

*Hello dear children,*

*my name is Lucy, I am from a small village and I will explain you the ways how people try to keep the air clean. I have to tell you I was surprised maybe as you will be, when I found out that air pollution was really serious issue in rural areas as well as in cities. In cities, it is easy to understand because there are many sources of pollution. Guess what mainly pollutes the air in the villages? It is mainly because people use coal and wood which they burn in old furnaces. The worst impact was measured in the villages, where they heat intensively with brown coal. Sometimes, they even burn waste which is really really bad.*

*Due to the impact of air pollution on human health and nature, government or local authorities can pass strict legislation in which they can define specific rules that must be followed by everyone who is responsible for air pollution. There are special regulations for factories, cars and for individual boilers, which are introduced in various countries according to the needs.*

*Cars have emission limits. They are determined by the EURO standard. In factories, usually the amount of pollutants is measured by placing gauges on chimneys.*

*When it comes to the boilers used at homes nowadays the municipal police can simply check if someone is burning illegal fuels. In many places different restrictions are introduced for boilers, stoves and fireplaces: for example, the ban on burning poor quality coal and humid wood and the use of old and high-emission stoves.*

*In some cities, the local government introduces a complete ban on burning solid fuels!*

*Everybody who pollutes the air needs to stick to the levels set for him by the government. If s/he is not respecting the law, s/he might pay a fine or even go to the prison if he is polluting too much. Every factory owner has to pay a year fee for pollution. This fee goes to state and district in which factory or power station is placed. Part of this money is used for environment protection.*

*Well, government has many options how to keep the air environment clean. One of the solutions is subsidizing public transportation, putting bans on the presence of automobiles in the city center or creation of cycling routes in the city. In this way, people will be motivated not to use cars so often but walk, cycle or use public transportation instead. Nevertheless, the main solution is to stop using fossil fuels and switch to alternative energy sources. Authorities can support the poorest citizens in the process of heating system replacement and thermal renovation of houses.*

*So, these were the solutions for air protection. Now, I think you know everything you need about this topic, isn't it cool? Good luck with your studies!*

*Lucy*