

URBAN WOOD BURNING STOVES PROGRAMME  
AND ITS BENEFITS FOR THE COMMUNITY

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In Sri Lanka 71% of the total energy requirement is provided from firewood. Ninety percent of 2.6 million households use firewood for domestic cooking.

Survey revealed that most of them use traditional open hearth or an enclosed hearth. In the study on traditional hearths it was found that more than 85% of heat produced is wasted through radiation, convection and conduction. To conserve the wasted heat improved designs of firewood stoves have been developed by many organizations.

The CISIR carried out an evaluation of some of these designs including the CISIR designed stove, under both laboratory and field conditions. The laboratory results show a fuelwood saving of 25 - 35% on these designs compared with semi-enclosed hearth.

The field trials carried out along with the Ceylon Electricity Board under the Urban Wood Burning Stoves Programme on two improved designs, CISIR single pot stove and Sarvodaya (altered model) double pot stove, showed a savings of 28% and 16% respectively compared with traditional hearth. The field trials carried out in homes of different income strata showed that these stoves with improved designs had the following additional advantages as well.