

Advanced Energy Conference 2018

Greening the Natural Gas System







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The carbon footprint of natural gas is not static and is declining



Current definition

 Pipeline-quality gas produced from biomass – sources of biomass include wastewater treatment plants, food waste, landfills, livestock manure, municipal solid waste, agricultural residues and energy crops.

Emerging / evolving definition

 Hydrogen and methane produced from biomass AND renewable electricity

Renewable Natural Gas National Potential (Biomass only)

Study by American Gas Foundation (released Sept. 2011)

Finding: Under a reasonable long-term scenario, Renewable Gas could be used to meet the natural gas needs of half of all American homes.

Category	AGF Study Scenario		
	Non-Aggressive	Aggressive	Technical Potential
Energy Potential (billion cubic feet /yr)	967	2,485	9,450
Potential as a Percentage Overall Demand*	4%	10%	40%
CO ₂ Abatement (million tons/yr)	57	146	556
Direct Jobs Created (low – high range)	8,825 – 32,189	22,692 – 82,765	86,732 – 316,338

* Based on a national usage of approximately 24 TCF of natural gas (for 2010), source EIA

2. Hydrogen Blending

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- Injecting hydrogen into the existing natural gas distribution system to supplement methane
 - Emission from combustion is H₂O
 - 10-20% blend without impact to end-use equipment*
 - Enables initial deployment of H₂ without the need for costly infrastructure investments
 - Significant reduction of GHG emissions if H₂ is produced from biomass, wind, solar and nuclear power



* NREL. 2013. Blending Hydrogen into Natural Gas Pipeline Network

3. Power-to-Gas

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- The conversion of excess renewable energy into a gas fuel through electrolysis
 - Produces H₂ and can be methanated to produce CH₄



Power-to-Gas A Form of Chemical Storage

Storage capacity of power-to-gas compared to other storage methods



Source: ITM Power plc

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Pathway to Sustainability

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Power-to-Gas

Utilizing excess renewable electricity to produce gaseous fuel for long term storage

Carbon Capture & Storage

echnologies enabling negative emissions