

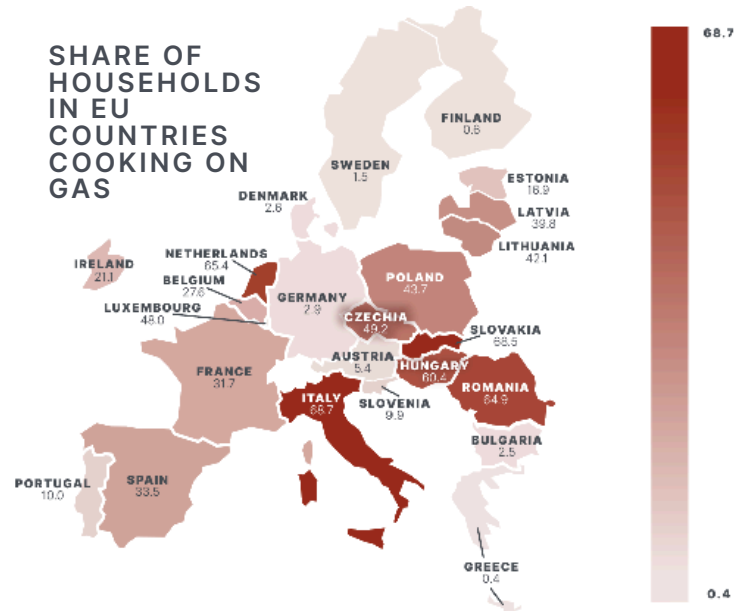
Exposing the Hidden Health Impacts of Cooking with Gas

All gas cookers release pollutants that are harmful to human health and the environment. However, unlike for cigarettes and cars, there are no warning labels for gas cookers explaining their risks or their pollutant emissions. A new report by CLASP and the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) synthesises the health risks of gas cooking, quantifies the societal cost, and gives actionable solutions to phase out gas cookers across the EU-27, in favour of electric alternatives.

KEY FACTS

- Cooking on gas appliances may be exposing more than 100 million people in Europe to levels of indoor air pollution that would violate EU outdoor air pollution regulations.
- Gas cooking emits nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and unburned methane which can languish indoors for hours after use.
- Over 700,000 children in the EU have suffered asthma symptoms in the last year due to gas cooking.
- 12% of current paediatric asthma cases could be avoided if gas cookers were removed from EU homes.
- For adults, gas cooking can lead to negative impacts on the brain, respiratory and nervous systems.
- Indoor air pollution from gas cookers is estimated to cost the EU €3.5 billion a year in healthcare costs, lost earnings and productivity, and disability adjusted life years (DALY).

SHARE OF HOUSEHOLDS IN EU COUNTRIES COOKING ON GAS



RECOMMENDATIONS

The EU Commission adopt laws protecting households from harm, through setting cooker pollutant limits through Ecodesign or informing consumers about gas cooking hazards.

Member State and local governments vote in favour of people- and planet- conscious regulations, including incentivising efforts to accelerate the transition to electric cooking and full home electrification.

Civil society and health professionals increase public awareness about the link between gas cooking and health, and support actions to mitigate harm.

Individuals protect themselves from dangerous indoor air pollution by committing to proper ventilation, installing carbon monoxide detectors and making the switch to electric cooking alternatives, such as induction cookstoves and plug-in appliances whenever possible.