

Fossil Gas Pollution in Your Home: The Health Hazards of Gas Cooking

Across Europe, millions of people sit down to dinner prepared on gas cookers completely unaware of the invisible air pollution surrounding them. **Cooking with gas releases toxic pollutants – including nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), and ultrafine particles – putting the health of those households at risk.**

Like having an automobile exhaust pipe in your kitchen, cooking with fossil gas creates indoor air pollution. Forty years of research has shown that the air pollution from using gas cooking appliances can cause respiratory diseases like asthma. **Children and low-income communities face the greatest risk of negative health effects.**

Recognising these public health risks, in September 2021 the World Health Organisation published new **Air Quality Guidelines**, cutting the limits on NO₂ by a factor of 4 and setting their first limits on CO.

The active reviews of the domestic cooking appliance regulations in the EU and the UK present an opportunity to eliminate the health risks from burning fossil gas in kitchens across Europe. **It's time to seize the moment and transition toward clean, electric cooking technologies** like hot plates and induction.

With support from the European Climate Foundation, CLASP is working with partners across the EU and the UK to prepare a robust set of evidence that will inform the on-going regulatory reviews in Brussels and London.

The research, slated for publication in late 2022, will expose the significant negative health effects from gas stove indoor air pollution and make recommendations on how to mitigate and ultimately eliminate this public health hazard. CLASP will summarise the findings from a comprehensive literature review, air quality simulation study, gas appliance testing, and a review of the existing testing standards and policies in place.

In future work on this topic, CLASP will conduct air quality measurements in kitchens across a number of EU countries, as well as launch a strategic communications campaign to increase public awareness of the dangers of gas cooking in the home.

GET INVOLVED

CLASP is looking to connect with organisations across the EU and UK to assist in raising awareness on the negative health impacts of gas cooking and to engage more people, including health professionals, in the product policymaking process.

To keep up to date with new research and join health and air quality experts in phasing out gas cooking in Europe, follow our **@CLASP_Europe Twitter** & use the hashtag **#CookCleanerEurope**.

Please contact Hannah Blair at hblair@clasp.ngo or Alexia Ross at aross@clasp.ngo for more information on how to become a partner.