

## Cleanest air in the world

North West Tasmania has the cleanest air in the world. This is because the air is cleaned while it travels for thousands of kilometres over the ocean before arriving at the Tasmanian coast. As this air moves across Tasmania it is impacted by activities that reduce air quality. Clean air is essential for life and maintaining our quality of living into the future.



North West Tasmania has the cleanest air in the world  
Photo source: Bureau Of Meteorology

### About Cape Grim

Cape Grim is the site where the world's cleanest air reaches Tasmania. It is home to the Cape Grim Baseline Air Pollution Station. This station is run by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and has operated since 1976. The station uses high precision instruments to monitor wind speed, direction, rainfall, temperature, humidity and air pressure. The station also monitors changes to the air including changes related to green house gases.



The Cape Grim Baseline Air Pollution Station  
Photo source: Bureau Of Meteorology

### Threats to air quality

Air quality can be impacted by activities of all Tasmanians. Air pollution may be caused by:

- Homes (residential)
- Industry
- Planned burns
- Transport

### How can we protect air quality?

Residential actions:

- Reduce the number of wood heaters
- Encourage use of non-wood heaters (as gas produces less air pollution than wood)
- Ensure high standards for new heaters and wood sources
- Improve home design to reduce heating needs
- Reduce the number of electric appliances (powered by coal) in the home
- Educate people about alternatives to backyard burning of green and other wastes e.g. composting



A gas log fire is a good alternative to a wood heater.  
Photo source: Toni Domaschenz

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### Industry actions

- Regulate industry emissions
- Encourage industry to use clean energy sources

### Planned burns

- Manage smoke impacts during planned burns

Planned burns are undertaken to reduce fire risk by the relevant government authority or by private landholders to “clean up” their properties. Planned burns by government agencies and landholders requires a permit.

### Transport actions

- Encourage use of fuel efficient vehicles
- Use public transport options including buses and trains
- Regularly maintain, service and/or upgrade vehicles
- Use non-motorised transport options e.g. bikes

### Future

Clean air is a precious resource. It is important to protect, and where possible, improve air quality. This way we can all enjoy the best air quality in the world.

### Further Information

Use a search engine to look up “Cape Grim” within each website:

Bureau of Meteorology  
[www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation  
[www.csiro.au](http://www.csiro.au)

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment  
[www.environment.tas.gov.au](http://www.environment.tas.gov.au)

Wikipedia  
[www.en.wikipedia.org](http://www.en.wikipedia.org)

### For everyday ways to help keep our air clean

Tasmanian Climate Change Office  
[www.climatechange.tas.gov.au](http://www.climatechange.tas.gov.au)

Australian Government Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency  
[www.climatechange.gov.au](http://www.climatechange.gov.au)



*Windfarms are an ideal alternative energy source.*

