

## **Building the** Value of Natural Gas **A Fact Base**

May 2020

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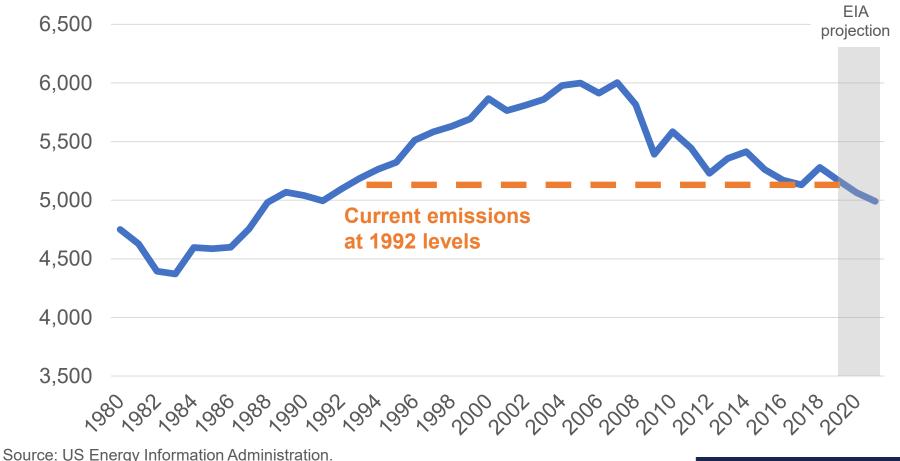
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# Natural gas has led reductions in US CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to 27-year lows, and is projected to continue to decline

US Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Energy Consumption, Million Metric Tons CO2

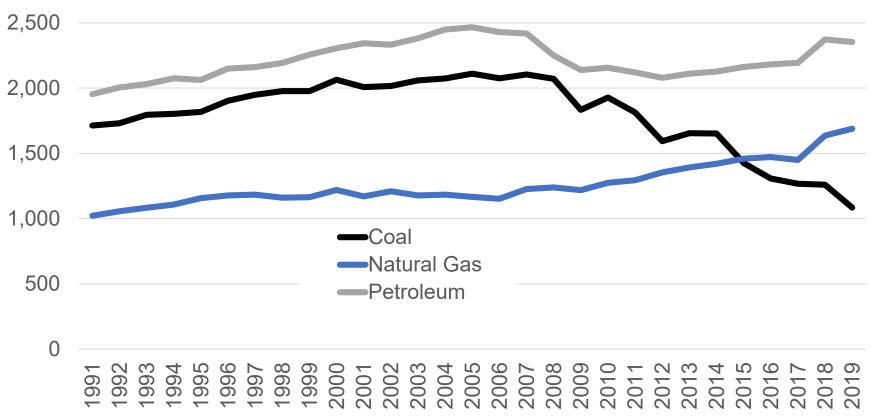


Projection from EIA Short-Term Energy Outlook January 2020

## Natural gas substitution for coal has led to a sharp decline in CO2 emissions

US Energy-Related Carbon Dioxide Emissions by Fuel Million Metric Tons CO2-Eq

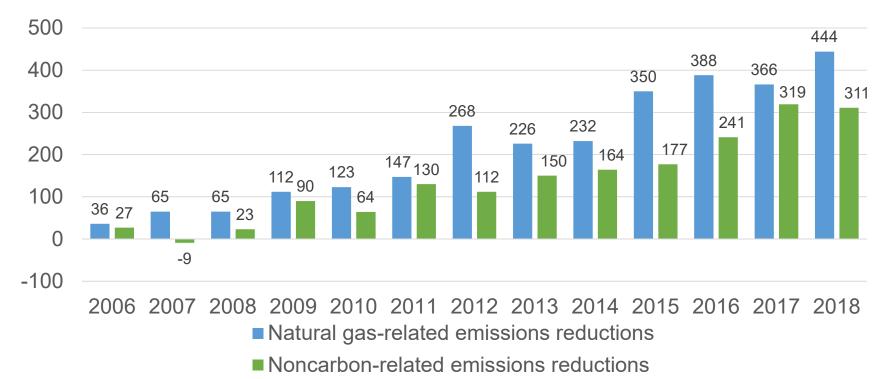
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Source: US Energy Information Administration.

#### Natural gas is responsible for 61 percent of cumulative carbon dioxide emissions savings due to changes in the electricity generation fuel mix.

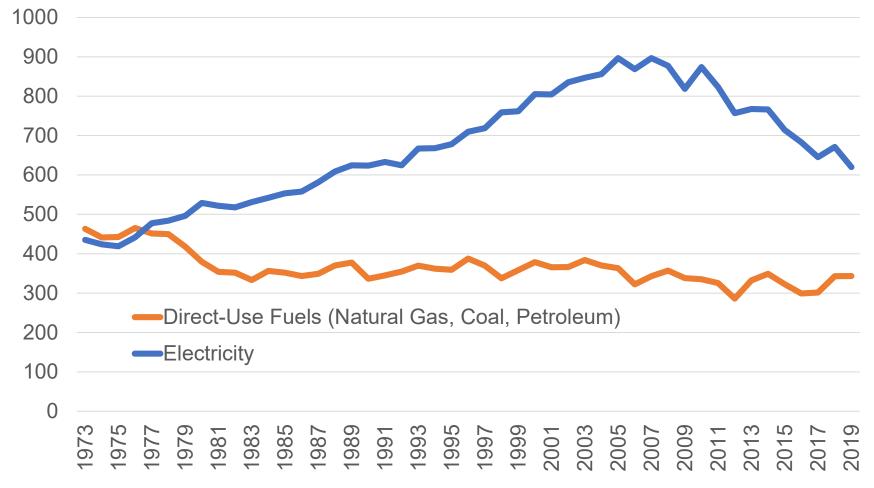
Electricity generation CO2 savings from changes in the fuel mix since 2005 Million Metric Tons CO2



Source: US Energy Information Administration.

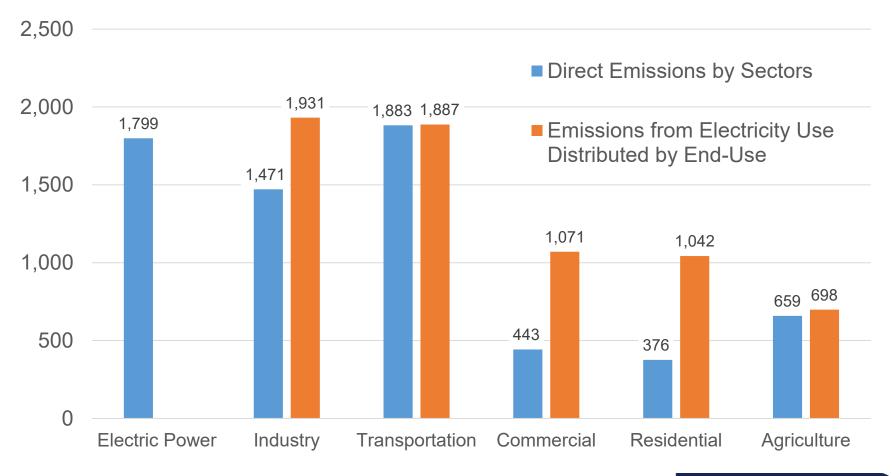
# Residential electricity $CO_2$ emissions declined as the power generation sector moved to natural gas and renewables. And direct-use emissions have declined due to efficiency and switching to natural gas.

US Residential Carbon Dioxide Emissions, MMT CO2



#### Direct emissions from residential and commercial buildings are a small but still important part of overall annual U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

Comparison of 2018 U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector MMT CO2-Eq



Source: EPA Inventory of US Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2017

#### Residential natural gas use accounts for 4% of total US greenhouse gas emissions

- Commercial natural gas use is 3%
- Commercial electric power use accounts for 9%
- Residential and commercial propane and oil use is 3%

Residential natural gas consumption plus share of methane 4%

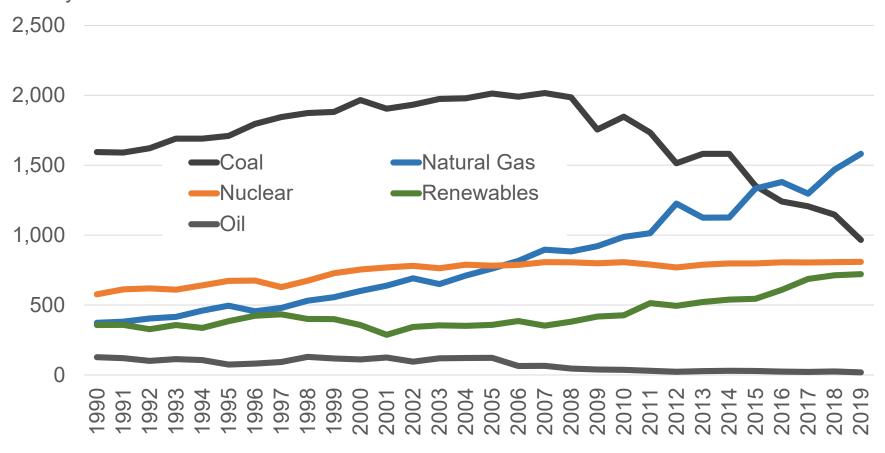
> Residential electricity CO2 plus share of methane 10%

Source: EPA, Residential gas methane share based on gas consumption, Residential electricity methane share based on gas for electricity consumption & residential electricity sales, EIA

Remaining GHG 86%

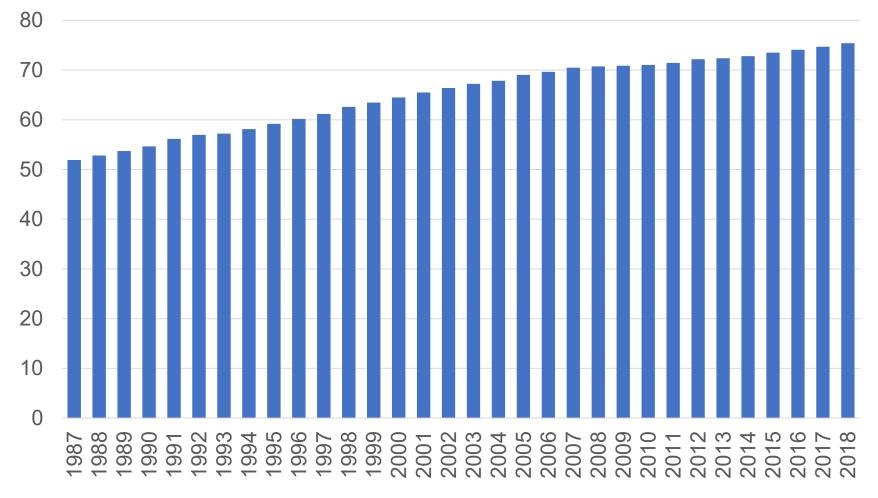
#### Natural gas and renewables are a larger share of the electric power fuel mix as coal has declined

US Electricity Net Generation by Source TWh/year

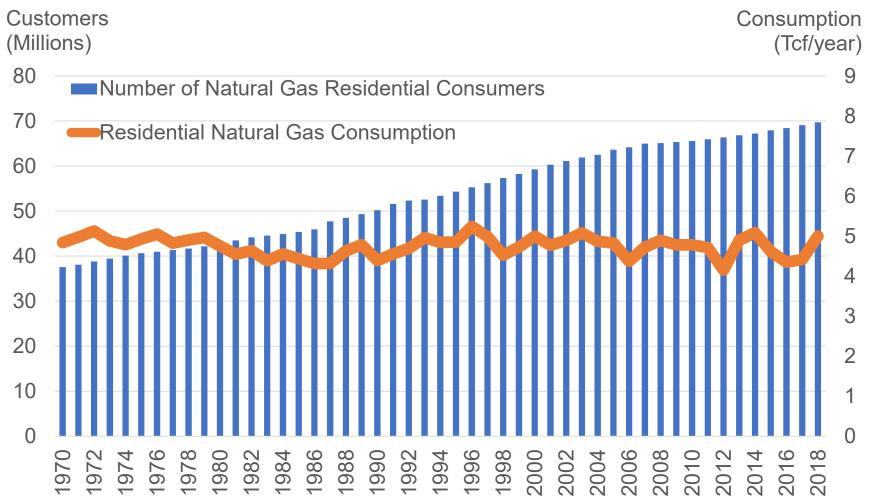


## The number of natural gas customers has increased 45 percent since 1987

Total Gas Customers, Millions of Customers

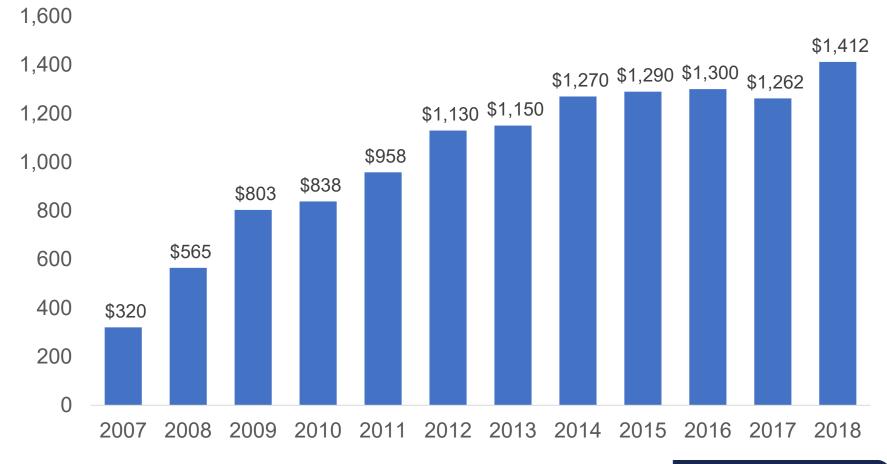


#### Natural gas use in homes has remained flat since 1970 while the number of customers served increased by 86%



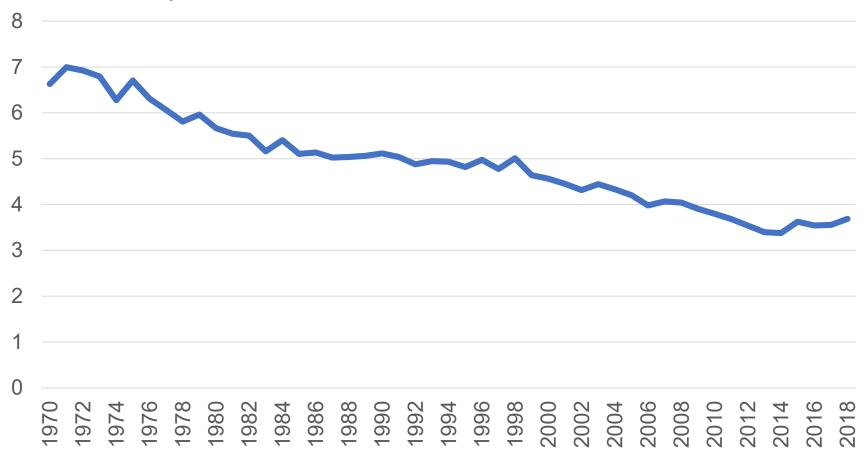
## Natural gas utility spending on energy efficiency programs increased steadily

United States Natural Gas Efficiency Program Investments Million Dollars



#### **Continued improvements in gas efficiency have reduced residential emissions per customer by 50%**

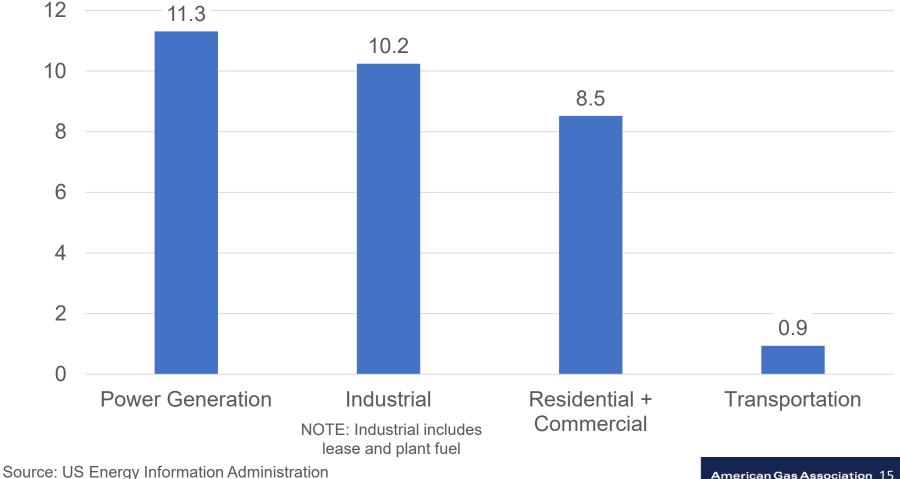
CO2 Emissions per Residential Natural Gas Customer Metric Tons CO2/year



Based on AGA calculations of weather-normalized residential gas consumption per customer

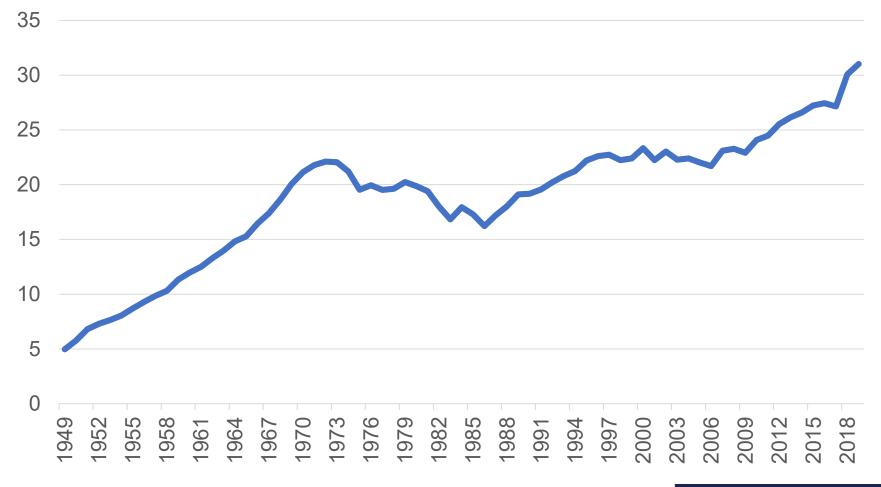
#### Power generation is the major user of gas in the United States, followed by industry and then buildings

US Gas Consumption by Sector, 2019 **Trillion Cubic Feet** 



## **Domestic consumption of natural gas at a record level**

US Natural Gas Total Consumption, 1950-2019 Trillion Cubic Feet

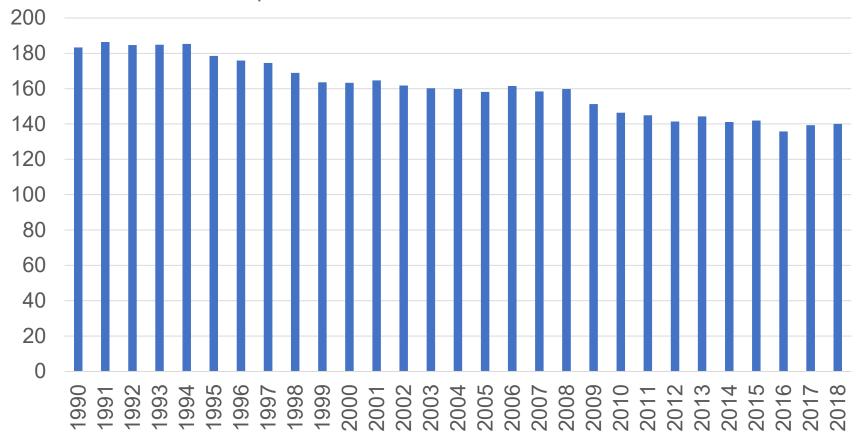


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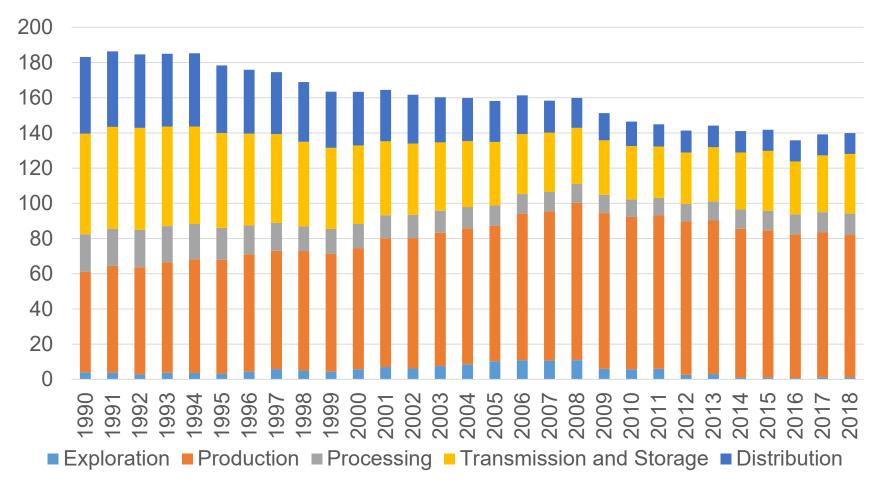
#### Methane emissions from natural gas systems have declined 24 percent from 1990 levels

Total Natural Gas Industry Methane Emissions Million Metric Tons CO2-equivalent

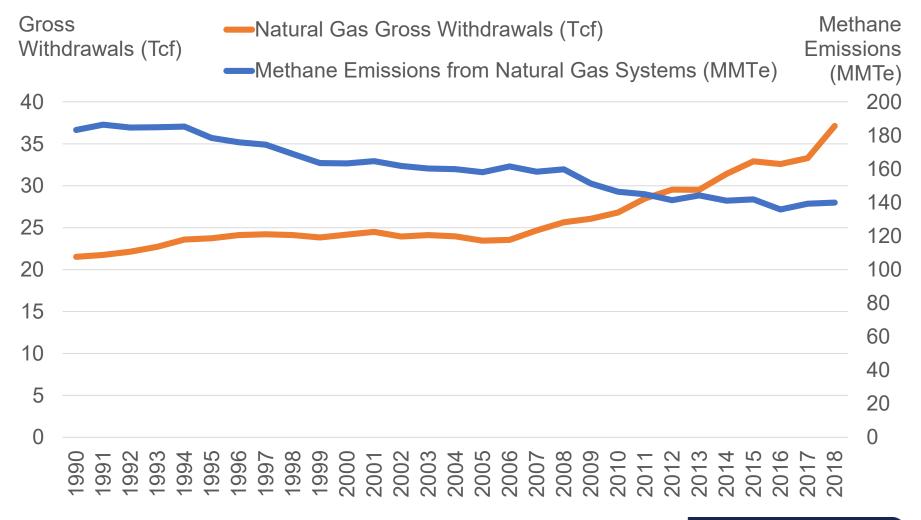


# Natural gas distribution share of methane emissions has consistently decreased since 1990

Natural Gas System Methane by Stage 1990 - 2018, MMT CO2 Eq



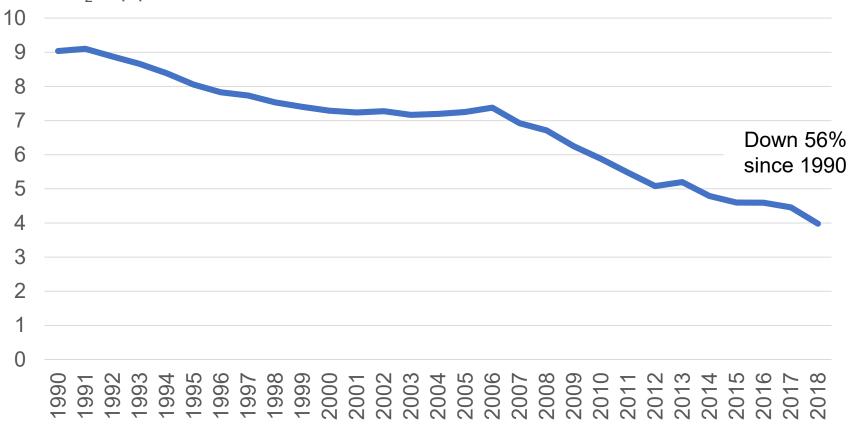
#### Methane emissions have declined since 1990 even as gross natural gas withdrawals climbed 73 percent.



Source: EPA Inventory of US Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2018

# Methane emissions per unit of natural gas produced have declined steadily since 1990

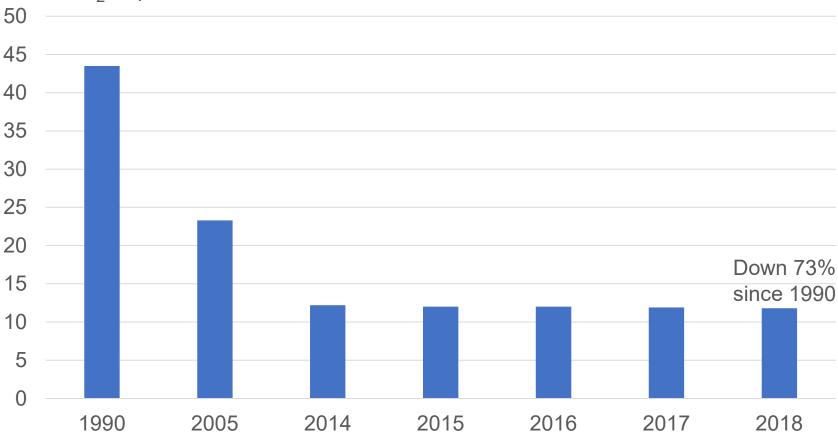
Ratio of Methane Emissions per Mcf of Gas Produced MMT CO<sub>2</sub>-Eq. per Mcf



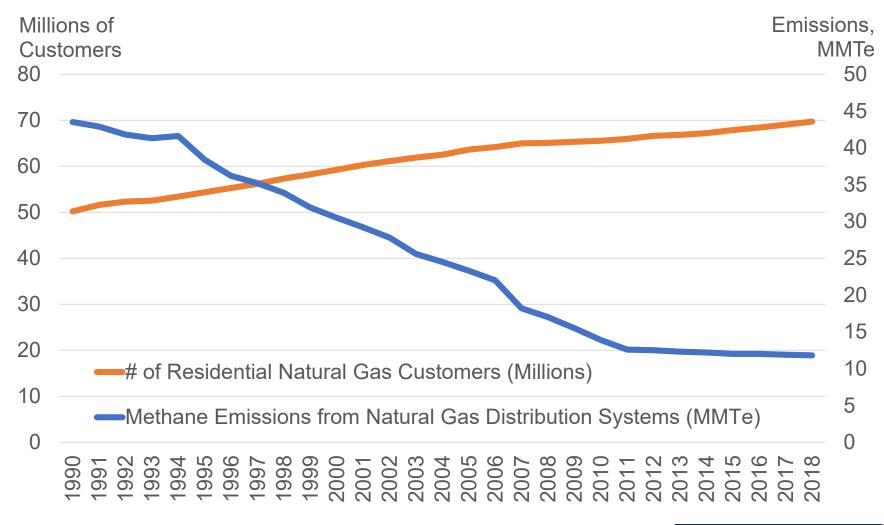
Includes methane emissions from petroleum production based on the natural gas fraction of total energy content produced from oil wells.

#### Methane emissions from natural gas distribution systems are small and shaped by a declining trend

Methane Emissions from Natural Gas Distribution Systems MMT CO<sub>2</sub>-Eq.



#### Methane emissions from natural gas distribution systems are decreasing as the number of customers increase.



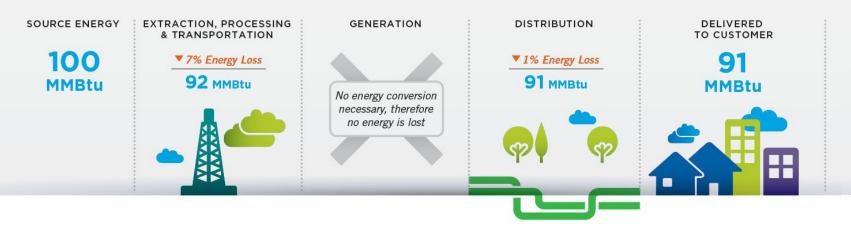
Source: EPA Inventory of US Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2018, EIA

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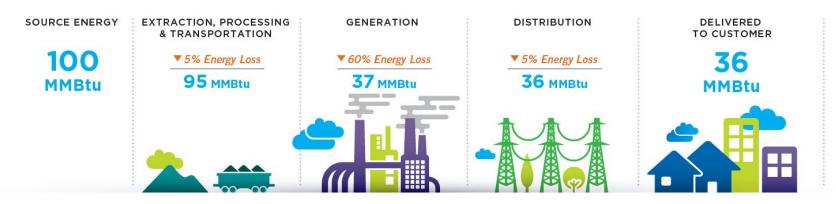
## The natural gas delivery system is 91% efficient from production to customer.

#### **Direct Use of Natural Gas**

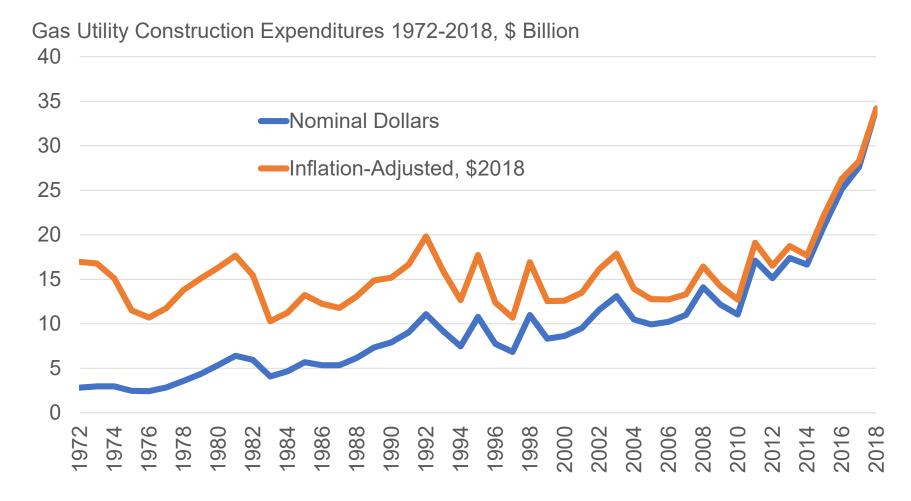


#### **Converting to Electricity**

Converting natural gas into electricity only maintains 36% of usable energy on the journey from production to customer.



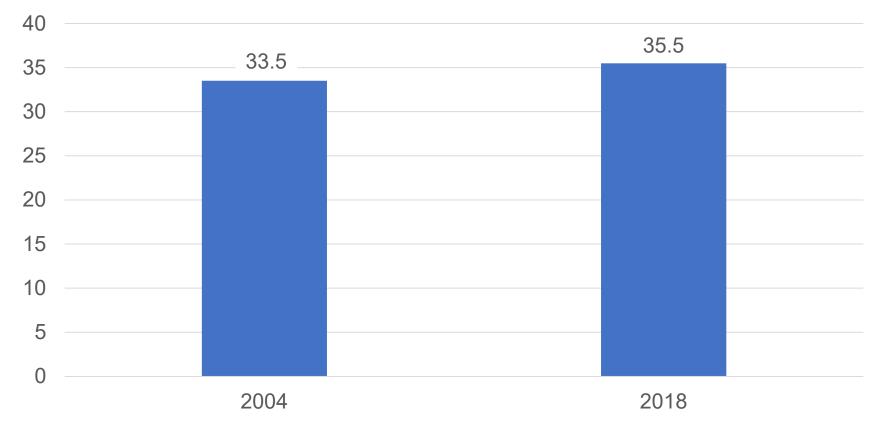
Gas utility construction expenditures have increased in recent years due to greater state adoption of pipeline replacement and expansion programs to improve safety and extend service to new customers.



Source: American Gas Association Uniform Statistical Report

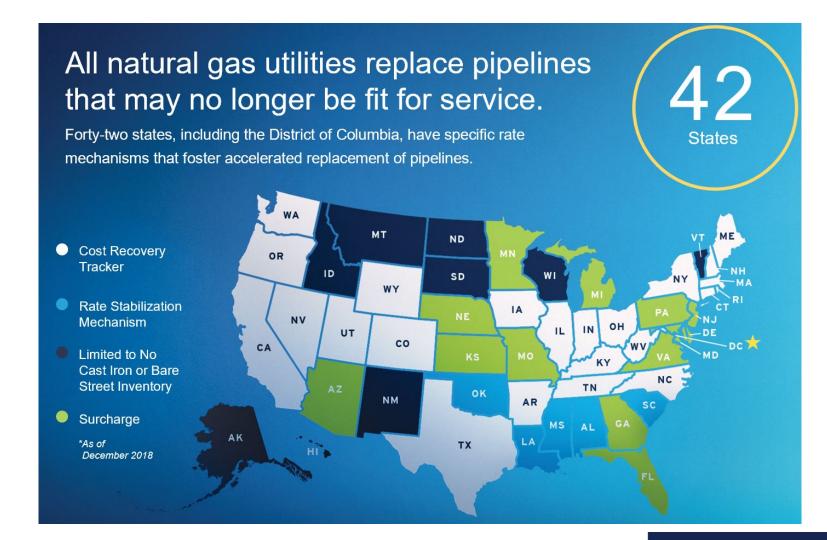
#### Due to replacement and new construction the average age of gas distribution main pipelines increased by only two years since 2004

Average age of US gas mains in service, years

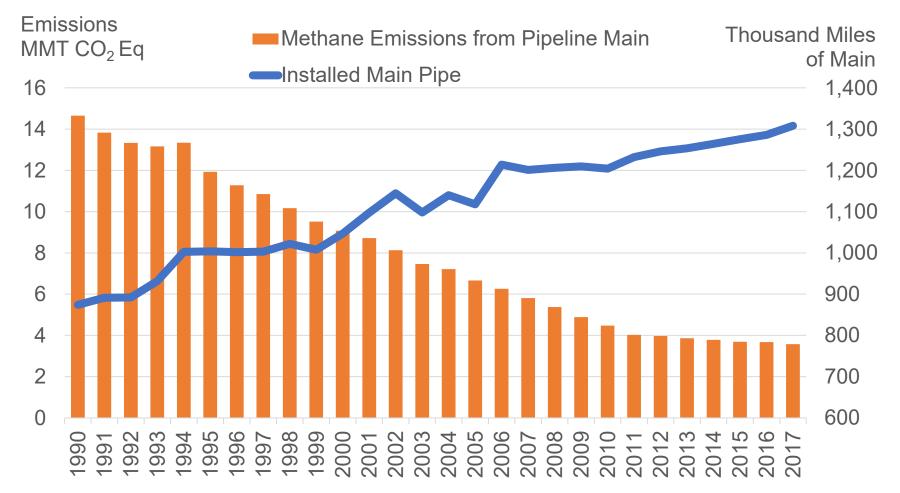


Source: Department of Transportation, AGA Analysis

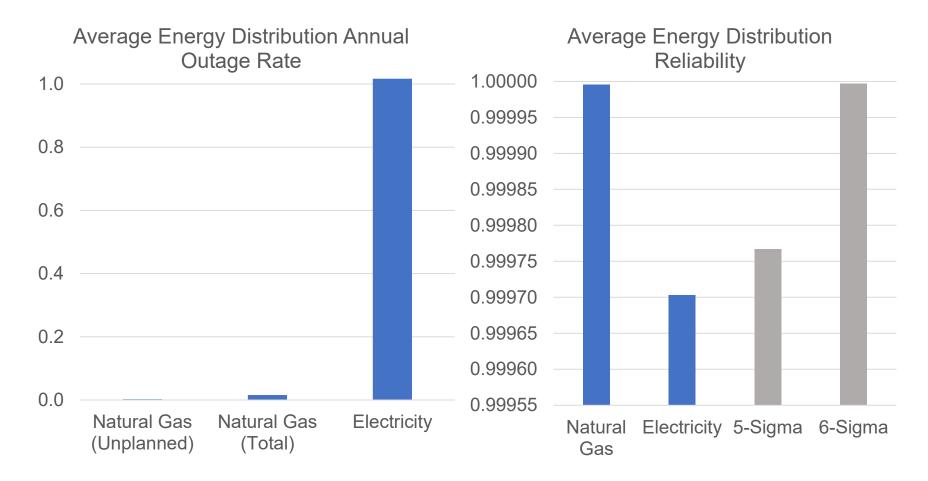
#### Forty-two states including the District of Columbia have a program or policy in place to accelerate replacement of distribution pipelines



#### Pipeline and other infrastructure replacement has reduced methane emissions from gas utility systems



Natural gas service is reliable. Unplanned outages affect about 1 in 800 natural gas customers per year. By comparison, electric distribution systems have an average of one outage per year per customer.



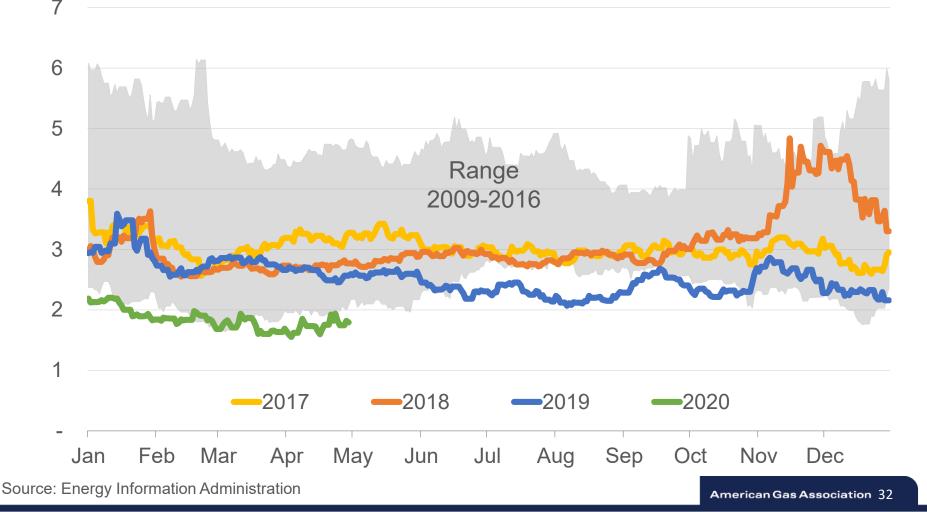
Source: Gas Technology Institute. *Assessment of Natural Gas and Electric Distribution Service Reliability*. 2018.

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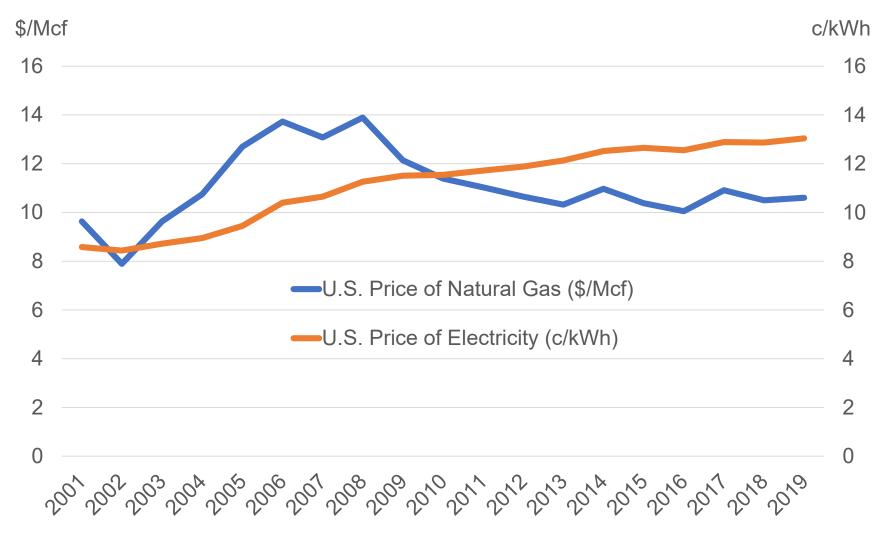
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#### Natural gas prices still trading at lowend of historical range

Natural Gas Prices Prompt-Month Futures at Henry Hub \$/MMBtu



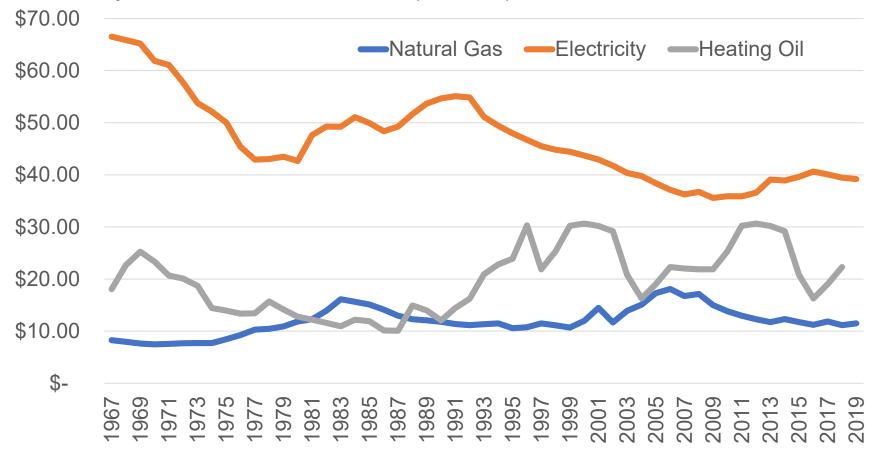
#### Delivered natural gas price has remained low compared with electricity



Source: Energy Information Administration

## On an energy-equivalent basis, natural gas rates are 67% less than electricity

Residential Price for Natural Gas, Electricity, and Heating Oil Inflation-adjusted, December 2019 dollars (\$/MMBtu)



### Natural gas appliances save money and benefit the environment



Source: American Gas Association

Overall, a typical new home can save nearly \$900 per year in energy costs by installing natural gas compared with electricity for water heating, cooking, and clothes drying.

#### **Estimated Annual Residential Energy Bills for Typical New Home**

	Natural Gas	Electricity	Oil	Propane
Space Heating	\$666	\$1,096	\$1,258	\$1,321
Other <sup>1</sup>	\$325	\$773	\$1,656	\$635
Total	\$991	\$1,869	\$1,914	\$1,956

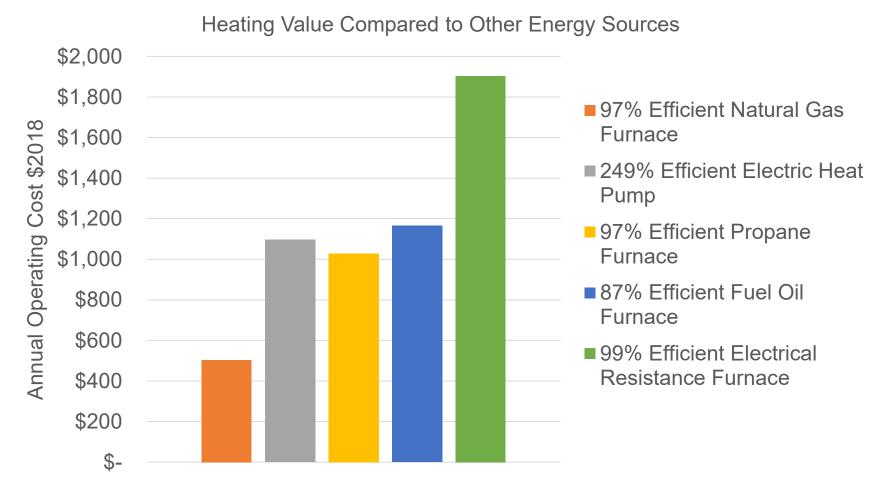
<sup>1</sup> Includes water heating, cooking, and clothes drying

# Total efficiency advantage of natural gas results in significantly lower emissions for natural gas

Full-Fuel-Cycle Carbon Dioxide Equivalent Emissions for New Homes (Metric Tons of CO2e per Average Household Energy Use)

Natural Gas	5.9
Electricity	7.6
Oil	7.1
Propane	7.0

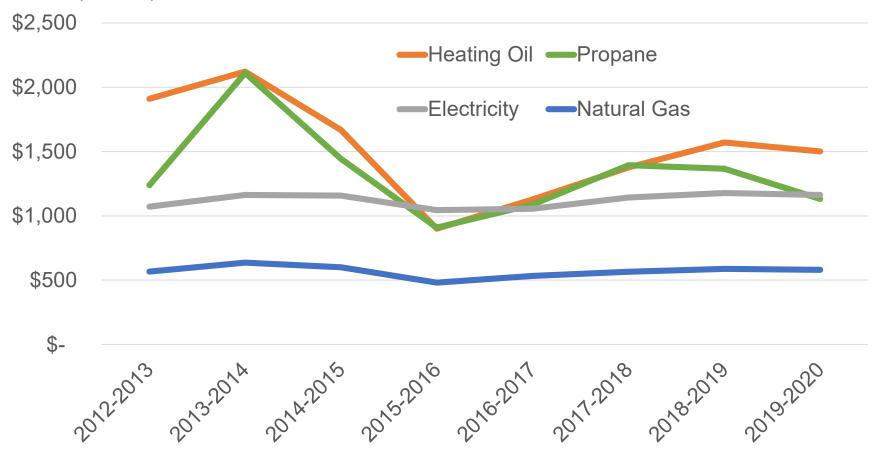
Energy efficiency is a critical component of reducing home heating costs, and efficient natural gas remains among the lowest-cost ways to heat a home.



Source: American Gas Association

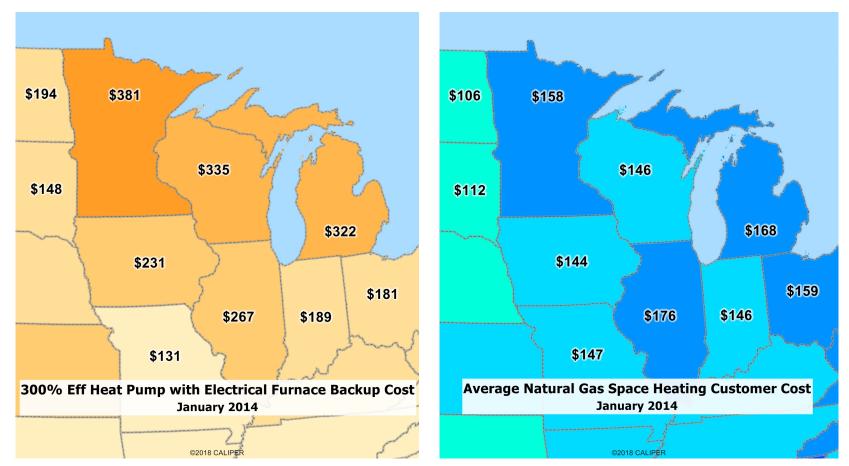
## Households using natural gas for heat during the winter save twice as much as those using electricity

US Average Consumer Expenditures for Heating Fuels During the Winter (Dollars)



## Regional Comparison of Average Natural Gas and Electric Operating Costs for Space Heating

Conventional natural gas furnaces on average have an operational cost advantage over other heating sources, including advanced heat pumps, particularly on the coldest days when space heating requirements are the highest and electric heat pump efficiency and heating capacity is the lowest.



Source: A Comparison of Space Heating Appliance Costs During Extreme Cold Weather Events, EA 2019-01, American Gas Association

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#### The natural gas industry supports more than 4.1 million jobs, delivers \$269 billion in personal income, and contributes \$550 billion in national GDP

#### **Direct, Indirect, and Induced Economic Impacts**

	Employment (Number of Workers)	Labor Income (Millions)	Value Added (Million)
End-Use	\$1,788,207	\$106,941	\$271,663
Infrastructure	\$1,282,306	\$84,341	\$167,624
Production	\$1,033,510	\$78,204	\$111,390
All Segments	\$4,104,023	\$269,486	\$550,667

Source: API, Benefits and Opportunities of Natural Gas Use, Transportation, and Production, Data for 2015

# The direct use of natural gas and its underlying pipeline and distribution infrastructure accounts for the majority of natural gas industry jobs and economic contributions.

#### US Jobs, Wages, and Valued Added by Natural Gas Value Chain Segment for 2015

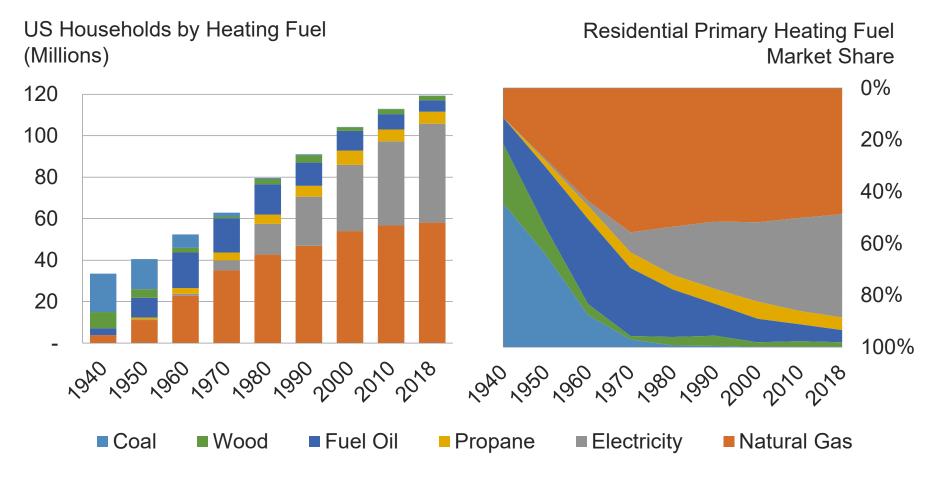
		Employment (# of workers)			Labor Income (\$ million)			Value Added (\$ million)		
Segment	Category	Direct & Indirect	Induced	Total	Direct & Indirect	Induced	Total	Direct & Indirect	Induced	Total
	Power Generation	147,857	258,596	406,453	11,419	12,891	24,311	42,395	22,735	65,130
	Industrial	297,763	563,432	861,195	23,354	28,228	51,582	83,885	49,717	133,602
End-Use	Residential/ Commercial	163,499	211,665	375,165	10,934	10,946	21,880	38,907	19,123	58,029
	Export	81,532	60,548	142,080	5,965	3,075	9,040	9,076	5 <i>,</i> 396	14,471
	Transportation	1,751	1,564	3,315	82	81	130	284	146	430
	Processing	86,951	102,342	189,293	7,211	5,296	12,508	17,856	9,327	27,183
	Pipelines	268,373	257,754	526,128	21,702	13,409	35,111	43,793	23,637	67,430
Infrastructure	Distribution	287,063	264,488	551,552	21,992	13,693	35,717	47,079	23,962	71,041
	Wholesalers, Marketers, Other	7,920	7,414	15,333	619	385	1,005	1,296	675	1,971
Production	Natural Gas/NGLs	609,382	424,129	1,033,510	56,667	21,537	78,204	73,596	37,794	111,390
All Segments	Grand Total	1,952,091	2,151,932	4,104,023	159,946	109,541	269,486	358,167	192,510	550,677

Source: API, Benefits and Opportunities of Natural Gas Use, Transportation, and Production, Data for 2015 A

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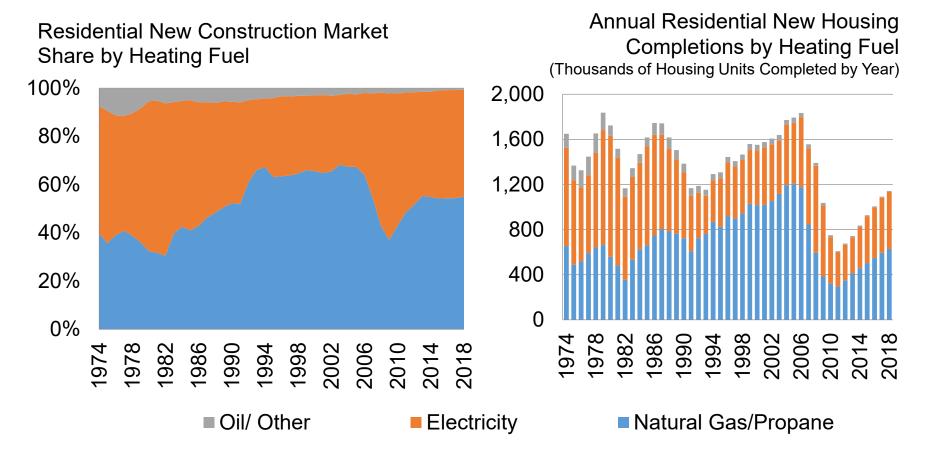
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### Natural gas and electricity as primary heating energy sources have grown during the past five decades.



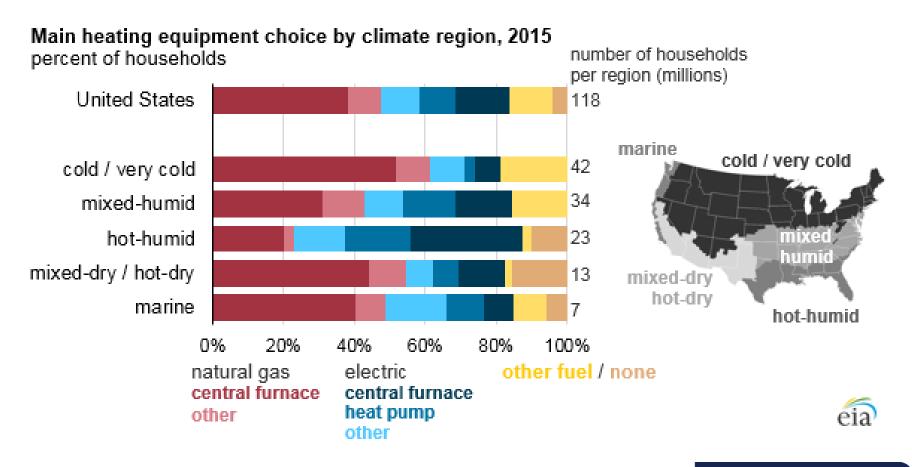
Source: US Census Bureau

## The residential new construction is currently split between gas and electric appliances.



Source: US Census Bureau, Annual Characteristics of New Housing

Natural gas is the main heating fuel choice for residential homes in most regions, though electric equipment is more predominant in warmer climates. The most widely installed electric equipment used for space heating are central furnaces and other units that use inefficient resistance elements. The efficient direct use of natural gas is a key energy efficiency solution for these households.



#### There are 13.3 million households in the United States indicate that natural gas service is available in the neighborhood but instead use another fuel source for their primary space heat.

Space Heating Market for Households with Natural Gas Service

			Not Using Natural Gas Service*					
	With							
	Natural Gas	Using	Electric					
	Service	Natural Gas	Central Air	Heat Pump	Propane	Fuel Oil	Other	Total
New England	3.0	2.5	0.1	-	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.5
Middle Atlantic	12.5	10.9	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.7	0.3	1.5
East North Central	15.5	13.8	0.7	0.2	0.1	-	0.6	1.6
West North Central	6.3	5.8	0.2	0.1	0.0	-	0.2	0.5
South Atlantic	10.5	7.8	0.9	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.8	2.7
East South Central	4.3	2.5	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.3	1.8
West South Central	8.7	6.4	1.3	0.3	0.0	-	0.7	2.3
Mountain	6.8	6.0	0.4	0.1	0.1	-	0.2	0.8
Pacific	14.5	12.9	0.3	0.2	-	0.1	1.0	1.6
Grand Total	81.9	68.6	4.7	2.1	0.9	1.3	4.3	13.3

(Millions of Households)

\*Number of Households indicating natural gas service but use an alternative primary heating source

These households represent a large base for potential opportunities today to achieve consumer cost savings, efficiency improvements, and emissions reductions.

Source: Energy Information Administration, Residential Energy Consumption Survey 2015

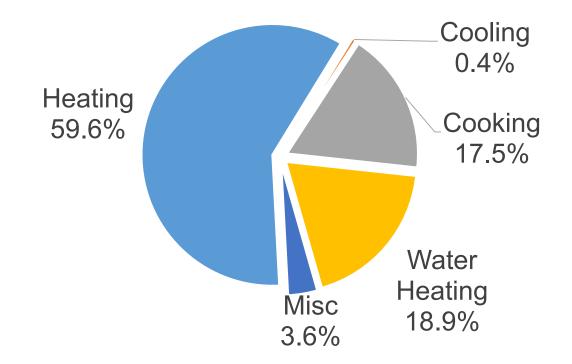
## Natural gas is used by 68% of commercial buildings by floorspace.

#### US Commercial Sector All Buildings & Floorspace, Natural Gas Share, by Region

	Total Buildings (Thousands)	Natural Gas Used, Share of Total Buildings	Total Floorspace (Billion Sq. Ft.)	Natural Gas Used, Share of Floorspace
New England	302	32%	4.4	53%
Middle Atlantic	504	67%	11.7	78%
East North Central	735	78%	13.0	85%
West North Central	502	53%	6.4	70%
South Atlantic	1,091	35%	18.0	55%
East South Central	370	52%	4.9	70%
West South Central	786	47%	11.5	57%
Mountain	338	64%	4.9	75%
Pacific	929	53%	13.5	67%
Grand Total	5,557	53%	88.2	68%

# Natural gas consumption in commercial buildings is used for space heat, cooking, and hot water.

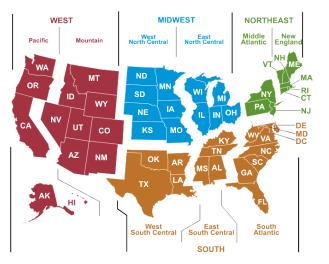
How Natural Gas is Consumed in Commercial Buildings (2012)



# There are more commercial buildings in the South, but Midwest retains the highest natural gas share.

#### US Commercial Sector All Buildings & Floorspace, Natural Gas Share, by Region

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Grand Total	5,557	53%	88.2	68%

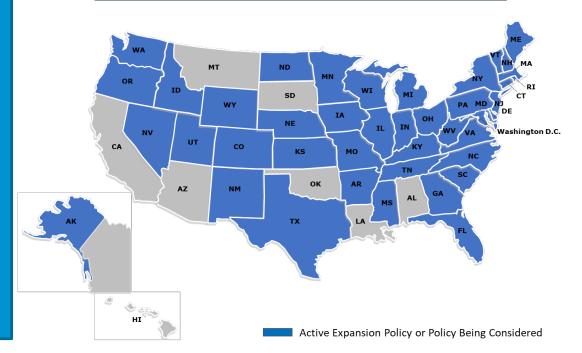


Source: US Energy Information Administration, Commercial Energy Buildings Consumption Survey

## There are good opportunities to expand natural gas service to residential and commercial customers

- Leverage natural gas as a tool for economic growth.
- Promote new technologies to improve energy services, lower costs, and reduce emissions.
- Replace heating oil with natural gas, especially in the northeastern US.
- Leverage existing efficiency programs to meet economic or environmental policy goals.

#### Thirty-nine states have an active expansion program or policy being considered



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## There are more than 42 million natural gas and propane household gas ranges, ovens, and cooktops in the United States.

- These appliances have excellent safety records. The natural gas utility industry continues to work to develop information and provide education for consumers, employees, and regulators about the safety of gas cooking appliances and ways to reduce cooking process emissions from impacting indoor air quality.
- Indoor air quality studies have consistently found that emissions from the cooking process—not from the burner or heat source operation represent the chief source of concern with respect to indoor air quality.<sup>1</sup>
- Neither the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) nor the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) identifies any significant health issues associated with operation of natural gas-fired cooking appliances for air quality concerns, and other public information from national health authorities on asthma development does not identify gas cooking appliances as a source.<sup>2</sup>

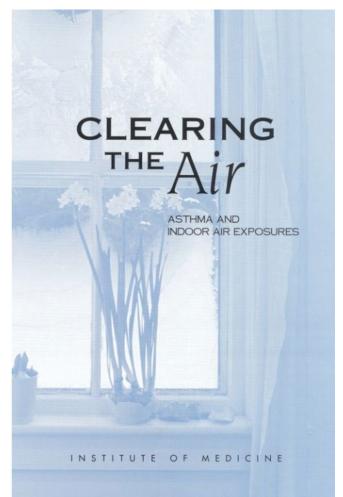
2 American Lung Association, Environmental Protection Agency, Consumer Products Safety Commission, American Medical Association, "Indoor Air Pollution: An Introduction to Health Professionals," (undated).

<sup>1</sup> Abdullahi, L., Delgado S., Juana M., Harrison, R., "Emissions and Indoor Concentrations of Particulate Matter and Its Specific Chemical Components from Cooking: A Review," Atmospheric Environment, vol. 41, pp. 260-294, June 2013.

#### Residential natural gas cooking appliances have a long history of assessment and standardization related to emissions

- The first consideration of combustion appliance emissions was undertaken in 1921 for cooking appliances and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions.
- A 1996 review of the basis for those limits, reviewed by CPSC and backed up by CPSC appliance testing, found that the 1923 limits were still protective of health and safety.
- CPSC continues to be the lead federal authority on review consumer health and safety associated with unvented natural gas combustion appliances and at present has expressed no concerns over these appliances as a risk to consumes

#### The natural gas industry continues to be active in addressing indoor air quality concerns



- The safety of customers and communities is the top priority for America's natural gas utilities.
- The natural gas industry is actively engaged in science-based analysis of combustion emissions and the benefits of natural gas to the economy and the environment.
- AGA supports and is engaged in testing emissions of combustion products, analyzing data, and assessing emissions contributions to indoor air quality in consumers' homes
- AGA continually reviews indoor air quality exposure and health effects literature from peer-reviewed sources, federal agency policies, and health organization consensus documents, including the National Institute of Medicine study of asthma, "Clearing the Air".

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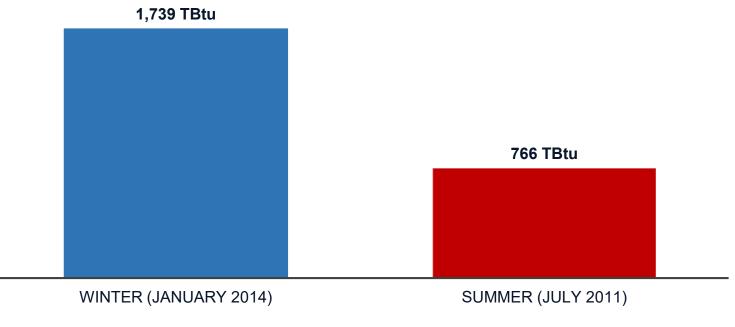
## Key questions on the impacts of policydriven residential electrification

- Will policy-driven residential electrification actually reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
- How will policy-driven residential electrification impact natural gas utility customers?
- What would be the impacts on the power sector and on electric transmission infrastructure requirements?
- What would be the overall cost of policy-driven residential electrification?
- How do the costs of policy-driven residential electrification compare to other approaches to reduce emissions?

# Foundational elements that shape the impacts of policy-driven residential electrification.

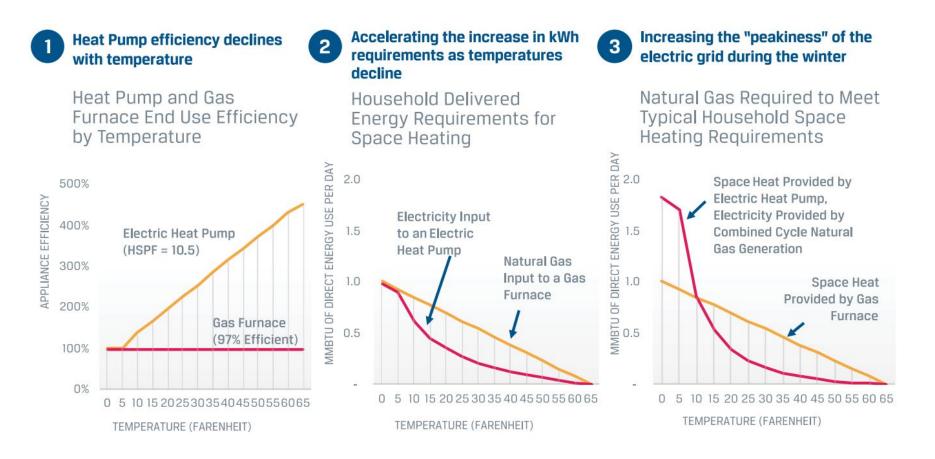
- Winter generally requires much more energy than summer
- Therefore, analysis must evaluate peak requirements

US Residential Monthly Winter & Summer Energy Consumption, Top Months 2010-2016

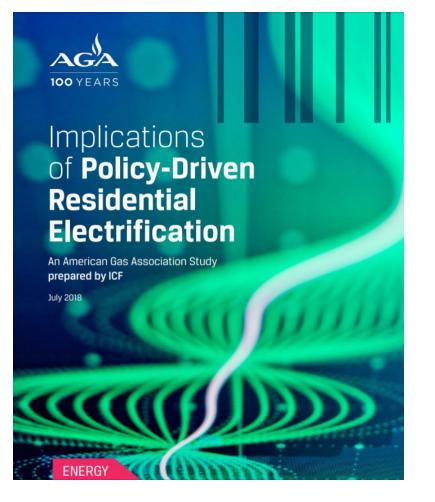


Source: EIA Monthly Energy Review

#### Illustration of Energy Delivery of an Electric Heat Pump and Natural Gas Furnace



# Key findings from an AGA study of the impacts of policy-driven residential electrification



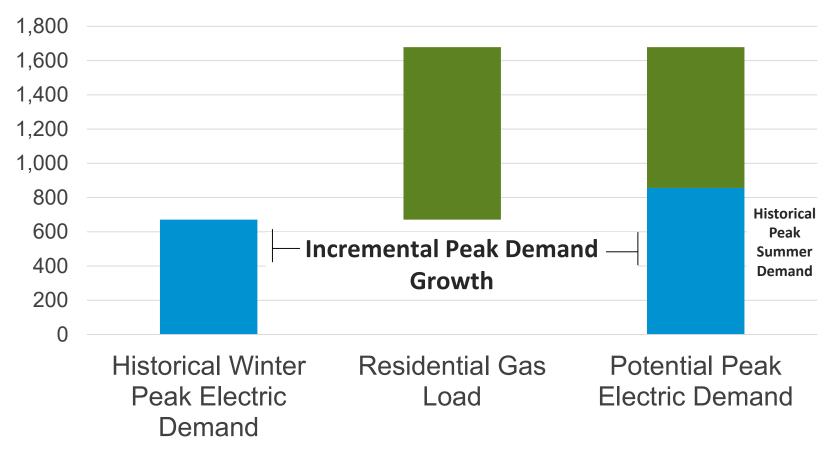
- Incremental generation capacity requirements and transmission system upgrade costs
  \$155 to \$426 billion
- > Overall US GHG emissions reduced by 1% to 1.5%
- Total cost of policy-driven residential electrification \$1,060 to \$1,420 per year per converted household increase in energy costs
- Cost of carbon dioxide emissions reductions:
  \$572 to \$806 per ton

https://www.aga.org/research/reports/implications-of-policy-driven-residential-electrification/

Source: Implications of Policy-Driven Electrification of Residential Gas Use, AGA, July 2018

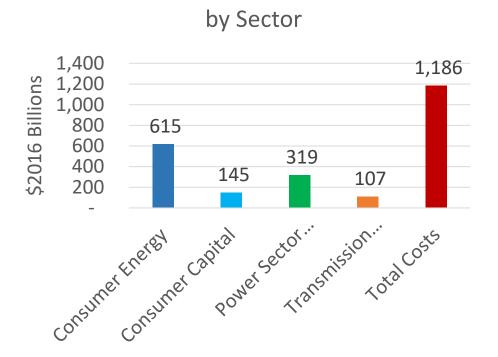
## Electrifying the entire residential sector could nearly double the US electric grid's peak hourly demand

Impact of 100% Electrification of Residential Natural Gas Peak Winter Hourly Demand (GW)



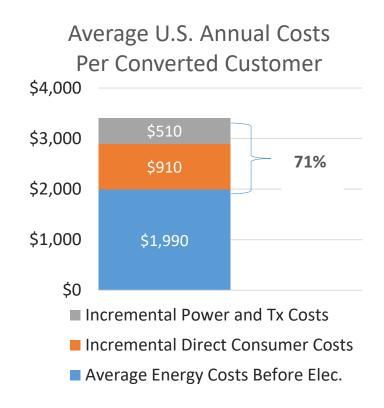
Source: Implications of Policy-Driven Electrification of Residential Gas Use, American Gas Association

#### **Costs associated with a widespread policy-driven approach to electrifying residential space & water heat**



Total Cost of Renewables-Only Case

#### Source: Implications of Policy-Driven Electrification of Residential Gas Use, American Gas Association

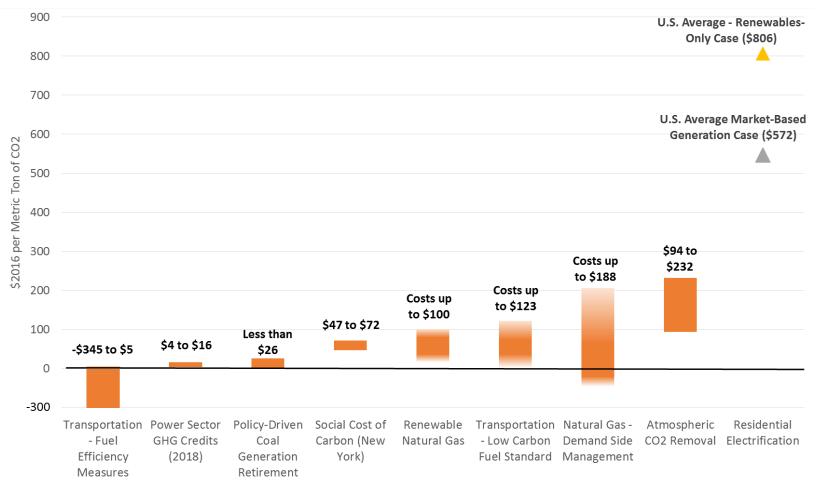


#### Costs do not include

- Local electricity distribution upgrades
- Impact to electric or gas rates
- Fixed costs shifted to gas distribution customers remaining on the system.

# Policy-driven residential electrification would be a more expensive approach to greenhouse gas reduction relative to many of the other pathways.

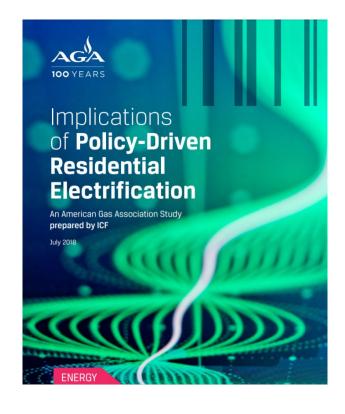
Comparison of Cost Ranges for Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Reduction Mechanism



Source: Implications of Policy-Driven Electrification of Residential Gas Use, American Gas Association

## **Conclusions from AGA study of the impacts of policy-driven residential electrification**

- Policy-driven residential electrification could be burdensome to the economy and consumers
- The effect of electrification on peak electric demand is one of the key drivers of impact on the electricity sector
- Electrifying the entire residential sector would nearly double the US electric grid's peak hourly demand
- Power sector natural gas consumption increases in both cases, resulting in higher power sector emissions than the Reference Case
- Total greenhouse gas reduction potential from policy-driven residential electrification is small



# Two recent studies examine the opportunities for natural gas to deliver meaningful emissions reductions



- 1. Renewable Sources of Natural Gas: Supply and Emissions Reduction Assessment Study
- 2. Opportunities for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Emerging Natural Gas Direct-Use Technologies

http://www.gasfoundation.org

### Opportunities for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through Emerging Natural Gas Direct Use Technologies





- How much could US GHG emissions be reduced with next generation residential generation residential direct-use gas technologies?
- What is the expected unit cost (\$/Metric Ton) of achieving the emissions reductions?
- What benefits would customers see?
- What type and level of support would utilities and/or regulators need to provide in order to realize the full benefits of these technologies?

# Emerging technologies selected and evaluated



#### Low-cost residential gas absorption heat pump (GAHP)

- Condensing furnace
- Transport Membrane Humidifier (TMH)

- Tankless water heater -Maintenance-free approaches for tankless water heaters
- Solar-assisted heating PV assisted domestic hot water heater (potable)
- Gas heat pump water heater
- Combined Space and Water Heating Systems\*



- Ozone and cold-water washing
- Energy star rated clothes dryer



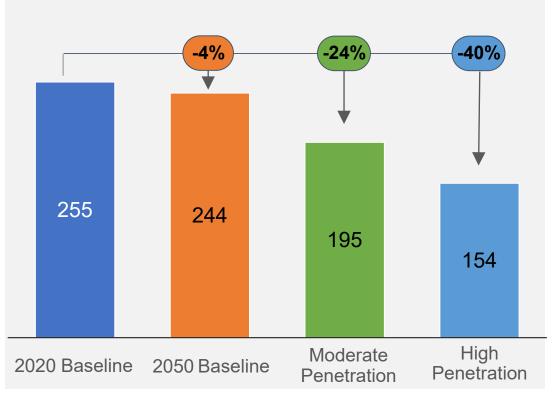
- IoT thermostats (i.e. Nest, Honeywell)
- Building envelope (insulation, windows, building materials)
- Demand controls for HW systems
- Thermostatically controlled low flow shower head



- Solid oxide fuel cells\*
- Micro CHP natural gas reciprocating, sterling engine

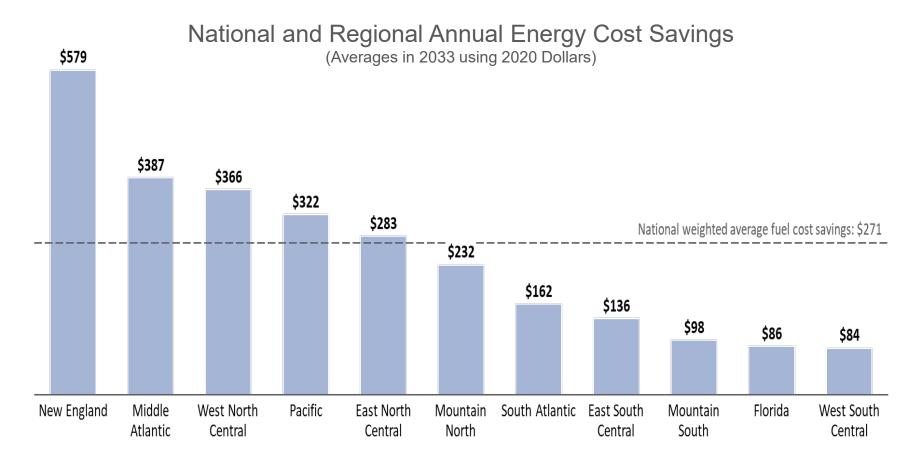
### Emerging direct use technologies could reduce natural gas CO2 emissions 40% in the residential sector by 2050

Residential Natural Gas Emissions, MMT CO2



- In the Moderate and High Penetration scenarios, 60 and 101 million metric tons of CO2 respectively are reduced
- Complementary technologies (e.g. insulation) created 2% efficiency improvement
- Achieve a decrease in emissions in spite of the growth in the number of installed units by ~36%

## Consumers using the emerging technologies modeled could achieve considerable energy savings



## Renewable Sources of Natural Gas: Supply and Emissions Reduction Assessment Study

#### American Gas FOUNDATION

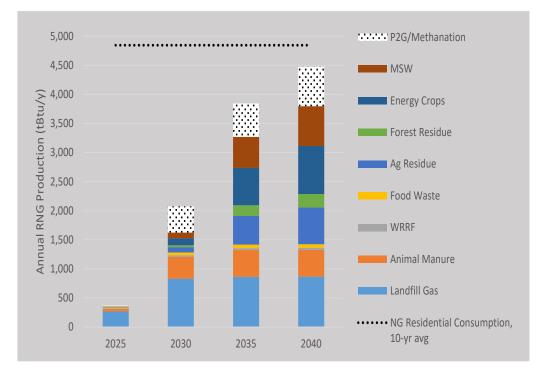


- To conduct a thorough assessment of renewable natural gas resource potential, associated costs of production, and associated emission reduction. Additionally, to educate policy-makers and the general public about the ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by leverage the existing natural gas infrastructure to deliver renewable natural gas.
- How much RNG could be produced?
- What is the GHG emissions reduction potential?
- How much is it going to cost? And what is the cost-effectiveness?

Source: Renewable Sources of Natural Gas Supply and Emissions Reduction Assessment, American Gas Foundation

## ICF modeled two scenarios to estimate a low and high resource potential of renewable sources of natural gas

- High resource potential scenario: 4,450 tBtu of RNG by 2040
- Reference point, residential demand for natural gas: 4,846 tBtu (avg. 2009-2018)
- Critical factors: utilization of feedstocks, technology adoption rate, and policy levers
- Diversity of RNG potential:
  - 9 feedstocks considered
  - 3 production technologies

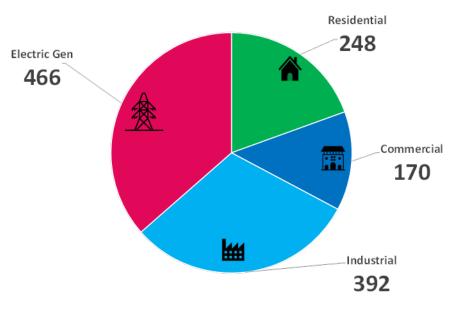


Source: Renewable Sources of Natural Gas Supply and Emissions Reduction Assessment, American Gas Foundation

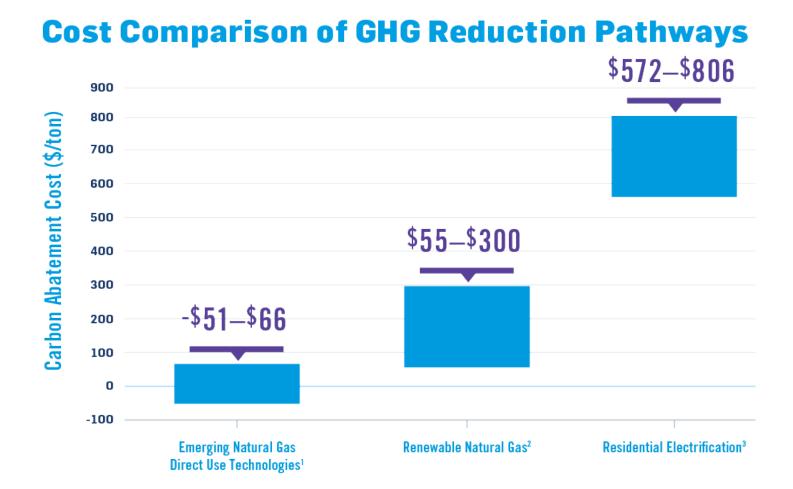
# Emissions reduction potential from renewable sources of natural gas

- RNG deployment alone based on the resources evaluated in this study could achieve 101 to 235 MMT of greenhouse gas emission reductions by 2040
- This represents up to a 95% reduction in residential greenhouse gas emissions from natural gas
- The GHG emission reductions were calculated using IPCC guidelines stating that emissions from biogenic fuel sources should not be included when accounting for emissions in combustion.
- The opportunity of RNG from powerto-gas systems (and paired with methanation units) warrants further consideration. However, ICF's analysis demonstrates that the combination of production potential and potential cost reductions for power-to-gas systems is promising.

Average Annual Carbon Dioxide Emissions (MMT) from Natural Gas Consumption in the US (2009-2018)



Deployment of advanced natural gas technologies and renewable natural gas resources provide additional cost-effective pathways to emissions reduction.



<sup>1</sup>Renewable Sources of Natural Gas Supply and Emissions Reduction Assessment, American Gas Foundation <sup>2</sup>Opportunities For Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through Emerging Natural Gas Direct-use Technologies, American Gas Foundation <sup>3</sup>Implications of Policy-Driven Electrification of Residential Gas Use, American Gas Association



#### Climate Change Position Statement

The American Gas Association is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through smart innovation, new and modernized infrastructure, and advanced technologies that maintain reliable, resilient, and affordable energy service choices for consumers.

www.aga.org/climate



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The American Gas Association, founded in 1918, represents more than 200 local energy companies that deliver clean natural gas throughout the United States. There are more than 74 million residential, commercial and industrial natural gas customers in the US, of which 95 percent — more than 71 million customers — receive their gas from AGA members. Today, natural gas meets more than one-fourth of the United States' energy needs.

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