

winter air report

Ashburton

October 2006

Ashburton's smog creates major difficulties for people with respiratory problems and ruins the image of our clean, green country. And yet the source of the problem, however, is not motor vehicles or industry – 80% of the particles discharged into our air are estimated to come from solid fuel burning for home heating.

2013 and beyond

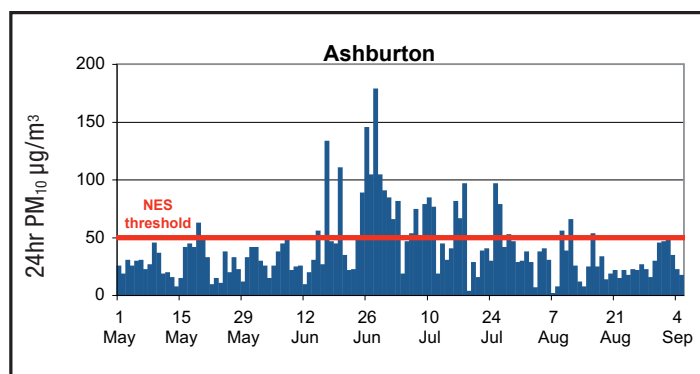
Winter air pollution from home fires is a real problem. It damages the image of Canterbury and seriously affects the health and well-being of its people. The National Environmental Standards for Air Quality (NES) require improvement in air quality between now and 2013 if we are to avoid potential limitations on our regional economy.

The NES requires all regions to have no more than one high pollution day per year after 1 September 2013. The NES also includes woodburner standards. Environment Canterbury's Proposed Air Plan is one way of working towards achieving this requirement.

Winter 2006

This winter, Ashburton had 28 high pollution days, the highest number in the four years air pollution has been monitored in the town. In previous years, this number was between 13 and 18. The highest concentration this winter was 178 compared to the highest in previous years of 97.

The number of high pollution days that occurs each winter depends on the weather as well as how much pollution is going into the air. Calm weather experienced by inland towns this winter played a part in the higher number of air pollution days in Ashburton this winter.



Keeping warm

Canterbury residents can now easily access information about the rules for open fires, woodburners and other solid fuel burners.

A new brochure, "The rules for keeping warm in Canterbury", has been produced by Environment Canterbury. The brochure includes maps with the two Christchurch Clean Air Zones and also information about properties inside and outside these zones. There is also information about saving money on running costs and what types of wood to use. For a copy of the brochure, please call Environment Canterbury's Customer Services on 03 353 9007 or 0800 324 636, or visit www.ecan.govt.nz/air.

The rules for keeping warm in Canterbury

If you live in Canterbury these are the rules for open fires, woodburners and other solid fuel burners.



What's happening with the Air Plan?

Submitters on Chapters 1-3 of the Proposed Canterbury Natural Resources Regional Plan (Proposed Air Plan) have had the opportunity to be heard. These hearings were adjourned in January 2006 and the Hearing Commissioners are expected to report to Council with their recommendations in late 2006. Council will then notify its decisions in 2007. If there are no appeals, the Air Plan will be treated as operative.

Guide to graph: NES is the National Environmental Standards threshold and is set at 50 micrograms of particulate per cubic metre of air which should not be breached more than once a year by 2013.

Environment Canterbury

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