

NATURAL GAS TOP FACTS

Leveraging its reliability, efficiency, and environmental advantages, the natural gas system is a cornerstone of the Pacific Northwest's energy framework, supporting our region's goals for a dependable and greener energy future. We encourage policymakers to consider these important points about natural gas:

A Foundation for Regional Prosperity Renowned for its safety, dependability, and environmental stewardship, natural gas and its reliable system for delivery is essential for heating over 3.5 million households and powering 342,000 businesses, institutions and industries across the Pacific Northwest.

Clean Energy We must innovate and evolve to address climate change, leaving no stone unturned and no industry left behind. With renewable electrons delivered over wires and renewable molecules delivered underground through a safe and efficient network, energy diversification provides a hedge against potential risks, while supporting our shared climate goals.

Fueling Jobs The natural gas industry supports thousands of workers with stable, good paying jobs in the region.

Cost Savings Families utilizing natural gas for their heating, cooking, and other domestic needs find a significant annual saving compared to homes using electricity for those same applications. On average, for the same unit of energy delivered to a customer, electricity can be two to three times more expensive than natural gas.

Superior in Efficiency Natural gas is now the number one source for electric generation in the U.S., and the direct use of natural gas in homes and local businesses is incredibly efficient. For every 100 MMBtu of natural gas extracted, 92 MMBtu are delivered to the customer, in contrast to 38 MMBtu delivered when natural gas energy is converted to electricity. Direct use of natural gas minimizes energy wastage and contributes to lower emissions.

Safety The method of moving natural gas through pipelines is safe, and offers a secure and efficient means of supply that stands as our nation's best. In fact, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation, pipeline systems are the safest means for transporting fuel.



The NWGA is a bi-national trade organization of the Pacific Northwest natural gas industry. NWGA members include six natural gas utilities and three transmission pipelines that safely transport natural gas from production areas in Alberta, British Columbia and the U.S. Rockies into and through the Pacific Northwest. For more information, please visit the Northwest Gas Association at www.NWGA.org

Supply Network A network comprising 127,000 miles of pipeline ensures the safe and steady delivery of natural gas to millions of customers across the Pacific Northwest.

Vital Energy Source During Extreme Cold During the coldest hour on the coldest day, the natural gas system delivers more than twice the energy to homes and businesses in the region compared to the electric grid, and this doesn't even account for the natural gas used to generate electricity.

Infrastructure Needs Amidst Growing Demand Expanding and modernizing natural gas pipelines, storage capacities, and distribution networks are critical measures to fortify our energy system against the inevitable pressures of growing demand during critical weather events.

Energy Diversification No energy system is without challenges - natural gas or electric - which is why diversification has been a pillar of sound energy policy for decades. Together, these systems provide safe, dependable, and affordable energy to millions of homes, businesses, schools, and governments in the Pacific Northwest. It is a simple matter of fact that we can't achieve our region's ambitious decarbonization goals without both systems working in tandem.

Infrastructure and Capacity Enhancement Recent weather-related disruptions revealed the critical importance of maintaining a diversified energy portfolio, with natural gas playing a key role in compensating when renewable sources fall short. The growing reliance on natural gas, particularly for electricity generation, signals an urgent call for new investments in pipeline capacity and infrastructure resilience to avoid operational failures, and help secure sufficient supply.

