



**Coal, Nuclear, Natural Gas,
Oil, or Plant Renewable**

TheCasesolutions.com



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Natural Gas

Benefits

1. It is environmentally clean

Natural gas is the cleanest burning fossil fuel. Because natural gas burns cleanly, it doesn't leave behind any unpleasant soot, ash, or odors. By switching to natural gas you eliminate the need for an underground storage tank which eliminates the threat of oil spills, soil contamination and costly environmental clean-up. Also, if the oil tank is above ground, switching to natural gas eliminates worry about spills or corrosion of the tank. Natural gas is non-toxic. If inhaled in small amounts, natural gas is not poisonous or harmful to humans.

2. It is economical and efficient

Natural gas is convenient. The energy source is piped directly to the customer's facility through the safe, efficient pipeline system. There's no need to store oil on site in tanks, or schedule oil deliveries.

There is an abundant supply of domestic natural gas. Over half of the oil used in this country is imported. Natural gas is reliable. The pipeline system can't be easily damaged by weather or affected by weather conditions, oil must be trucked to the customer's location, and truck deliveries are susceptible to weather conditions.

3. Enforceable safety record

An odorant is added to natural gas by the producer. When the smell of gas is detected, it signals that a leakage exists and should be fixed. Both natural gas and PS&G have an excellent tradition of safety.

Consequences

1. It's highly combustible and odorless

Because natural gas is highly combustible, mishandling it can lead to bad explosions. This factor has led individuals to stay away from using it in vehicles. The main problem with natural gas is that most of the time it is odorless and leaks cannot be detected unless some odor has been added to it. This is why all homes are required to have Carbon Monoxide detectors in their homes, within a foot of all bedrooms.

2. Natural gas emits some quantities of greenhouse gas

The biggest downside to natural gas is that it emits carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which contributes to climate change and Global Warming. Although natural gas is considered a cleaner source of energy than coal and oil, some experts disagree that it is better for the environment, feeling that the use of Natural gas is more damaging in the long run to Mother Nature than oil.

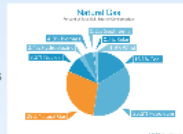
3. Non-renewable energy source

Natural gas is a non-renewable energy source because its true reliability cannot be quantified. It will be depleted at some point, and so, it doesn't rank among man's best choice of a sustainable energy choice. While major natural gas discoveries have been announced over the past few years, they will eventually get depleted.

% of total energy used

Natural gas provides 29% of our energy and is used to heat about half the homes in the United States. It is also a raw material in a variety of common products, such as paints, fertilizers, plastics, medicines, and antifreeze. Propane, which powers many kitchen stoves and outdoor grills as well as home heating systems, is derived from natural gas. Natural gas is also used to generate 33% of our electricity.

- On average, a typical coal-burning power plant in 2013 was about 33% efficient in converting heat energy into electrical power. A gas-fired plant was about 42% efficient. And in natural gas combined-cycle power plants—in which waste heat from a natural gas turbine is used to power a steam turbine—generation was as much as 60% efficient.



Is it Renewable or not?

Nonrenewable energy resources, like coal, nuclear, oil, and **natural gas**, are available in limited supplies. This is usually due to the long time it takes for them to be replenished. Renewable resources are replenished naturally and over relatively short periods of time.



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