

8 FACTS ABOUT NATURAL GAS



1. NATURAL GAS THREATENS HEALTH

Natural gas is a potent air pollutant -- household appliances (such as gas stoves) can produce harmful pollution in your home. The carbon monoxide produced can be lethal without proper ventilation, especially to young children and people with asthma.

2. NATURAL GAS IS DANGEROUS

Natural gas ignition starts on average 4200 home structure fires each year, causing on average 40 deaths. In addition, gas leaks lead to fires after earthquakes.



3. NATURAL GAS IS A DIRTY FOSSIL FUEL

Although once marketed as a "clean" energy source, drilling natural gas contaminates the air and water. Natural gas is a fossil fuel and is responsible for 1/3 of total greenhouse gas emissions in CA.

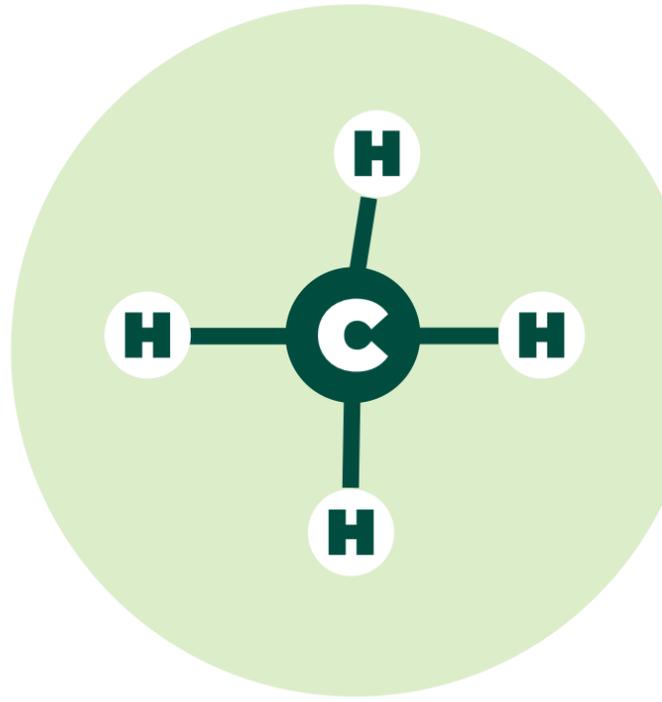
4. THERE IS NO "NATURAL" NATURAL GAS

Waste gas from landfills and sewage treatment plants are often called "biogas" and is considered a renewable energy source. However, burning "biogas" actually releases carbon and other pollutants, just like fossil gas.



5. NATURAL GAS IMPACTS THE PLANET

In California, 3-5% of methane (the chemical name for natural gas) is leaking. These leaks are more damaging to the climate than the 95% that is released as CO₂, since methane is a more potent greenhouse gas.



6. FRACKING DAMAGES ECOSYSTEMS PERMANENTLY

Hydraulic fracking is where most gas comes from -- it uses underground explosions to release gas, which causes contaminated drinking water, earthquakes, air pollution, and harms local ecosystems by causing erosion.



7. AVOIDING NATURAL GAS SAVES MONEY

All-electric homes save \$6,000 or more by avoiding gas use. And, transitioning to efficient electric appliances is the most cost-effective way to reduce building emissions.



8. ELECTRIC ALTERNATIVES CREATE GREEN JOBS

All-electric buildings require a workforce with skills such as HVAC installation, electrical work and energy efficiency. Demand for these jobs will grow as local governments change policies to address building carbon footprints.



Source: menlospark.org

To learn more, visit:

ucsusa.org/resources/environmental-impacts-natural-gas

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