

More information about smokeless fuels will be available from your coal merchant. A list of authorised fuels and exempt appliances is available at the following web address: www.uksmokecontrolareas.co.uk

For further information on Smoke Control Areas contact the Environmental Protection Unit on (01904) 551555

Does this mean I can't have a bonfire?

There is no law that says having a bonfire is illegal within SCAs. They can however be health hazards and cause a nuisance in the same way domestic smoke does. You do not need to have a bonfire to get rid of waste. Try composting - most of your garden and kitchen waste, and even some paper and cardboard can be composted. For further information on composting, telephone City of York Council on (01904) 551551. You could also take your waste to one of the household waste sites around York, at Beckfield Lane, Hazel Court or Moor Lane, Towthorpe. For details of these check www.york.gov.uk/environment/waste

If a bonfire is causing you a nuisance then approach the person whose bonfire it is and politely make them aware of this. If the problem continues there are laws to help you. If a nuisance is being caused by a bonfire on more than one occasion on the same property, after an investigation, the council will approach the person responsible and ask them to stop. Further refusal may lead to a £5000 fine. For further information on bonfires contact the Environmental Protection Unit on (01904) 551555.

Remember:

- SCAs are in place, protect our health and improve the air quality of our local environment.
- It is illegal within an SCA to burn fuel that gives off smoke.
- It is also an offence to buy, sell, deliver or obtain by other means fuel to be used in an SCA that may cause smoke.
- Authorised 'smokeless' fuels are available to use in SCAs. There are also some solid fuel appliances that can burn wood and coal without giving off smoke.
- The lighting of authorised solid fuel may initially create smoke. Therefore a lighting-up period of 10-20 minutes is allowed where authorised fuels are in use.
- The use of garden furnaces (bins with chimneys) is also restricted in an SCA unless specifically exempt.
- Offences concerned with the SCA can lead to fine of £1000.

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

☎ (01904) 551550

If you would like this information in an accessible format (for example in large print, on tape or by email) or another language please telephone: (01904) 551555 or email: environmental.protection@york.gov.uk

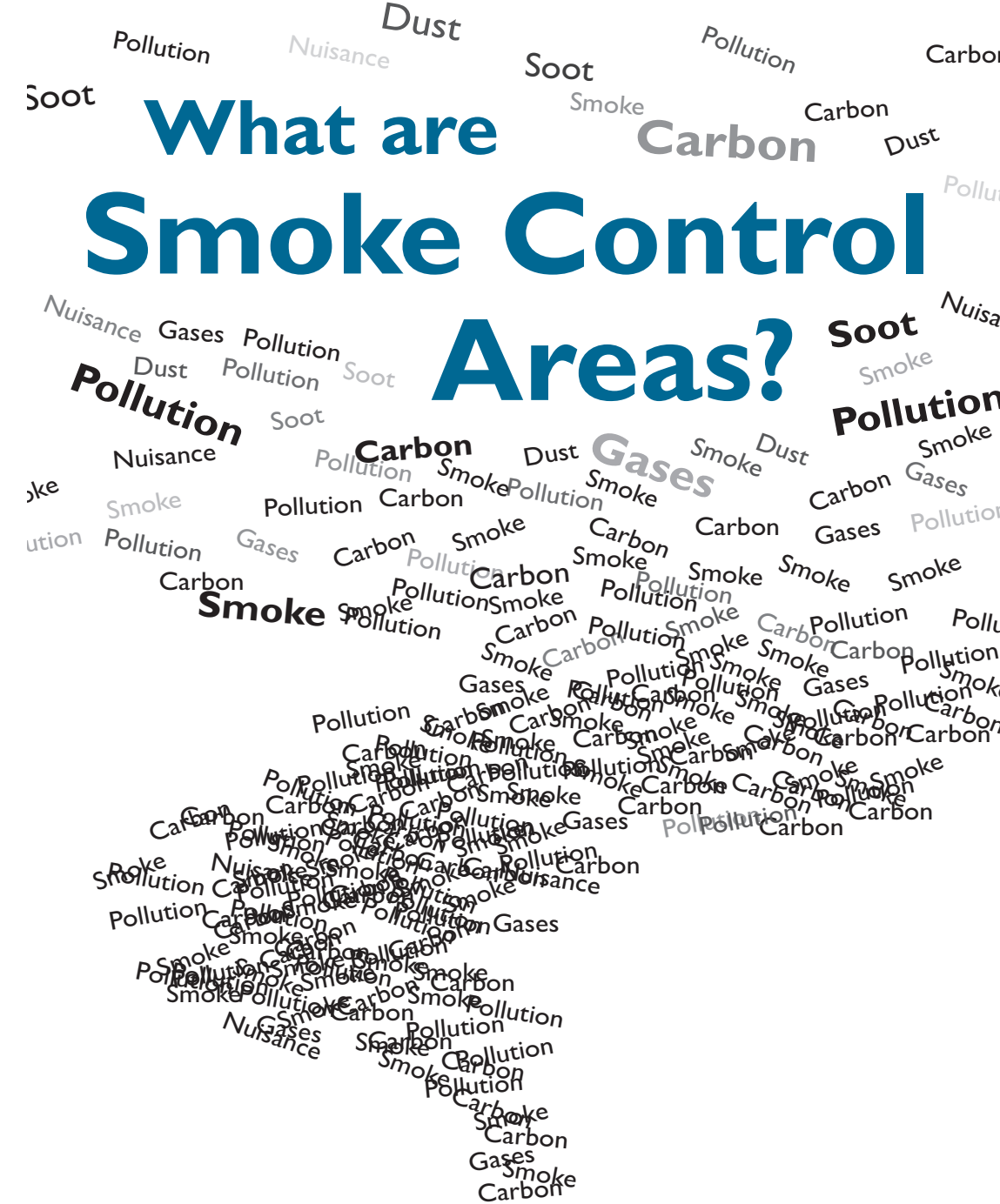
© City of York Council 2007. Printed on recycled paper. Published by Marketing and Communications on behalf of Directorate of Environment and Development Services. This leaflet cost 0.1p per York resident to design and print, a total of £156. Printed by Peter Turpin Associates, York.



YORKPRIDE



www.york.gov.uk



What are smoke control areas?

What are smoke control areas?

Smoke Control Areas (SCAs) are designated by a local authority as areas where it is prohibited to release smoke from buildings.

Why were they introduced?

The first Clean Air Act was introduced in 1956 as a result of the 4000 deaths caused by a five day period of smog in London in February 1952. One of the main successes of this Act was the introduction of smoke control areas, to improve air quality over wide areas.

Domestic smoke is released at a much lower level than that from factories. This means that over a local area it can be more damaging, as it may not be properly dispersed. This allows the build up of high concentrations of smoke near to where it is produced in and around people's homes.

Health and the Environment

When fuels such as coal and wood are burnt the smoke they give off contains large amounts of dust (carbon and soot) and gases (carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide). All these can be very harmful to people's health, especially if breathed in every day. People who are particularly at risk are the young, the old and those with asthma or other breathing difficulties. Smoke can also damage the local environment and buildings, stop people from sitting outside or hanging their washing out and generally cause a nuisance. Burning fossil fuels also produces harmful greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming.

Smoke Control Areas in York

The majority of areas within the outer ring road as well as all of Haxby and Wigginton are covered by SCAs. The areas were mainly declared in the 1960s, well before City of York Council was created. At the time several local authorities were designating SCAs in and around York leading to some areas being in SCAs and some areas not. The map below is a guideline to areas in York that are covered by SCAs. If you have any queries as to whether your home is in an SCA, contact details are supplied on the back of this leaflet.

How does this affect you?

For people living in an SCA it is an offence to:

- Allow smoke to be released from chimneys, or any other part of a building within an SCA - including sheds, greenhouses, or furnaces.
- Obtain or deliver, wood, coal or any fuel that is not an 'authorised' smokeless fuel, for use on any appliance that is not classed as 'exempt'.

Authorised Fuels, Exempt Fire places

SCAs do not mean that you will have to give up an open fire or any other solid fuel burning appliances. As an alternative to burning coal, wood or oil there are certain authorised fuels which are allowed to be burnt within SCAs. There are also some exempt solid fuel appliances that may burn coal, wood or oil without giving off smoke. Where exempt solid fuels are in use, then it is generally accepted that when lighting your fuel smoke may be given off for a period of 10 to 20 minutes.

