

FACT SHEET | Center for Energy & Environment NATURAL GAS IS CLEAN ENERGY: MYTH VS. FACT David Vasquez | March 12, 2024



# MYTH: U.S. natural gas is not <u>clean</u>.

### FACT: The U.S. is the world's cleanest natural gas producer.

- The increased use of U.S. natural gas is <u>responsible</u> for the greatest reduction in U.S. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in recent decades. As a result, the U.S. has reduced emissions <u>more</u> than any other Nation in the world.
- Analysis commissioned by the Department of Energy determined that U.S. Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) exports to Europe and Asia over 20 and 100-year horizons would lead to <u>lower</u> greenhouse gas emissions.
- U.S. natural gas transported and delivered to the EU emits <u>significantly fewer</u> emissions than Russian natural gas delivered via pipeline.

## MYTH: Adding export capacity is unnecessary because demand will soon <u>peak</u>. FACT: Demand for natural gas will continue to grow beyond the decade's end.

- Industry <u>estimates</u> that global demand for LNG will continue growing, and the peak gas demand for a majority of the world will continue past 2030.
- Demand from <u>South East Asian</u> nations, specifically, is projected to grow by 1.5–3% annually between 2023–2035.
- More than 200 million metric tons of new capacity will be <u>needed</u> by 2050.

## MYTH: The world doesn't want more natural gas.

#### FACT: The world needs (and wants) more U.S. natural gas.

- Leading green energy developers in Europe have <u>stated</u>, "It is in our continent's interest to see more LNG coming to Europe at an affordable price."
- Nigeria's minister of state for petroleum resources, Timipre Sylva, has <u>stated</u>, "In Africa we have over 600 million people without basic energy, so how do we meet their energy baseload? We can only achieve this through gas."
- The federal government's 2018 <u>Power Africa Gas Road Map</u> projected that 16,000 megawatts of gas-fired electricity generation could be developed in Africa by 2030.

#### MYTH: Renewables offer a "just" energy transition from natural gas. FACT: There are several ethical issues with the current transition to renewables.

- The State Department <u>noted</u> in a 2022 report that solar modules and electric vehicle batteries "are often sourced from areas with long and complicated histories of human rights abuses, including forced labor and forced child labor."
- While the Biden Administration claims to enforce restrictions on these exploits <u>through</u> the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA), <u>bipartisan</u> lawmakers have highlighted that the administration's lax enforcement guidelines have allowed Chinese companies to bypass the UFLPA.
- Despite knowing that many <u>solar</u> and <u>wind</u> products produced in China and critical minerals integral to renewable energy technologies <u>imported</u> from Africa are the byproduct of forced labor and forced child labor, the administration continues to claim these energy sources are "<u>clean</u>."