

# An Increase in Safety Leads to a Decrease in Emissions

- Safety is the top priority for America's natural gas utilities.
- According to the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, our domestic abundance of clean natural gas is delivered via the safest energy system in the nation.
- A nationwide field study by Washington State University concluded that as little as 0.1 percent of the natural gas delivered nationwide is emitted from local distribution systems.
- Even with the historically excellent performance of the nation's natural gas delivery system, natural gas utilities remain vigilant and committed to continually upgrading this crucial infrastructure based on enhanced risk-based integrity management programs.

*America's natural gas utilities are committed to reducing emissions by using our nation's abundance of natural gas in a sustainable, environmentally friendly and safe way.*

- 42 states, including the District of Columbia, have a program to facilitate accelerated replacement and modernization of natural gas distribution pipelines no longer fit for service.
- The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners has approved a resolution in 2013 encouraging state regulators and industry to consider sensible programs aimed at replacing the most vulnerable pipelines as quickly as possible and to explore, examine and consider adopting alternative rate recovery mechanisms in order to accelerate the modernization, replacement and expansion of the nation's natural gas pipeline systems.
- Since 1990, natural gas utilities have added nearly 760,000 miles of distribution mains and services to serve 20 million more customers.
- Natural gas utilities have installed modern plastic pipes used for delivering gas at low pressure at a rate of 28,000 miles per year, connecting new customers and upgrading existing pipeline infrastructure.
- Nearly 90 percent of the emissions declines from distribution systems since 1990 are due to pipeline replacements.
- AGA and our member companies are committed to continuing to conduct research to help inform accurate data regarding the emissions profile of the natural gas distribution industry, which will help build an understanding of where further improvement is needed.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has confirmed that lost and unaccounted for gas (LUAF) should not be used to estimate emissions from the natural gas delivery system because it does not provide the desired level of data accuracy and quality and no current studies exist that accurately define the percentage of LUAF that reflects actual emissions from a system.
- From the place where it is extracted from the ground, to appliances in your home, natural gas achieves 91% energy efficiency.
- Households with natural gas versus all-electric appliances produce 41% lower greenhouse gas emissions.
- Since 1970, gas utilities have added 30 million more residential customers with virtually no increases in emissions.
- Natural gas utilities in the U.S. spend \$4 million on energy efficiency programs every day.
- Utilities helped customers reduce 12.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions in 2016.

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