Natural Gas in Massachusetts

FAST FACTS

- Natural gas is the most consumed residential energy source in the state.
- 1.5 million households rely on natural gas.
- Natural gas is the primary source for electricity generation.
- Natural gas is helping reduce emissions.

CONSUMER TRENDS

- 1.5 million households rely on natural gas.
- There are 144,600 commercial customers and 11,200 industrial customers of natural gas in Massachusetts.
  - In 2018, the top industries for gas consumption were paper, chemicals, food, fabricated metal products and non-metallic mineral products representing 72% of natural gas industrial demand.

REDUCING EMISSIONS

- In 2017, Massachusetts reduced annual consumption of natural gas by 1.2% through efficiency programs, the highest reduction of any state in the country.
- In 2016, natural gas systems (distribution and transmission) emissions represented only 1.1% of total Massachusetts GHG emissions.
- Massachusetts utilities spent nearly $162 million on energy efficiency programs in 2017.
Natural gas is the cheapest residential energy option in Massachusetts.

Electricity is especially expensive: the cost per MMBtu is $58.79 vs $12.94 for natural gas.

A new natural gas home costs $916 a year to operate compared to $1,976 for an electric equivalent.

The average price of electricity to the residential sector in Massachusetts is the fourth highest in the country.

The natural gas industry provides 63,500 jobs. Direct, indirect, and induced value added in 2015 was $7.98 billion.

In fiscal year 2020, the state received more than $114 million in The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding (Including Tribal set-asides).

– LIHEAP is a federal block grant program that provides financial assistance to low and fixed-income individuals for fuel and utility bills, as well as low-cost weatherization and energy-related home repairs.

Boston’s air quality level ranks in the top three among major global cities.

The average price of electricity to the residential sector in Massachusetts is the fourth highest in the country.

IN THE BOSTON METRO AREA:

• Approximately 1 million households rely on natural gas for heating.

• Approximately 1.06 million households rely on natural gas for water heating.

• Approximately 900,000 households rely on natural gas for cooking.

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1. https://www.eia.gov/naturalgas/ngqs/#?year1=2015&year2=2018&company=Name
2. API Natural Gas Industry Impact Report’s Massachusetts section
3. https://liheapch.acf.hhs.gov/Funding/funding.htm
4. World Health Organization

Comparison of PM 2.5 Air Quality Levels in Major Global Cities

EPA/Standard/Safe Level: 12

0 5 10 15 20 25

PM 2.5 (μg/m³)

Seattle Miami Boston Denver New York City San Francisco Washington Philadelphia Los Angeles Chicago Moscow Rome Berlin Tokyo Brussels Athens Mexico City

Price Trends

NATURAL GAS IN YOUR STATE

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