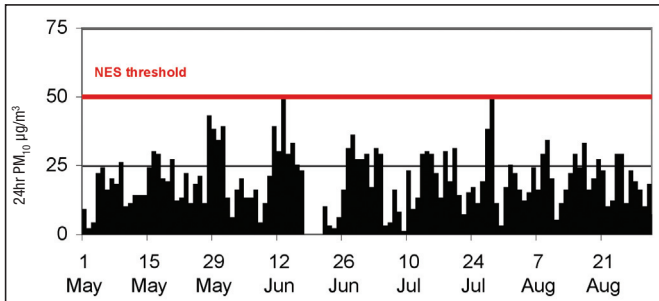


winterairreport - Waimate

May - August 2007

Canterbury's winter-time air pollution from solid fuel fires is a real problem. It damages the image of Canterbury and seriously affects the health and well-being of our residents. Environment Canterbury is working with your local communities and councils to clear the air.



NES is the National Environmental Standards threshold and is set at 50 micrograms of particulate per cubic metre of air. Only one exceedance of this level is allowed after 1 September 2013.

Waimate's air pollution this winter

Waimate had no high air pollution nights this winter compared to 10 days to the end of August last year, when snow and colder temperatures meant Waimate residents may have used their solid fuelburners more often to keep their houses warm. The highest recording in Waimate was 50 on June 13 this year. Environment Canterbury has monitored Waimate's air quality in 2002, 2003 and 2006, when the maximum concentration of 95 was reached in the town. In 2003 there were six high pollution nights and only one in 2002.

The number of high pollution nights each winter depends on the weather as well as how much air pollution is produced. The worst pollution usually happens after sunset on clear, calm and cold nights, often when a frost is forecast.

2013 – just six years away!

Only one high pollution night a year is the target of the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality (NES). The deadline for this is 1 September 2013 – just six years away! We all need to work together to make this happen. Converting your home to clean heat appliances, burning dry wood and insulating your home can make a difference.

Air pollution damages health

Air pollution is damaging to people's health. Babies, young children, people with breathing problems and older people are most affected by the tiny, invisible pollution particles that lodge in people's lungs – even indoors when the doors and windows are shut. We need to clear the air for everybody's sake.

Building or renovating: think clean heat and insulation

If you are renovating or building now is the time to think about including clean heat options and insulating ceilings, floors and walls to keep your house warm. More than 40% of any heat generated inside your home escapes through the ceilings. Windows and doors should also be sealed for draughts and curtains closed at sunset to retain as much heat as possible.

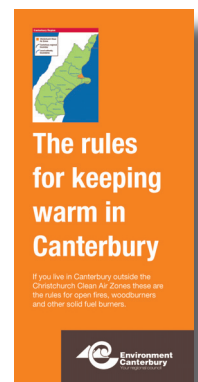
Dry wood: More heat, less air pollution

If you do have a woodburner or open fire, make sure your wood is dry and has a moisture content of less than 20%. Burning dry wood creates less air pollution and provides up to 40% more heat. Get next season's wood soon and stack it well so it has plenty of time to dry out before next winter.

A wide range of clean heat options to suit you

If you are considering changing to cleaner heating options for your home, the list of authorised heating appliances has been updated. Heat pumps and pellet fires are a popular choice for many Canterbury residents, along with approved woodburners. For more information visit Environment Canterbury's website www.ecan.govt.nz/approved-woodburners. By clicking on a map of your area you will see a list of all heating appliances that can be installed in your home without a resource consent.

Waimate residents can also easily access information about the rules for open fires, woodburners and other solid fuel burners. "The rules for keeping warm in Canterbury" contains information about whether you need a resource consent for your solid fuel burner. For a copy of the brochure please call Environment Canterbury Customer Services on 0800 324 636, or visit www.ecan.govt.nz/air.



For more information about Environment Canterbury's Air Plan, visit www.ecan.govt.nz/Air/AirPlan.