



Natural Gas

Natural gas is our country's second largest energy resource and a vital component to our energy supply. It is one of the cleanest, safest, and most useful forms of energy-- residentially, commercially, and industrially. The natural gas industry has existed in the United States for over 100 years and continues to grow.

Natural gas is a fossil fuel produced from reservoirs underground, like oil and coal. Once brought to the surface, it is refined to remove impurities and then transmitted through a network of pipelines across the country, making it available nearly everywhere.

Natural gas supply is abundant and secure.

Domestic reserves are estimated to be twice that of petroleum. Natural gas is still being discovered with reserves increasing and renewable biogas is being developed as a resource. About 98% of the natural gas we use in the United States is produced in North America, while close to 70% of the petroleum we use is imported. Less than 1% of natural gas is used today as transportation fuel, while over 60% of petroleum is used for transportation.

Natural gas is the cleanest alternative fuel for transportation available today, with inherently low carbon and greenhouse gas emissions. According to the California Energy Commission, natural gas produces up to 23% lower emissions than diesel and 30% lower than gasoline in the critical greenhouse gas emissions (global warming) test in heavy-duty vehicles.

Natural gas vehicles (NGV) work well, with top performance and low emissions. The natural gas Honda Civic GX consumer car is rated as the cleanest production vehicle in the world. NGVAmerica (ngvamerica.org) states that there are more than 7 million NGVs worldwide, yet only 150,000 in the United States. Fleets of heavy-duty vehicles (buses and trucks) make up most of the total NGV market in the US today.

The EPA estimates that vehicles on the road account for 60 percent of carbon monoxide pollution and around 1/3 of hydrocarbon and nitrogen oxide emissions in the United States. As federal and state emissions laws become more stringent, many requirements will be unattainable with conventionally fueled vehicles, so NGVs are increasing in abundance and popularity since natural gas is 85% cleaner than petroleum. The Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach recently required that 16,800 old diesel trucks be replaced with half fueled by alternative fuels such as natural gas.

Natural gas costs less than gasoline or diesel. When diesel rose above \$5.00 per gallon in Southern California in late June, natural gas (CNG) was still priced under \$3.00 per gallon.

Natural gas is a more secure, safer energy supply for the country. A transportation sector more reliant on domestic natural gas will help decrease our dependence on foreign oil. By finding new ways of power generation, we can shift the use of natural gas to a higher value role in our energy production cycle, like vehicular fuel.