

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.

More than 179 million Americans in homes and businesses in all 50 states utilize natural gas served by an infrastructure base that is unrivaled in the world.

Local gas distribution companies in collaboration with policymakers and regulators invest billions of dollars each year to modernize the nation's natural gas delivery infrastructure to distribute safe, reliable, and affordable energy and to improve customer efficiency. Natural gas is an abundant resource, and technologies to produce, transport, and use it continue to improve. Investments in the natural gas system support jobs, fuel economic growth, improve air quality, lower pollution, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Natural gas has led the reduction in United States greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, the natural gas delivery system is flexible, reliable, and versatile, and enables increased integration of renewable energy. The use of natural

gas, in combination with renewable energy and efficiency, has contributed to US energy-related carbon dioxide emissions declining to the lowest levels in nearly 25 years.

For decades, millions of homes and businesses have connected to the US natural gas delivery system—on average, connecting at a rate of more than one customer per minute. Despite this growth, during the past twenty years, carbon dioxide emissions from the residential, commercial, and industrial natural gas sector are virtually unchanged as emissions from individual consumers have declined. This decline is a direct result of energy efficiency improvements, including tighter building envelopes, more efficient appliances and equipment, behavioral changes in energy consumption, and the effectiveness of natural gas utility efficiency programs.

Furthermore, methane emissions from natural gas utility distribution systems have declined 73 percent since 1990 even as natural gas utility companies added more than 760,000 miles of

pipeline. This exceptional record can be traced to gas utilities continuing to make safety their top priority and remaining deeply committed to systematically upgrading infrastructure through risk-based integrity management programs.

As companies continue to modernize our natural gas infrastructure and connect homes and businesses to the system, new opportunities arise to achieve low-cost greenhouse gas emissions reductions by leveraging new and existing natural gas infrastructure, advanced technologies, and the nation's abundant natural gas resources. Additionally, natural gas infrastructure can be used for renewable energy storage and the delivery of renewable gases derived from biogenic sources and zero-carbon electricity. The gas system's ability to integrate high-value sources of energy like renewable natural gas and hydrogen is a critical component of our nation's ability to reach ambitious greenhouse gas reductions goals.

NATURAL GAS UTILITY COMMITMENTS

As businesses, policymakers, and stakeholders develop and implement strategies to pursue a significantly lower-carbon energy economy, natural gas utilities are committed to doing their part. AGA and the nation's natural gas utilities are committed to delivering natural gas cleanly and more efficiently and to utilizing our infrastructure to distribute the energy sources of the future.

Specifically, AGA and its member natural gas utilities collectively commit to:

1. Further reduce methane emissions from natural gas utility systems
2. Encourage and support energy efficiency
3. Increase efficiencies in operating facilities
4. Scale-up and deploy advanced natural gas applications
5. Invest in research, development, and deployment of new emissions mitigation, delivery, and end-use technologies
6. Support renewable natural gas development and use and assess the potential of renewable power to gas
7. Modernize pipeline and other natural gas utility infrastructure
8. Encourage and support third-party damage prevention programs
9. Utilize recognized best practices to reduce methane and transparently report emissions data
10. Encourage and increase collaboration with natural gas producers and pipeline operators to help ensure that natural gas resources are developed and transported sustainably and responsibly

PRINCIPLES FOR POLICY ACTION

AGA believes the development of an effective national policy approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and addressing climate change should integrate the following principles:

1. All sectors of the economy should contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. An effective climate change program must be flexible and recognize the differences in sectoral contributions and potential sectoral reduction strategies.
2. Climate mitigation and adaptation actions should be constructed to recognize the potential benefits of natural gas and natural gas infrastructure to reduce emissions effectively and quickly while minimizing the impacts on all consumers and avoid harm to the United States economy.
3. Efforts to address climate change should recognize natural gas as a clean, flexible, reliable, versatile, and affordable energy source that enables the expansion of renewable and other energy technologies.
4. Remove barriers that prevent the modernization of natural gas infrastructure, which is key to lowering greenhouse gas emissions and ensuring safe, reliable, and climate-resilient infrastructure.
5. Policy should recognize that improving energy efficiency in residential, commercial, industrial, transportation, and other natural gas applications is a cornerstone strategy in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
6. Policy should promote greater development and use of renewable natural gas and recognize and incent the ability of the gas system to provide substantial renewable energy seasonal storage and delivery through power to gas.
7. The government should expand investment into research, development, deployment, and commercialization of advanced gas technologies, mitigation technologies, natural gas distributed generation, renewable natural gas sources, renewable hydrogen or methanated renewable hydrogen for use in the gas system, carbon capture utilization and sequestration, and other technologies.
8. Any effective public policy should include the option of natural gas for consumers and preserve customer choice of energy.



To learn more, visit



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 75 million residential, commercial and industrial natural gas customers in the U.S., of which 95 percent — more than 71 million customers — receive their gas from AGA members. Today, natural gas meets more than three-tenths of the United States' energy needs.