

FOSSIL FUEL LIES

the industry's campaign to gut New York's climate law

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"NATURAL" GAS IS NO SOLUTION

Lie: "As we move forward, New York must take a more comprehensive approach to energy—one that includes natural gas as a reliable partner in the quest to generate power, serve as a clean, affordable source of energy, and help reduce our carbon footprint." —*New Yorkers for Affordable Energy, a fossil fuel front group.*¹

Truth: Gas is unreliable

Gas supply and therefore price fluctuates, "As we have more stable renewable energy, that is effectively a fixed cost, and not subject to geopolitical inflation and other risks that our natural gas supply currently has, and also provides individuals greater reliability." — *Rory Christian, Chair and CEO, NYS Department of Public Service.*²

When the power goes out, both gas and electric heating do not work. In the 2022 Buffalo blizzard people died of carbon monoxide poisoning and freezing in their homes. An upgrade of the electric grid coupled with increasing battery storage will improve reliability of electric heating systems in future storms.

Truth: Gas is dirty

Gas stoves are a major source of indoor air pollution emitting harmful pollutants including nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide. Gas is responsible for almost 13% of all childhood asthma in the US.³

A new study⁴ shows that gas stoves emit benzene which can lead to leukemia and other blood-related cancers and can affect the nervous system. The World Health Organization has called exposure to benzene unsafe at any level.

Truth: Gas is expensive

Gas prices fluctuate. In Texas the cost of gas went up 70% in just one year due to supply problems caused by extreme weather.⁵

Also, gas is heavily subsidized. Ratepayers pay for gas hookups. New York taxpayers pay oil and gas subsidies totaling \$1.6 billion. This keeps the cost of gas artificially low. In addition, "If we continue to walk along the natural gas path... [we] will need to upgrade... and there is a significant cost associated with that." — *Rory Christian, Chair and CEO, NYS Department of Public Service.*⁶

Truth: Gas increases our carbon footprint

Gas is methane, a fossil fuel. The burning of fossil fuels is the number one cause of our climate crisis. It is simply ridiculous to state that increasing the burning of fossil fuels will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Compared to one ton of carbon dioxide, methane's warming power amounts to over 80 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions in a 20-year period. To date, gas is responsible for 30 percent of the earth's temperature rise since the Industrial era began.⁷

Sources:

- 1) <https://www.ny4affordableenergy.com/issues>
- 2) Oral testimony, NY Legislative Budget Hearing, 2/7/2024
- 3) <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/20/1/175>

- 4) <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.est.2c09289>
- 5) <https://www.texasgasservice.com/blog/2022/tgs/feb-cost-of-gas>
- 6) Oral testimony, NY Legislative Budget Hearing, 2/7/2024
- 7) <https://rmi.org/5-facts-to-know-about-reducing-methane-from-oil-and-gas/>