

The Truth About Gas Stoves & Air Quality

Talking points to help craft your response to negative news

Recent headlines have appeared regarding local gas bans in new construction, along with studies and editorial pieces claiming that gas stoves fill homes with pollutants, negatively impacting indoor air quality. While primarily directed at natural gas, these pieces highlight fights taking place throughout city and state governments that encompass all gas – including propane.

The following key talking points have been developed to help you craft a response where needed, quickly and accurately.

- 1 According to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), cooking reduces indoor air quality, no matter what kind of stove is used.** Replacing gas stoves with electric stoves would not eliminate indoor air quality concerns – and the cost of switching millions of home stoves from gas to electricity would be staggering.
- 2 Better ventilation is the answer to air quality concerns.** CARB recommends using a high-efficiency range hood or exhaust fan, a solution far more practical for most Americans than converting from gas to electric. Lacking a range hood or vent fan, opening windows or exterior doors while cooking is advised, along with having a qualified technician inspect your stove every year.
- 3 Electricity is very inefficient, delivering only 32% of energy used from generation to the home.** Most gas appliances are already incredibly efficient – upwards of 93% or better in some appliances, with propane delivering 99% of generated energy to the home.

FURTHER FACTS ABOUT AIR QUALITY

The differences between electric, natural gas, and propane

- **The EPA does not list gas stoves as significant contributors to indoor air quality or health hazards.** Gas stoves have long been preferred by professional chefs and home cooks should have that same choice at home – including cooking with propane.
- **Indoor air quality** can be improved with simple actions like regularly changing the air filter on home HVAC systems and having appliances checked by qualified technicians.
- **Unlike natural gas, propane contains no methane, thus not directly contributing to global warming.**
- **60% of all electrical power generation in the United States comes from burning natural gas or coal.** Electrification of everything will take more than 20 years and cost about \$20-\$25 trillion.
- **Clean and renewable energy like propane can accelerate decarbonization today.** Plus, renewable propane, derived from the processing of agricultural biomass, has a low carbon intensity and is ideal for use in the same applications.

