

# Kiwa Training Quarterly Solid Fuel Update



The Environment Bill was introduced back in 2019, described as a “landmark” Bill tackling “the biggest environmental priorities of our time, signalling a historic step change in the way we protect and enhance our precious natural environment.” Delays from the pandemic and Brexit mean it recently reinstated its journey through parliament (reaching the House of Lords at the time of writing), albeit with several amendments.

*“The Environment Bill will ensure we deliver the most ambitious environmental programme of any country on earth, which is why it is essential that we complete its passage into law as soon as possible”*. Rebecca Pow, Environment Minister.

In the government’s own words, “through the Environment Bill, we will clean up the country’s air, restore natural habitats and increase biodiversity. The Bill will also outline how the government will reduce waste, make better use of resources, and improve management of water resources in a changing climate”.

Linked to this is [The Clean Air Strategy](#) which was launched at the start of 2019, specifically outlining plans for improving air quality in the UK. The strategy aims to collect better data for air quality and assess the impact of future policies; protect the nation’s health and environment; secure growth in the economy while tackling air pollution; reduce emissions from transport, homes, farming, and industry; and address the problem of air pollution at all levels of leadership, including at the local level.

As you are most likely aware, the key aspects of the strategy that affect the solid fuel industry are:

1. legislate to prohibit the sale of the most polluting fuels
2. ensure that only the cleanest stoves are available for sale by 2022
3. make changes to existing smoke control legislation to make it easier to enforce
4. give new powers to local authorities to take action in areas of high pollution
5. work across government to look at opportunities to align our work on air quality, clean growth and fuel poverty in future policy design
6. develop a dedicated communication campaign targeted at domestic burners, to improve awareness of the environmental and public health impacts of burning
7. work with industry to identify an appropriate test standard for new solid fuels entering the market.

The [clearSkies Mark](#) was created in response to point 2 – An objective and independent certification mark for Emissions and Energy Performance of domestic wood & solid fuel stoves and fireplaces - with **Kiwa Gastec** acting as clearSkies Mark Scheme administrator, on behalf of the clearSkies Mark Ltd.

We will aim to keep you updated as developments occur.