

Press Statement

Date: 20 June 2025

Government Spending Review Commitment to Local Authority Funding and Air Quality Improvements

The Stove Industry Association (SIA) welcomes the announcement in the UK Government's latest Spending Review, which confirms £3.4 billion in core grant funding to local authorities by 2028-29. The real-terms annual increase of 3.1% and the inclusion of funding streams specifically allocated for air quality improvements is a positive step in supporting healthier, more sustainable communities.

Commenting on the Review Andy Hill, Chair of the SIA, said:

“As a key stakeholder in the drive to improve air quality, the SIA is encouraged by the Government’s recognition of the need for continued investment in this area. We hope to see this funding used positively and proactively at the local level, supporting a range of practical initiatives that deliver measurable environmental and public health benefits.

“In particular, we urge local authorities to consider targeted appliance replacement schemes that enable households to upgrade to modern Ecodesign-compliant stoves, which produce up to 90% fewer emissions than open fires and older appliances. Additionally, we believe that a portion of the funding should be dedicated to the rational and fair enforcement of Smoke Control Area (SCA) legislation—an essential component of ensuring compliance while supporting consumer choice and responsible stove use.

“We also advocate for the endorsement and promotion of mandatory chimney sweeping as a cost-effective and practical measure that can further reduce emissions and improve appliance efficiency.”

The SIA remains committed to working collaboratively with local authorities, policymakers, and stakeholders to ensure that air quality funding delivers tangible outcomes while supporting consumers in making sustainable home heating choices.

ENDS

Notes:

- The Stove Industry Association was formed in 2008 and is a trade association of stove, flue, component and fuel manufacturers, suppliers and distributors, independent retailers, installers and chimney sweeps, training organisations, competent person schemes and other interested industry bodies.
- With over 230 members, the SIA represents the stove industry in discussion with government departments such as Defra and DESNZ, Welsh Government, Scottish Government, and the Greater London Authority.

- The SIA represents the UK in CEFACD, the European Committee of Manufacturers of Domestic Heating and Cooking Appliances and engages openly with all stakeholders.
- Further information on the work of the SIA can be found at www.stoveindustryassociation.org

SIA Top Tips:

- Choose an Ecodesign compliant stove such as a [clearSkies](#) certified appliance. If you currently use an open fire or an older, very basic stove, consider upgrading. A modern Ecodesign compliant stove releases up to 90% less emissions than an open fire and can be up to 80% less than some older stoves. Your local [SIA Retail Group member](#) can help advise on the best stove for you and your family.
- If you live in a [Smoke Control Area](#), your stove will also need to be Defra exempt. All clearSkies Level 3 and above models are certified as Defra exempt.
- Visit your local stove retailer for guidance on choosing the right size stove for your property and for a detailed installation quote. You can find your nearest [SIA Retail Group member showroom here](#).
- Ensure your stove is fitted by an appropriately qualified competent person such as one who is [HETAS](#) or [OFTEC](#) registered.
- Ensure you use quality fuel. Look for the [Ready to Burn](#) logo to ensure your wood logs are at or below 20% moisture content. Never used chemically treated wood or burn waste on your stove.
- Ensure your stove is serviced and your chimney swept at least once a year – the SIA recommends NVQ qualified sweeps for the ongoing maintenance and servicing of your stove and chimney. The [Federation of British Chimney Sweeps](#) has links to all the main sweep associations. Chimney sweeps are a valuable source of information for good practice and advice.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when using your stove.