



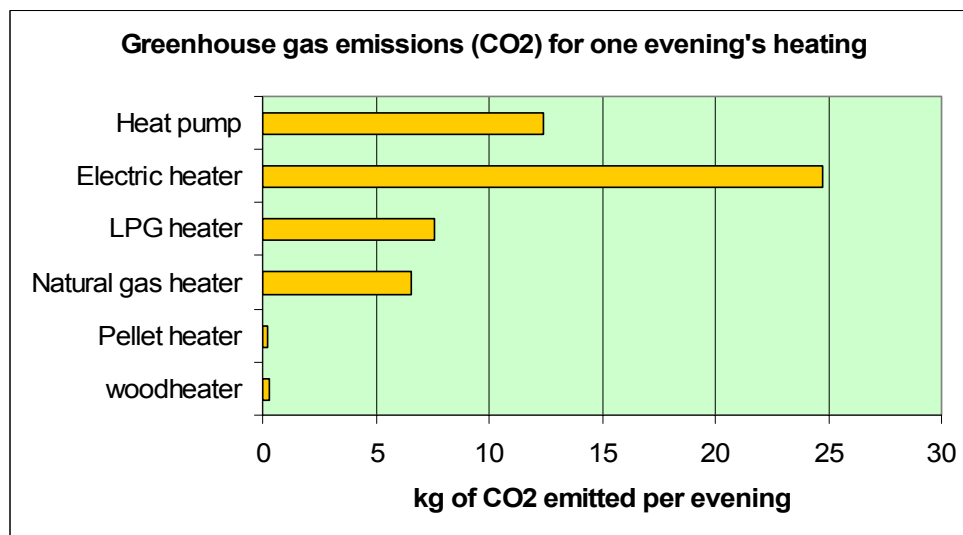
Media release 28/03/06

## COME CLEAN - WITH WOOD

If you thought burning wood was bad for the environment - think again. A report commissioned by the Australian Home Heating Association, shows that wood heaters actually cause less harm to the environment than almost all other fuels<sup>1</sup>.

Despite some views, wood heaters are a natural and efficient way to heat your home with comparatively little damage to the environment, as shown in the graph below.

The wood heating industry represents the only economical form of heating which uses a renewable energy form. There are clear greenhouse benefits relating to the sustained production and use of wood, as atmospheric increases of carbon are greatly reduced relative to fossil fuels like gas or coal.



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For further information or images contact **Hannah Hempenstall, Media Officer,**  
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The report shows quite dramatically how low greenhouse gas emissions are for firewood and wood-pellets, provided the firewood is from a sustainable supply.

It also states that there is an estimated 3 per cent annual decline in wood heater use across Australia, leaving a negative impression on our environment. If half these people are switching to natural gas and half to electricity, then the annual increase in greenhouse emissions is 173,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Findings of a CSIRO study<sup>2</sup> back this claim stating that if households used firewood [from sustainable suppliers] not only would they be avoiding the greenhouse gas emissions as stated above, but they would actually be reducing them.

#### **5 TIPS FOR BETTER BURNING**

1. Burn only dry, well-seasoned wood.
2. Allow full air for 15-20 minutes after each addition of wood.
3. Use kindling wood and firelighters to get the fire started.
4. Never use petrol, kerosene or oil to start the fire.
5. Don't close air supply totally overnight; a little air avoids a lot of smoke.

<sup>1</sup> Comparison of Residential Heating Costs and Greenhouse Gas Emissions for Firewood, Gas and Electricity by Dr John Todd, June 2005.

<sup>2</sup> *2003 Life Cycle Assessment of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Domestic Wood Heating*; Australian Greenhouse Office, Canberra.

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