

NATIONAL CLEAN AIR DAY

20th June 2019

Reducing Waterways Air Pollution



Source: <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk>

Mayor Gets Tough on River: Greater Standards for Emissions

“With ambitious plans in the growth of traffic on waterways, unless sufficient controls are introduced, the number of people exposed to this source of pollution will only grow” (Sadiq Khan, 2017).

Clean Air Act 1993 and Boat Operations

“Smoke Control Order - Section 18 of the Clean Air Act 1993” declare that all buildings and industrial or trade premises within London Borough of Haringey (LBH) are subject to Smoke Control Orders.

The Clean Air Act 1993 apply to boats on Canal and River Trust waters, under the provisions made in Part VI Section 44 as boats on Canal and River Trust waters fall within the definition of “Vessels” given in the Clean Air Act 1993 Part VII Section 64.

River and Canal Emissions

Conventional pollutants from boat are generated by diesel engines that burn high sulfur content fuel oil, producing sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and particulates, in addition to carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and hydrocarbons. Carbon dioxide is the primary pollutant from burning diesel fuel, leading to far-reaching climatic impacts.

The London Environment Strategy has identified canal boats as a small but significant source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Even though there are significantly less boats than cars, emissions from canal boats still need to be managed.

GHG emissions from canal boats represents an important source of emissions that we need to tackle.

The LBH have a commitment to become a zero carbon borough by 2050, and as an integral part of this, are tackling emissions from homes and transport including Boats.

Many parts of the UK are also smoke control areas where you can't emit smoke from a chimney unless you're burning an authorised fuel or using 'exempt appliances'.

Authorised Fuels

Authorised fuels are fuels which are permitted by Statutory Instruments (Regulations) made under the Clean Air Act 1993 or Clean Air (Northern Ireland) Order 1981. These include inherently smokeless fuels such as gas, electricity and anthracite together with specified brands of manufactured solid smokeless fuels. These

fuels have passed tests to confirm that they are capable of burning in an open fireplace without producing smoke.

Exempt Appliances

Exempt appliances are appliances (ovens, wood burners and stoves) which have been exempted by Statutory Instruments (Orders) under the Clean Air Act 1993 or Clean Air (Northern Ireland) Order 1981. These have passed tests to confirm that they are capable of burning an unauthorised or inherently smoky solid fuel without emitting smoke.

Top Tips to Keep Air Emissions Low the Canal & River Trust and London Borough Haringey

- Adopt cleaner and smokeless fuels, adding exhaust gas cleaning devices where appropriate
- Use appropriate ovens, wood burners and stoves and maintain as and when needed.
- Use of alternative sources of energy to power canal boats. Solar photovoltaic panels or small wind generators mounted on the roof keep batteries charged when boat is on a mooring and engine is not being run.
- Keep fuel dry as far as is practical and use the right fuel for your stove.
- Only add fuel a little at a time, adding a lot in one go produces lots of smoke, especially if it's damp.
- Do not burn plastics, chipboard, treated wood and other types of rubbish, there's more environmentally friendly and less dangerously smoky ways of disposal.

Benefits

- Reduced waterway emission and contribution to a reduced carbon foot print
- Preventing pollution of the environment and harm to human health and ecosystems
- Social and economic benefits then lower regulatory cost.

Some Useful Websites

- www.haringey.gov.uk
- <https://smokecontrol.defra.gov.uk/fuels.php>
- <http://www.uksmokecontrolareas.co.uk/>
- <https://www.transportenvironment.org/what-we-do/shipping/air-pollution-ships>
- <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/boating/boating-blogs-and-features/boating-team/smoke-without-ire>
- <http://www.haringey.gov.uk/environment-and-waste/going-green/reducing-co2-emissions>
- <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/london-environment-strategy>
- http://www.canaljunction.com/boat/wind_solar.htm

Contact

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