the burning of other non-approved fuels is permitted for now, to allow householders to use up any non-approved fuels they may already have purchased before the regulations came into effect, as long as it does not cause a significant level of air pollution or a nuisance under the Air Pollution Act 1987.

Fuel Suppliers

All solid fuel suppliers must only supply **“APPROVED SOLID FUELS”**. It is an offence to sell any products which do not comply with the new regulations.

How will I know if I am buying an **“APPROVED SOLID FUEL”**?

The packaging of approved solid fuels must be labelled with the words:

“Contents comply with the Air Pollution Act Regulations”.

The packaging must show a registration number issued by the EPA to the fuel producer and, it must have details of the product.

What will happen if I burn unapproved fuel?

If a householder has leftover unapproved fuel from last winter, they can use this up. When this supply is finished householders will no longer be legally able to purchase further supplies of unapproved fuels.

How will the new regulations be enforced?

Carlow County Council is responsible for the enforcement of the regulations for the commercial sector and will be carrying out regular site inspections on all fuel suppliers (wholesale and retail), coal lorries and deliveries etc. to ensure compliance with the law. Various agencies are involved in monitoring for compliance of the regulations and standards of approved fuels.

What is the air quality like in Carlow Town?

(Station 54) Carlow Town air quality station: Online real-time results for particulate matter PM10, PM2.5 (small particles which can penetrate the lungs and cause damage) can be found at <https://airquality.ie/station/EPA-54>