

QUESTION

Why are jurisdictions banning natural gas?



ANSWER

There is a real interest in many communities to “do something” about climate change and embrace electrification. The thought is that electrification will automatically reduce carbon emissions and that is not necessarily the case. Natural gas simply isn't the villain that some people are claiming. Did you know that since the 1970s, we've seen 30 million more homes using natural gas for heating and cooking, but the level of emissions from natural gas has remained nearly constant?

QUESTION

Why can't we depend on Renewables?

ANSWER

The technology isn't ready yet to completely replace our current energy sources. Renewable energy can't meet all of our needs, especially at current energy prices or with today's limited electric storage capability; without electric storage, that renewable energy is only available when it is created, not necessarily when you need it.

QUESTION

Can we depend on Solar Panels for our Energy needs?

ANSWER

Solar panels may make lots of electricity in the middle of the day when residential energy usage is low, but in the evening when the demand increases, the sun isn't shining and you still need to get your power from somewhere. Electrical storage isn't the answer yet. Chances are, that power comes from a central power plant and those aren't very efficient. And when demand surges, many power companies raise their rates with variable pricing.

QUESTION

Is Generating and Transmitting Electricity efficient?

ANSWER

Most central power plants that supply power to the grid use coal, hydro, nuclear and natural gas as energy resources. By the time the electricity is generated and transmitted to your home the operational net efficiency is only 40 to 50%. Gas furnaces and fireplaces will heat your home directly without efficiency loss. Natural gas furnaces and fireplaces converts gas into usable heat at an efficiency of 80 to 95%.



QUESTION

What is Storage Technology?

ANSWER

Residential electric storage is still in the developmental stage and is very expensive to install and service. Technologies utilize large high capacity batteries that are tied into the home's energy supply breaker panel and are designed to be recharged on a regular basis and set in a standby status until needed. Gas powered generators are also available for residential use and can automatically switch on when the power drops out and supports the total electrical needs of the home during emergencies. Of course, gas will need to be supplied to the home BUT the generator WILL WORK without grid supplied power.

QUESTION

Doesn't cooking with natural gas create pollutants?

ANSWER

Gas has been used for cooking for decades. Most cooking pollutants are created from food during the cooking process itself and are not dependent on the fuel used. All new homes have exhaust hoods to take cooking odors and pollutants out of the kitchen. Cooking emissions are minimal and occur only for a few minutes of every day.

QUESTION

Are bans on new gas lines just affecting new home construction?



ANSWER

No, in many jurisdictions they impact all new building and major remodels. It may be reasonable and sensible to limit gas lines in high density residential projects such as apartments and allow storage technologies to catch up for single family residential construction. Commercial construction will be affected as well.

QUESTION

What are some of the other challenges we must face with bans on natural gas in new construction?

ANSWER

For starters, what happens when the power goes out? Whether it's by natural disaster or a power company-directed outage, if your home is 100% electric, without storage, you have no heat, no hot water, no cooking, no charging of cell phones or electric cars. With a natural gas fireplace or cook stove, you can at least be warm and fed.

QUESTION

Will cities and counties try to force homeowners in existing homes to change out to all electric appliances?

ANSWER

There has been proposals included along with gas bans that would mandate the change out of gas appliances to all electric at the time an existing home is sold.

THE MORE YOU KNOW THE BETTER CHOICES YOU MAKE!