

Planning for the Future of Gas in Nevada

Frequently Asked Questions

If you're asked: Is natural gas the best way to keep energy reliable and affordable?

You can answer: **That's something we don't know now – and we need to.** Many technologies of the past are no longer the most affordable and reliable options for customers. Because the infrastructure that relies on those traditional technologies – including natural gas pipelines and gas-fired electric power plants – can last over half a century and cost ratepayers billions of dollars to build and operate, the state needs to use extra caution when reviewing proposals for utility investments that have the potential to become stranded assets and drive energy bills up for decades. Gas utilities do not currently file the same long-term resource plans that we require of electric utilities, so policymakers don't have good oversight of their decisions. To promote transparency, safety, and prudent investing, and to protect ratepayers from excessive costs (especially those most vulnerable to bill increases, including low- and fixed-income residents), the legislature should require the same planning processes from its gas utilities as it does of electric utilities.

If you're asked: Why is the gas bill for my home increasing?

You can answer: **Natural gas is a globally traded commodity. Prices are a function of geopolitical events and of supply and demand,** which can be as unpredictable as the weather. Furthermore, **Nevada does not have any gas resources itself, which means that its gas customers are exposed to this volatility with absolutely no economic benefits flowing into the state from that demand.** In the past year, prices have spiked well above predictions, reminding us of how vulnerable our low- and moderate- income, and fixed-income, residents can be. Fortunately, high-performing and high-comfort electric options exist for virtually all residential and commercial uses of gas, and state leaders can ease the transition so that no one is left with an unreasonable financial burden with smart, long-term planning.

If you're asked: Are there advantages to converting to electric appliances in my home?

You can answer: **Yes! Electric appliances for space heating, water heating, clothes drying, cooking and baking are highly efficient and comfortable.** Over the lifespan of these appliances, home and business owners can expect to see cost savings as compared to a gas alternative, and those savings will grow over time as the market for these products scale and the upfront costs come down. In the meantime, there are a number of utility, local, state, and federal incentive programs, like the Weatherization Assistance Program, that can be used to help low- and moderate-income folks with energy efficiency upgrades and electric appliance conversions.