



MEDIA RELEASE

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Date Monday 5 June 2006

World Environment Day

SmokeWatch launched in Adelaide Hills

The Environment Protection Authority and the Adelaide Hills Council will today launch a community awareness campaign called SmokeWatch at the Woodside Primary School at 10.30 am.

SmokeWatch aims to reduce wood smoke in the Adelaide Hills by encouraging householders to use their wood heaters efficiently.

EPA Chair and Chief Executive Dr Paul Vogel said that in conjunction with the SmokeWatch program the EPA has set up an air quality monitoring station at the Woodside Primary School to gather important information on the level of wood smoke pollution in the Adelaide Hills.

"The monitoring data will be available to the public on the SmokeWatch's air monitoring data page at www.epa.sa.gov.au/woodsmoke."

Dr Vogel said the community is invited to participate in a SmokeWatch pilot being conducted by the Adelaide Hills Council.

"People can participate by taking up the SmokeWatch Challenge to use their wood heaters more efficiently and also participate in a number of SmokeWatch school activities in the Council area."

Dr Vogel encouraged people using wood heaters to burn only dry, seasoned wood, keep the air vents open for 20 minutes after starting and reloading the fire, keep the fire live and bright, but let it go out at night, and check there is no smoke from the chimney 20 minutes after starting the fire.

He said that if, after taking these steps, you still have significant smoke coming from your chimney contact your local wood supplier or call the EPA on 8204 2004 for assistance.

The Firewood Association of Australia Incorporated supports SmokeWatch. The Chief Executive Officer of the South Australian Conservation Council Michelle Grady and Bill Gale Adelaide Hills Council deputy Mayor and Acting Mayor will officially launch the SmokeWatch campaign.