
HAULIN' GAS

**THE DANGERS OF GAS,
FROM PROCUREMENT
TO TRANSPORTATION
TO CONSUMPTION**



OCTOBER 2024



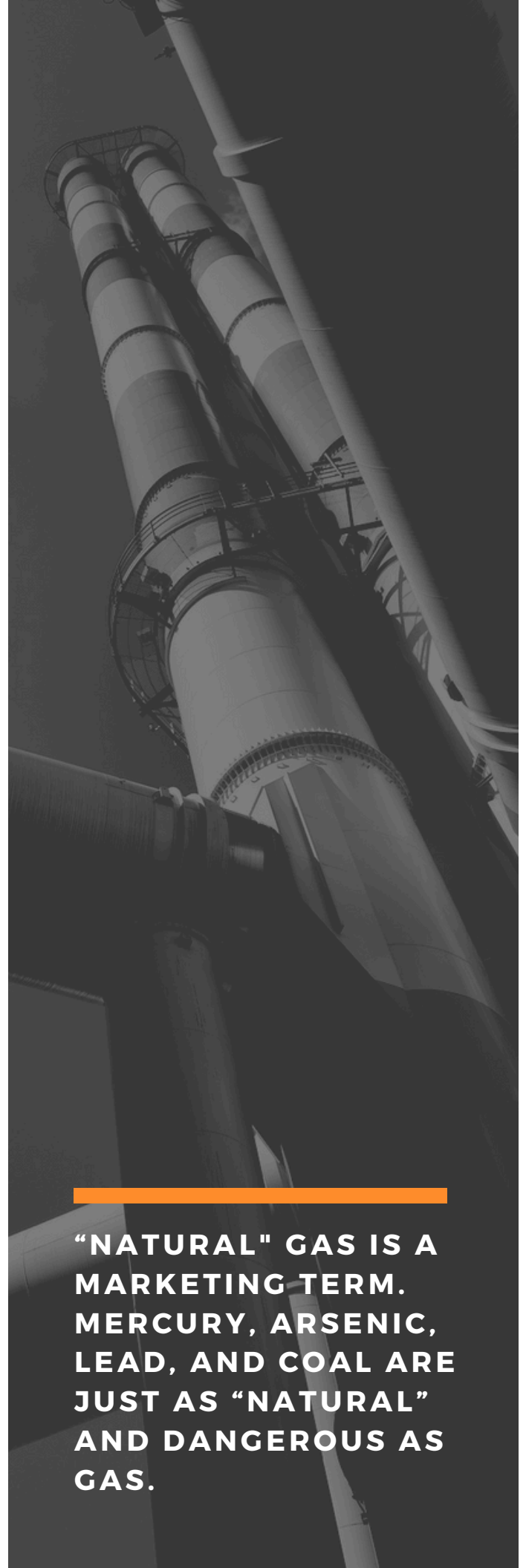
THE CLIMATE CRISIS CANNOT BE SOLVED IF WE CONTINUE TO RELY ON GAS.

We must move beyond gas for electricity generation, heating water, heating homes and businesses, and powering stoves and other appliances.

Decreasing our reliance on coal continues to be a serious climate priority, but we must not replace one problem with another. Flaring and gas leaks at the well, leaking pipelines delivering gas to our homes and businesses, and burning gas to generate electricity all lead to greenhouse gas emissions that rival burning coal.

Replacing coal with gas is like replacing cigarettes with a nicotine vape.

**“NATURAL” GAS IS A
MARKETING TERM.
MERCURY, ARSENIC,
LEAD, AND COAL ARE
JUST AS “NATURAL”
AND DANGEROUS AS
GAS.**



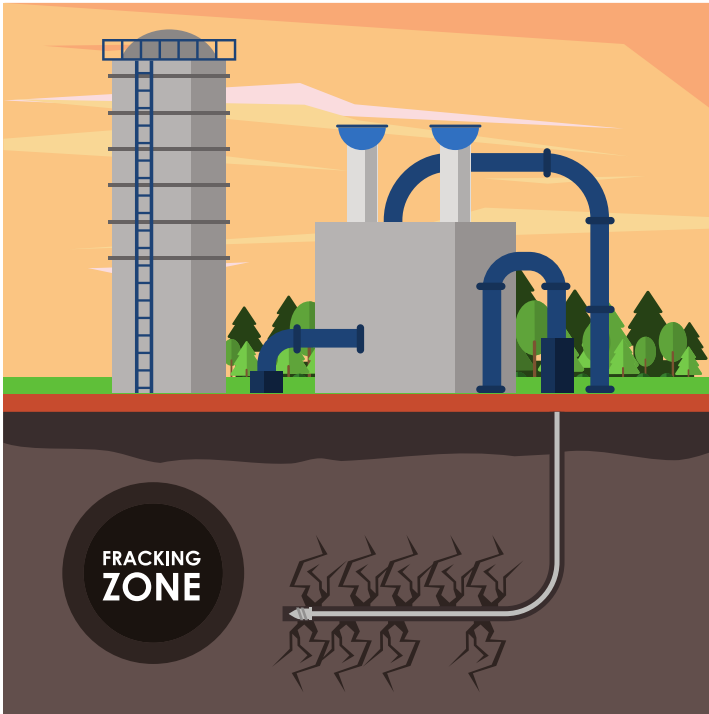
METHANE



**METHANE IS ABOUT 86
TIMES STRONGER THAN
CARBON DIOXIDE AT
TRAPPING HEAT IN THE
ATMOSPHERE OVER 20
YEARS AND ABOUT 25
TIMES MORE POTENT
OVER 100 YEARS**

Gas is primarily composed of methane, an incredibly potent greenhouse gas. Gas-fired power plants could create as much, if not more, climate changing pollution over the short- and long-term than coal-fired power according to the Congressional Research Service.

LEAKY FROM END TO END



Pumping gas from deep beneath the earth's surface to make electricity, power appliances, or heat homes and businesses is dangerous and inefficient from the beginning of the process until the end.

Increased fracking - a technique to extract more oil and gas from the earth - is thought to be largely responsible for the steep rise in methane emissions since 2006 while also contaminating groundwater and releasing toxic air pollution.

After gas is brought to the earth's surface, it moves through pipelines and compressor stations that pressurize the gas so it can flow through pipelines for long distances - an antiquated system that is known for leaking significant amounts of gas and other pollution into the air.





Gas travels through increasingly smaller pipelines to reach homes, businesses, and power plants generating electricity.

This enormous gas plumbing system is incredibly leaky, with a 2023 report estimating that pipelines nationwide leak as much as 2.6 million tons of methane each year. These leaks result in an alarming number of explosions each year.

According to the federal government 8,800 serious pipeline incidents related to the release of gas occurred in the United States between 2010 and 2023; killing 158 people and injuring 748. Gas leaks that are serious enough to be reported to the federal government have inflicted nearly \$4 billion in damage and costs since 2010.

A recent study by the Rocky Mountain Institute estimated that climate impacts of natural gas may reach parity with coal when methane leaks at just a 0.2% rate throughout the system.

NorthWestern Energy has indicated it has nearly 1,000 leaks throughout its gas transmission and distribution system. Not accounting for gas lost through those leaks, the utility reported that, in one year, approximately 0.24% of gas was lost due to excavation damage alone. That's terrible news for the climate and public health.

DANGER IN THE HOME



While the Clean Air Act sets air pollution standards for outside the home, no such standard exists for indoor air quality. Gas stoves have been shown to leak harmful gases into the air - even when turned off - leading to in-home energy pollution that often exceeds Clean Air Act standards. Stove vents do little to mitigate this pollution.

Cooking with gas emits particulate pollution along with nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide. This can lead to an increase in asthma and cardiovascular diseases, according to the Rocky Mountain Institute.

Highly-efficient electric induction stoves are an excellent solution to replacing gas in cooking applications without losing out on the quality of the cooking experience.

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THE GAS PROBLEM?

IMMEDIATELY:

STOP BUILDING NEW GAS PLANTS TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY.

Prevent NorthWestern Energy, the state's largest electric utility, from building expensive new gas plants.

PRIORITIZE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION.

Make homes and businesses more energy efficient, and engage in energy conservation measures such as turning off and unplugging equipment when it's not in use.

ELIMINATE INCENTIVES FOR GAS AND OIL DRILLING ON PUBLIC LANDS.

Stop allowing federal and state governments to essentially give away public lands for oil and gas development. Non-competitive and low cost leases harm the climate, public lands, water, and wildlife.

REDUCE WASTE AT WELLS.

Require gas developers to use cost-effective methods to collect and utilize leaking methane at the well and prohibit flaring (the wasteful burning of methane emissions at the well site).

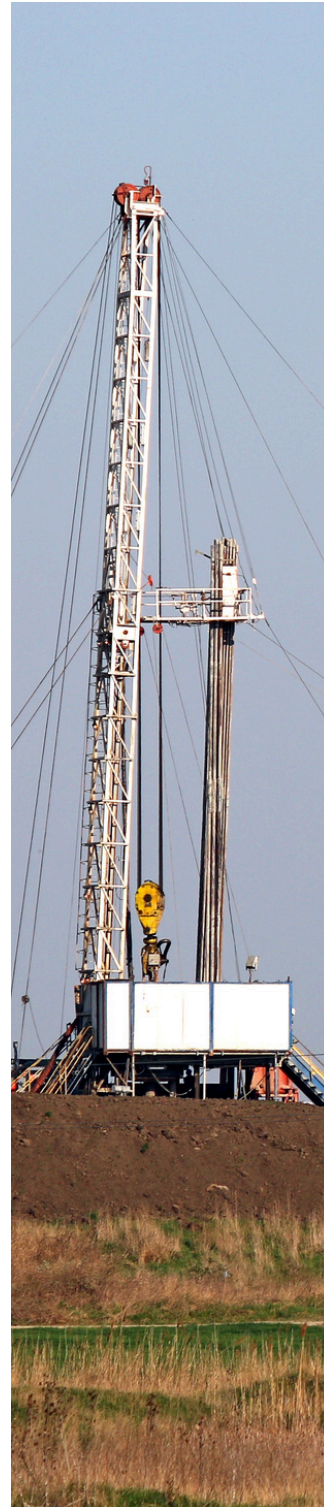
ELIMINATE LEAKS AT EXISTING PIPELINES AND COMPRESSOR STATIONS.

DURING THE NEXT TEN YEARS:

ELECTRIFY HOMES AND BUSINESSES AND POWER THEM WITH CLEAN ENERGY & STORAGE.

Buildings are responsible for 13% of total U.S. climate-changing emissions. Swap out gas appliances for electric appliances.

PHASE OUT EXISTING GAS PLANTS AND REPLACE THEM WITH CLEAN ENERGY & STORAGE.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

MEIC Don't Fall for Gas event series

<https://meic.org/dont-fall-for-gas-event-series/>

Congressional Research Service, Life-Cycle Greenhouse Gas Assessment of Coal and Natural Gas in the Power Sector. Updated June 26, 2015.

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R44090>

Ideas and perspectives: is shale gas a major driver of recent increase in global atmospheric methane? <https://bg.copernicus.org/articles/16/3033/2019/>

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

[https://portal.phmsa.dot.gov/analytics/saw.dll?](https://portal.phmsa.dot.gov/analytics/saw.dll?Portalpages&PortalPath=%2Fshared%2FPDM%20Public%20Website%2F_portal%2FC%20Incident%20Trend&Page=All%20Reported)

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Methane Gas Leaks. PIRG.

<https://pirg.org/resources/methane-gas-leaks>

Gas Stoves are Making People Sicker and Exposing Children to a Higher Risk for Asthma, Study Claims

<https://www.sciencetimes.com/articles/25590/20200506/gas-stoves-making-people-sicker-exposing-children-higher-risk-asthma.htm>

Fact sheet on methane and waste prevention rule

https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/methane_waste_prevention_rule_factsheet_final.pdf

Reality Check: Gas Stoves Are a Health and Climate Problem. Rocky Mountain Institute.

<https://rmi.org/gas-stoves-health-climate-asthma-risk/>

Methane emissions from U.S. gas pipelines. EDF. August 2023.

<https://www.edf.org/sites/default/files/documents/Pipeline%20Methane%20Leaks%20Report.pdf>

