



Fueling a Cleaner Environment

Natural gas is inherently efficient, and the cleanest fossil fuel. Found in abundance throughout the United States and Canada, natural gas provides clean energy for a wide range of uses — such as home-heating, improving the indoor air quality of schools and hospitals, reducing pollution from vehicles, boosting manufacturing output and generating electricity. Using natural gas instead of more polluting fuels addresses a number of environmental challenges *simultaneously*:

- **Greenhouse gas emissions:** Using more natural gas is the heart of many climate-friendly energy policies. When burned, natural gas emits 45 percent less carbon dioxide (CO²) than coal and 30 percent less CO² than oil on an energy-equivalent basis.
- **Smog:** To improve air quality, fleets of transit buses and other vehicles fueled with natural gas on the road are making the air cleaner to breathe.

- **Particulates:** Using natural gas helps reduce tiny soot particles that can aggravate asthma and other respiratory conditions.

Innovative technologies are helping companies to locate and produce natural gas faster, more efficiently and with less environmental impact than ever.

NATURAL GAS: CLEAN ENERGY . . . FOR A VARIETY OF USES

Homes

More than 61 million U.S. households rely on natural gas for heating, water-heating, cooking, clothes drying and other uses. They may not realize it, but they are doing something good for the environment by selecting North American natural gas.

Direct use of natural gas — such as using it in a furnace to heat your home, or in a clothes dryer — is a far more efficient use of energy than using coal, oil or natural gas to make electricity that is transported over long distances to then heat a home, dry clothes, etc.

Schools, Hospitals and Other Commercial Facilities

Hospitals and Schools:

To reduce mold, mildew and humidity that can breed germs, an increasing number of hospitals and schools have installed natural gas desiccant dehumidification systems, which “wick” moisture from the air.

Supermarkets: Similarly, supermarkets use natural gas dehumidification systems to help customers feel cool (not clammy) while shopping, and reduce sweat on freezer cases.



DID YOU KNOW?

The average U.S. home uses 22 percent less natural gas than it did in 1980, due in part to appliance efficiency improvements and tighter home construction.



Transit Bus
Fueled by
Natural Gas

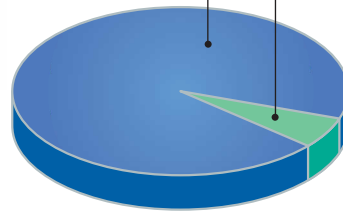
Transportation

Most of the air pollution in cities comes from cars, trucks and buses. A proven way to cut pollution from vehicles is to substitute natural gas for gasoline or diesel. (Natural gas is stored onboard in sturdy storage units that resemble scuba tanks). More than 100,000 natural gas vehicles (NGVs) are on the road in the United States – typically in fleets, such as transit buses. In contrast, less than 2,000 electric vehicles are in use.

Every Form of Energy Has An Environmental Impact

Satisfying Americans' increasing appetite for energy has an impact on our air, land and water—regardless of the type of energy used.

For example, even though they do not emit pollutants, solar and wind power plants can take up large amounts of land.



U.S. ENERGY MIX

Traditional fossil fuels (natural gas, coal and petroleum) meet **94 percent** of U.S. energy needs.

Renewable forms of energy meet only **6 percent** of U.S. energy needs. They are varied, and promising:

- **Biomass** (nearly half of all renewable energy comes from biomass, such as trees, landfill gas and animal waste)
- **Hydropower** (water falling over huge dams turns turbines to generate electricity, contributing 45% of all renewable energy)
- **Wind power** (2% of U.S. renewable energy comes from wind turbines)
- **Solar power** (2 % of U.S. renewable energy comes from photovoltaic cells and modules that gather the sun's energy and turn it into electricity)

Residents of some communities have opposed wind farms due to the “visual pollution” they create: not everyone finds vast arrays of 300’ turbines to be majestic or beautiful; some view them as a high-tech eyesore.

Environmental Quality • and Economic Reality

Those who promote increased use of natural gas to address greenhouse gas emissions, smog, acid rain and other environmental problems must also support increased production and use of the best available production and end-use technologies. Natural gas truly is the fuel of America's future — here today.

