**Petition to {local govt area}**

**Tackling {local govt area’s} wood smoke pollution essential to tackling the Climate Emergency**

We, the undersigned residents of {local govt area) and other concerned individuals **petition the Council** to address air pollution from domestic wood burning as a major contributor to speeding up global warming and a serious health hazard. Air pollution is recognized by the World Health Organization as the **world’s largest environmental health risk**, and smoke from wood heaters is a **major source of air pollution** in {local govt area}.

To reduce {local govt area’s} contribution to global warming and protect the health of residents, we petition the Council to implement the following **coordinated campaign**:

1. As a first step - a **proactive community education** campaign to increase residents’ understanding of the harmful health and environmental impacts of wood smoke. This should explain that particle pollution from wood heaters speeds up global warming, causes strokes, cancers and heart and lung disease, and affects children’s health. It should encourage residents to switch to cleaner heating and should be integrated into council health and environmental education materials/programs.
2. Establish a system for **routine monitoring of air pollution levels** in {local govt area} using local low-cost air quality monitoring equipment. Where high pollution levels are identified Council should implement actions to reduce pollution in these areas.
3. Council should advocate to higher levels of government for reforms to reduce wood smoke pollution.
4. Explore **programs and strategies to discourage the use of wood heaters** including designating parts of {local govt area} emission-free zones, requiring a permit with a fee and yearly registration and other conditions for operating a wood heater, a future ban on wood heaters, proactively targeting high wood smoke polluters with incentives and assistance to change to non-polluting heating.
5. Assess the **current effectiveness of the Council’s response to wood smoke complaints** through an independent review.
6. The **attached fact sheet** further supports this petition.

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