

Decarbonizing Fuel-Fired Equipment in Buildings

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Now hiring 30+ openings!

Agenda

- Background
- Energy Efficiency in 2030
- Decarbonized Fuels in 2030
- Questions

GTI envisions a low-carbon future with integrated energy systems



GTI: 80-Year History of Turning Raw Technology into Source Energy Solutions

World-class piloting facilities headquartered in Chicago area

MERE BU

Kitchen Labs

Two Story R&D Labs

Fuel Cell Lab

Power to Gas Research

Emerging Energy Technology Center

400+

EMPLOYEES

Conference and Training Center

CHP & Renewable Energy Lab

> FRONTIER energy

GTI's Building Evolution Labs











Natural Gas Low Greenhouse Gas Options

Methane Leak **Detection & Mitigation**

Detection and mitigation to reduce full-cycle natural gas methane emissions



Lower Methane **Emissions** (5-10%)

Expanded use of high-efficiency gas equipment



Hybrid natural gas furnace/boilers and electric heat pump systems

Energy Efficiency

Building envelope improvement

Near-Term (25-50+%)

Clean hydrogen

Bio-methane/RNG,

Solar thermal & geothermal /natural gas space & water heating



Renewables (Added 10-30%)







Deep building retrofits

Next-Gen (40-60+%)



13% of US GHG Emissions from Natural Gas End Use

Gas Utility Associated GHG Emissions by Category 2019



• 2.2% from upstream emissions



• 6.9% from buildings

~97% of residential GHGs from space/water heating

Our Work: Decarbonizing Buildings with Envelope Retrofits and Low-Capacity HVAC

One Example: Skinny R30 Wall Retrofit Panels (Recent NYSERDA Award)

360-degree building scan performed in <15 minutes with a spatial accuracy of <1 mm



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What is the top solution for global warming?

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE PLAN EVER PROPOSED TO REVERSE GLOBAL WARMING EDITED BY PAUL HAWKEN 0

#1 – Refrigerant Management



80 MOST SUBSTANTIVE SOLUTIONS

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#1: Refrigerant Management Materials

Every refrigerator and air conditioner contains chemical refrigerants that absorb and release heat to enable chilling. Refrigerants, specifically CFCs and HCFCs, were once culprits in depleting the ozone layer. Thanks to the 1987 Montreal Protocol, they have been phased out. HFCs, the primary replacement, spare the ozone layer, but have 1,000 to 9,000 times greater capacity to warm the atmosphere than carbon dioxide.

In October 2016, officials from more than 170 countries met in Kigali, Rwanda, to negotiate a deal to address this problem. Through an amendment to the Montreal Protocol, the world will phase out HFCs -starting with high-income countries in 2019, then some low-income countries in 2024 and others in 2028. Substitutes are already on the market, including natural refrigerants such as propane and ammonium.

Scientists estimate the Kigali accord will reduce global warming by nearly one degree Fahrenheit. Still, the bank of HFCs will grow substantially before all countries halt their use. Because 90 percent of refrigerant emissions happen at end of life, effective disposal of those currently in circulation is essential. After being carefully removed and stored, refrigerants can be purified for reuse or transformed into other chemicals that do not cause warming.

(Source: Priopta Data Visualization of Drawdown, 2017)

(Data Source: Drawdown – The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming, 2017)

#36 – Alternative Cement; #42 – Heat Pumps



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#36: Alternative Cement Materials

Cement is a vital source of strength in infrastructure, second only to water as one of the most used substances in the world. It is also a source of emissions, generating 5 to 6 percent annually.

To produce Portland cement, the most common form, a mixture of crushed limestone and aluminosilicate clay is roasted in a kiln. At high heat, limestone's calcium carbonate splits into calcium oxide (the desired lime content) and carbon dioxide (the waste). Decarbonizing limestone causes roughly 60 percent of cement's emissions. The rest result from energy use.

To reduce emissions from the decarbonization process, the crucial strategy is to change the composition of cement. Conventional clinker can be partially substituted for alternative materials that include volcanic ash, certain clays, finely ground limestone, ground bottle glass, and industrial waste products—namely blast furnace slag (from manufacturing iron) and fly ash (from burning coal). These materials leapfrog the most carbon-emitting, energy-intensive step in the cement production process.

The average global rate of clinker substitution could realistically reach 40 percent and avoid up to 440 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions annual. Standards and product scales will be key for

(Source: Priopta Data Visualization of Drawdown, 2017)

(Data Source: Drawdown – The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming, 2017)

Refrigerants (GWP20 vs GWP100)

Table 1: List of the most commonly used HFCs, HCFCs and low GWP alternatives. (IPCCC Fourth
Assessment Report- 2007): Atmospheric lifetime and GWP20 and GWP100

Substance	Application		100 Year GWP	Atmospheric Lifetime
HCFC -22	Air-conditioning: most commonly used refrigerant	5,160	1,810	12
HCFC -141b	Insulation foam blowing	2,250	725	9.3
HCFC-142b	Insulation foam blowing	5,490	2,310	17.9
HFC-23	Low temperature refrigerant	12,000	14,800	
HFC-32	Blend component of refrigerants	2,330	675	4.9
HFC-125	Blend component of refrigerants	6,350	3,500	29
HFC-134a	Refrigerant in domestic refrigerators, mobile air- conditioning, stationary air-conditioning, blend component of refrigerants, foam blowing agent, aerosol propellant	3,830	1,430	14
HFC-143a	Blend component of refrigerants	5,890	4,470	52
HFC -152a	Blend component of refrigerants, foam blowing agent, possible future refrigerant	437	124	1.4
HFC-227ea	Refrigerant	5,310	3,220	
HFC-245fa	Foam blowing agent Possible future refrigerant	3,380	1030	7.6
HFC-365mfc	Foam blowing agent Possible future refrigerant	2,520	794	8.6
HFC-404a Refrigerant blend: a leading alternative to HCFC-22 in air-conditioning		6010	3922	34.2
HFC-410 a	IFC-410 a Refrigerant blend: a leading alternative to HCFC- 22 in air-conditioning, transport refrigeration		2088	
HFC-407c	HFC-407c Refrigerant blend: a leading retrofit alternative to HCFC-22 in air-conditioning, transport refrigeration		1774	
CO2	Refrigerant, foam blowing agent	1	1	
Hydrocarbons	Refrigerant, foam blowing agent	<3	<3	
Ammonia	0	0		

The lifetime of HFCs ranges from 1.4 years (HFC-152a) to 52 years (HFC-143a), the average lifetime is 21.7 years. The average GWP of these HFCs, calculated over 20 years is 4582, and 2362 over 100 years. ^{viii}

GWP100 GWP20	28 84
R-134a GWP100 GWP20	1,430 3,830
R-410a GWP100 GWP20	2,088 4,340
R-32 GWP100 GWP20	675 2,330
R-717 (ammo GWP100 GWP20	onia) 0 0

Methane:

Source: The Benefits of Basing Policies on the 20 Year GWP of HFCs, Montreal Protocol Conference, 2011

Refrigerants in Practice

Ensure installers follow manufacturer evacuation and charging process carefully-flare fittings are *especially* challenging with majority found to leak.



Table 3: Summary of leaks after initial assembly for all fitting types and sizes for different technician experience level and assembly difficulty (results combined for Cu-Cu and Cu-Al joints).

Fitting Type	Fitting Size	Experienced Normal	Experienced Difficult	Inexperienced Normal	Inexperienced Difficult
Brazed	1-1/8 in.	0/10	0/5	0/5	3/5
Press	3/8 in.	0/20	0/10	0/10	0/10
Press	1-1/8 in.	0/20	0/10	1/10	0/10
Compression	3/8 in.	4/20	3/10	4/10	0/10
Compression	3/4 in.	8/20	3/10	6/10	5/10
Flare	3/8 in.	3/20	3/10	3/10	4/10
Flare	3/4 in.	14/20	9/10	10/10	10/10

(a)





(b)



damaged thread on compression fitting

Energy Efficiency by 2030

- Current Tech New Homes Case Study
 Current Tech – Existing
- Home Case Study
- Next Tech: Thermally-driven Heat Pumps
- Next Tech: Hybrid HVAC Systems

Average U.S. Natural Gas Home Use Trending Downward



U.S. Residential Natural Gas Trends

New technology and utility energy efficiency programs help contribute to market transformation.

Further penetration of highefficiency natural gas equipment and home weatherization can build on this trend.

25 million more homes (+55%) using natural gas since 1980 with **no change in total demand**.

Current Tech New Construction Case Study

(2) New build, 6-unit properties from affordable housing developer

Same layout, same orientation, same location (1.5 blocks apart) built 2017-18 in Chicago; instrumented for research mid-construction

Constructed to two different standards

ENERGY STAR for New Construction (v3.1) with gas furnace

Passive House Institute US (PHIUS) 2015 with air source heat pump

Research Evaluated:

- Energy performance
- Construction / operating costs
- Indoor air quality (IAQ)





Tighter control & higher overall air change rate



'Jan 'Feb Mar 'Apr 'May 'Jun ' Jul 'Aug 'Sep ' Oct 'Nov 'Dec



Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec



*For 4 occupants per unit

Based on CONTAM modeling under Chicago O'Hare TMY conditions

Measured IAQ Performance: Particulate levels (PM 2.5)





Categories are US EPAAir Quality Index breakpoints for outdoor air

Current Tech New Construction Case Study: Energy Findings

- 65% lower delivered-energy requirement for space heating (ambiguous results for cooling)
- 76% lower site-energy for heating/cooling
- 30-35% lower carbon emissions
- 19% lower tenant utility bills
- ~20% cost premium (brazed fittings, steel studs, HVAC sized for -10°F day instead of 0°F day, GC experience)



Current Tech: Ducted ASHP & Condensing Furnaces





ASHP loss of capacity with outdoor temp:







Compressor COP excluding air handler power for two ducted heat pumps









More details: <u>https://www.comedemergingtech.com/images/documents/ComEd-Emerging-</u> <u>Technologies-Passive-House-Tierra-Linda.pdf</u>

EPRI National Electrification Assessment

- Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)
- Electric loads increase (EVs, space heat, water heat)
- Storage increases
- Gas use increases in all scenarios providing non-intermittant generation



Figure ES-2. High-level Overview of Modeling Results

Current Tech GHGs: On-site vs At-Plant Combustion

Emissions Reduction For Electric Heat Pumps (EHP) Based on Weather and Electric Grid Emissions



Design guidance: EHPs in Minnesota should be > 8 HSPF for immediate CO_2 e reductions

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Technologies to Decarbonize Existing Homes



Existing Home Case Study: Furnace or ASHP



- Heating
- Cooling
- WaterHeating
- **LightsAppliances**
- Photovoltaics
- Total



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CO₂e

5.9

0.0

14.5





HSPF: 10.0



Carbon Dioxide (CO2) - tons/year

Total	l .	16.7
Photo	ovoltaics	0.0
Lights	sAppliances	5.9
Water	rHeating	0.8
Coolir	ing	0.6
Heati	ing	9.4

b.1963 retrofitted 2020; energy modeled using REM/Rate v.15

Mitsubishi ducted VRF PUZ-HA42NKA1 & PVA-A42AA7



Or maybe.. a Gas-fired Heat Pump ?



Use natural gas efficiently and cut carbon by 1/3 1 device = 2 uses (**space and water** heating)

+140% AFUE efficient No auxiliary / backup heat All combustion is outdoors 4-5 year payback

Natural refrigerant (ammonia)

0 GWP20 vs 4,340 GWP20, using methane: 84 GPW20



Gas Heat Pump Deployment Results

Sound Check

64-70 dB - 14 SEER A/C 60-67 dB - Gas Heat Pump



\$1,516 \$1,600 \$1,310 \$1,400 \$1,236 \$1,179 \$1,200 \$944 \$1,000 \$800 \$600 \$400 \$200 \$-**Baseline Gas** Better Gas Best Gas GasHP Combi ccASHP+HPWH 80% AFUE + 95% AFUE + 95% AFUE + 140% AFUE 10 HSPF; 2.3 EF 0.62 Tank WH 0.62 Tank WH Tankless WH

Annual Operating Cost

2020 CO2e Emissions (1000 lbs)



Thermally Driven Gas Heat Pump Developments 130-140% Efficiency (CoP)



Residential Heat Pump Water Heater (10 kBtu/hr)



Residential Low-Capacity Combination Space & Water Heating System (20 kBtu/hr)



Residential Large-Capacity Combination Space & Water Heating System (80 kBtu/hr)



Light Commercial Combination Space & Water Heating System (140 kBtu/hr)

Pilot programs underway across all climate zones in the U.S.

Decarbonization Options for Water Heating



Note: Excludes backup/supplemental heating

Site/Source Factors: US National 2016 eGRID Plant Level Database (CAMX), 2.12/2.68 Electricity (All/Non-baseload) & 1.09 Natural Gas; CO2e Emission Factors (Lb./MMBtu): 189.2/361.8 Electricity (All/Non-Baseload) & 149.16 Natural Gas;

Data References: 1) Glanville, P., Vadnal, H., and Garrabrant, M. (2016), "Field testing of a prototype residential gas-fired heat pump water heater", Proceedings of the 2016 ASHRAE Winter Conference, Orlando, FL., 2) Shapiro, C. and Puttagunta, S. "Field Performance of Heat Pump Water Heaters in the Northeast" Report prepared for U.S. Dept. of Energy under NREL Contract No. DE-AC36-08GO28308, 2016; 3) Ecotope, Inc. 2015. Heat Pump Water Heater Model Validation Study (Report No. E15-306). Portland, OR: Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance.

Image Sources: GHPWH photo courtesy of SMTI, EHPWH photo from A.O. Smith

Other Emerging Technology: Gas/Electric Hybrid HVAC (Furnace + Heat Pump)

Right-Sized Electric Heat Pump

Low-Capacity Gas Furnace



Key Concept: Balance Point (BP) for energy supply crossover

Hybrid HVAC Analysis – Cost of Heat Comparison



Cost of Heat Comparison — Minnesota ASHP Collaborative (mnashp.org)

Hybrid Systems: Consumer Value

Impact of Outdoor Temperature On Natural Gas and Electric Heating Hourly Consumer Costs (Home UA=450 Btu/hr-°F)



At mild temperatures (e.g., 40°F and above), electric heat pumps have hourly space heating costs slightly higher than natural gas.

At colder temperatures, electric demand increases and electric heat pump efficiency decreases, leading to non-linear increases and much higher hourly electric space heating costs.

	Electric/Gas Heating
Temperature (°F)	Cost Ratio
20	1.9
10	2.4
0	3.2

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UA Value of 450 is typical for single-family homes in GTI analysis of select Nicor Gas homes. UA accounts for home size and insulation level. Prices based on DOE-EIA average 2020 residential natural gas (\$7.78/MMBtu) and electric (\$0.1284/kWh) in Illinois.

Winter Natural Gas Winter Peaks >>Summer Electric Peaks

Monthly Energy Consumption In Residential Sector (Six Years)

2013 - 2018	Residential Electric	Residential Natural Gas	Peak Natural Gas: Peak Electric Ratio	% Gas Heating	% Electric Heating
СА	Very hot	Very Cold	2.2	64	27
со	Very hot		3.4	70	22
IL			5.6	78	16
NY			4.6	58	11

Substantially more natural gas is delivered in a peak month to residential users than electricity. Heating loads are very intense.



Monthly residential electric and natural gas consumption (DOE-EIA) on same energy scales. Six years of data.

Source: DOE EIA, U.S. Census

Hybrid HVAC: Reducing Peak Electric Demand



In example 8,760-hour residential home energy model, all-electric home space heating results in large increases in peak winter demand.

Hybrid gas/electric systems combining natural gas heating on colder days with an electric heat pump on milder winter days dramatically lowers peak electric demand and host of related negative consequences.



Illinois Space Heating Hourly GHG Emission Rates (grams/hour)



At mild temperatures (e.g., 40°F and above), electric heat pumps have lower GHG emission rates.

With colder temperatures, electric demand increases and marginal winter generation plants are brought online.

Under colder winter conditions, electric heat pumps likely to produce higher full-cycle GHG emissions than gas heating.

Uses baseload power at 40°F (367.4 g/kWh) and 100% natural gas marginal generation at colder temperatures (468 g/kWh). Excludes house fan power. Absolute values will vary depending on house size and degree of weatherization.



2021 Hourly Marginal Emissions Intensity (MT/ CO₂) **Source:** Angela Tanghetti, CEC

One example: BKR Energy day-ahead forecast





Small-scale Micro-CHP (≤ 50kW) are also on the near-term horizon

Key Driver: Affordable Resilience

- Major weather and non-weather interruptions are on the rise
- LBNL found electric outages very expensive for commercial sector (~\$6,000 per 8-hr outage)
- Low natural gas prices, high CHP efficiency, capital costs coming down
- Dozens of manufacturers entering North American Res/Com market
- Can bring fuel-fired site energy COP > 1.0





Actionable Gas Technologies by 2030

- Renewable Natural Gas
- Hydrogen
- Decarbonized future

Decarbonized Fuels: A Historical Perspective

Blending H₂ with delivered fuels is not new...

- Before "Natural Gas" there was "Town Gas"*
 - ~50% H2, balance CH4, CO, light HCs, etc.
 - Commonly gasified coal, for lighting, then indoor uses (cooking, heating, refrigeration, etc.)
- Manufactured gases phased out as Natural Gas grew post-WWII, though use continues
 - Hawaii Gas Co. delivers syngas, via refining oil, with ~15% $\rm H_2$ since 1970s to ~30k customers
 - Design guidance (still used!), based on data from ~50s from AGA Labs (pic.), include mfr'd gases
 - Many appliance standards also permit mfr'd gases in addition to propane, etc.
- European appliances are certified with 23% H₂ to assure performance with wider range of gas qualities





Where Do We Store Energy Now?



Source: DOE-EIA; includes thermal energy equivalent values.

Solving seasonal energy storage challenges



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What is Renewable Natural Gas?

- Biogas that has been processed to remove carbon dioxide and other trace constituents, resulting gas is typically >90% methane
- Methane produced from digesters
 - Animal manure (dairy cows, swine)
 - Wastewater treatment facilities
 - Food processing plants
- Methane from Landfills
- RNG produced from renewable feed-stocks including forest residues and agricultural wastes.



Benefits and Challenges of Renewable Natural Gas

Benefits

- Decarbonization (pipelines, transportation, power generation)
- > Reduced (or negative) GHG emissions
- > Improved air quality
- > Diversity in energy portfolio
- > Value added product for customers
- > Financial Incentives

Challenges

- Costs 4x-7x more than fossil gas
- Supply Stability: Variability in composition & supply
- Impact on Infrastructure / Pipeline integrity: CO2, water, H2 sulfur compounds, NH3, bacteria, etc.
- Impact on end use applications:
 - CO2, CO, H2 all impact flame stability, engine knock
- Safety Odorization/leak detection

Renewable Natural Gas

Sizable Emission Reductions

Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) reduction potential in the low and high resource scenarios ranges between 101-235 Million Metric Tons (MMT) of GHG emission reductions, respectively. Comparatively, the ten year average annual natural gas emissions from the residential sector total 248 MMT.

RNG Could **Reduce Emissions from Natural Gas 95%** in the Residential Sector.¹



1 Percentage calculated using ten year average, 2009-2018, EIA natural gas emissions from residential sector consumption.

RNG Resource Potential



RNG Market is a Direct Response to Incentives

- Market has grown rapidly due to credits
 - US Renewable Fuel Standard (RINS)
 - California Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS)
- 95 RNG sites operational in North America (39 in development)
- RNG production over 25 BCF/yr (over 225 million GGE) in 2018 and about \$800 million in value
- How might gas industry formulate incentives for stationary natural gas markets (e.g., residential)? At what price?



Actionable Gas Technologies by 2030

Hydrogen



These homes near Newcastle, UK built by Northern Gas Networks are powered by hydrogen, which burns yellow.

Hydrogen: Where Does It Fit In?



Hydrogen is envisioned to play an important role in economy-wide decarbonization, per the Low-Carbon Resources Initiative (LCRI), a five-year R&D effort to accelerate the deployment of low-carbon technologies, jointly led by EPRI and GTI.



Hydrogen - A Path Towards Decarbonization

Research and Technology Development to Enable the Hydrogen Economy



Low-carbon Production

- Compact Hydrogen Generator
- Biomass gasification
- Hydrogen power generation



Use in Industry and Buildings

- End-use equipment testing
- Codes and standards

Compatibility with Natural Gas Delivery Infrastructure

- Material impacts of blending
- Operational impacts
- Blending technology and standards

Use in Transportation



- California Fuel Cell Partnership
- Fueling station technology
- RNG-to-hydrogen fueling

Hydrogen: Large-Scale Demonstrations in N. America

- Enbridge/Cummins Blending/Power-to-Gas Pilot – Ontario
- ATCO Fort Saskatchewan Blending Pilot Alberta
- H2@Scale with UT-Austin, Green H2 Generation, Storage, and Utilization Demo Texas
- Sempra Hydrogen Blending Demonstration Program & SoCalGas Hydrogen Home – California
- CenterPoint Green H2 Demo Minnesota
- NW Natural 10 MW Green H2 Demo Oregon
- Dominion Blending/Methanation Demo Utah
- ACES Coal-to-NG-to-H2 Power Plant Utah
- And more in preparation/planning stages...



DOE clean hydrogen initiative

H2@Scale: Focus on Regional Demonstrations



Infrastructure Bill has \$9.5B set aside for clean H2, including power-to-gas

Projected 2030 Hydrogen Production Costs for Different Technology Options



1-Natural gas price of \$4.59/MMBTU in 2030

2-Capture cost –\$66/ton of CO2, storage cost –\$20/ton of CO2, transportation cost –\$6/ton of CO2

- 3-For electrolytic hydrogen: 20,000 Nm3/h electrolyzer assumed (~43,000 kg/day); electrolyzer capex includes the electrolyzer stack and balance of plant (e.g., valves, DI water system, pipes, rectifiers, heat exchangers), additional costs of 25% of capex assumed for installation costs, buildings, civil works, water purification system, high-purity dryer system, and thermal control unit
- 4-If grid-connected, electricity price is assumed to incorporate applicable transmission and distribution charges

5-2030 EIA Industrial Electricity Price Outlook

Enabling Hydrogen Use for Residential/Commercial Applications

Efforts underway:

- Demonstrate solutions to utilize high hydrogen blends in residential and commercial combustion equipment
- Performance testing of appliances with varying hydrogen blends
- Quantify the ability of appliances to retain normal operations (emissions, efficiency, cycling)
- Hydrogen sensor development for "behind the meter" applications and in-situ sensing





Feature	Possible Equipment Issues
Flame Temperature	Flame burns hotter, can lead to uneven heat transfer and material degradation
Flame Speed	Can lead to flame stability issues, ignition problems and flashback
Flammability Range	H ₂ portion can ignite prematurely in rich pockets of fuel/air mixture, leading to pre-ignition
By Products	Flue gas dew point will be higher, leading to unwanted condensation/corrosion, also many products are calibrated to stack CO ₂ which will be off
Visibility / Ionization	Safety equipment to detect flame (flame rod, etc.) and technicians/operators will updating/training

Energy Efficiency + Decarbonized Fuels

- Energy efficiency coupled with decarbonized fuels can drive GHG reductions
- As a fuel, Hydrogen (H₂) emits no CO₂ and can be blended with natural gas or biomethane for standard products, or utilized directly (100% H₂) by specially-designed equipment
 - Used for long duration, mega-scale storage of renewable energy



70% CH4 / 30% H2

*Assumes near-term achievable targets of H2 & RNG blending / ** Fuel-fired GHPWH performance assumptions from Glanville, P., Fridlyand, A., Mensinger, M., Sweeney, M., Keinath, C. (2020) Integrated Gas-fired Heat Pump Water Heaters for Homes: Results of Field Demonstrations and System Modeling, ASHRAE Transactions; Vol. 126 325-332, image source: SMTI.

Multiple paths for fuel-fired net zero emissions

The relative contribution of measures varies by pathway, showcasing a diversity of potential approaches



Summary of Types of 2050 Emission Reductions

Source: AGA Net-Zero Emissions Opportunities for Gas Utilities (2022)

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Multiple paths for fuel-fired net zero emissions: MN



In all scenarios, geological natural gas is phased out by 2050, replaced by a combination of carbon-neutral or carbon-free hydrogen, biogenic methane, and synthetic methane

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Questions? Feedback?

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Now hiring 30+ openings!

