



**Texas  
Independent  
Producers and  
Royalty Owners  
Association**

# *What is Natural Gas?*

## **How does it differ from other hydrocarbon energy sources?**

**Natural Gas** is a gaseous fossil fuel containing mostly methane. It is the cleanest burning fossil fuel.

**Heating Oil** is a liquid petroleum product typically used to fire building furnaces, or “boilers.”

**Propane** is a gas that can be compressed into a liquid commonly used as an engine fuel, for barbeques and home heating. Also called LP or LPG and often derived from raw natural gas flows.

**LNG** stands for liquefied natural gas, which is natural gas, temporarily made into a storable liquid by cooling natural gas to -260 degrees F.

**Gasoline** is a mixture of hydrocarbons enhanced with benzene and used as a motor fuel.

**Coal** is a combustible black or brownish-black rock made mostly of carbon, sulfur and other elements. Coal is the dirtiest of all fossil fuels when consumed.

### **Natural gas reserves in the Continental U.S.: Primary uses of natural gas:**

- Residential (22%)
- Commercial (14%)
- Industrial (43%)
- Electric Utilities (18%)
- Transportation (3%)

### **Natural gas is a high-demand premium fuel:**

- The federal government projects use of natural gas in the U.S. will increase 64% in the next two decades, with electric generation and industrial uses leading the way.
- Natural gas burns twice as clean as coal and is 60% more efficient

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