

The Stuff of Everyday Life

Understanding the uses of natural gas in industrial processes

About one-half of the 120 million U.S. households are direct consumers of natural gas, using the commodity for home heating, cooking and other purposes. Adding the commercial or business use of natural gas for similar purposes, about 65 million households and businesses consume, on average, 7.5 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of natural gas annually, making residential and commercial consumers the largest natural gas consuming sector in the U.S. today, about one-third.

Natural gas generates approximately 20 percent of U.S. electricity, having grown about 70 percent over the last ten years. The natural gas used to generate electricity adds another one-third or nearly 7 Tcf of natural gas delivered to consumers annually.

With two-thirds of natural gas delivered to residential and commercial consumers and the electricity generation sectors, the use of the remaining one-third might come as a surprise. The remaining one-third of natural gas delivered to customers in the U.S. is “consumed” by virtually everyone, every day as an ingredient in the products made by U.S. industry.

The U.S. industrial sector consumes about 6.5 Tcf of natural gas annually. Natural gas is a chemical building block in manufacturing hundreds of consumer products in the U.S. From detergent to trash bags, insulation to paint, film to toys, pantyhose to antifreeze, swimming pool liners to food containers, products made from natural gas are used every day in American households.

Energy costs impact far more than pump prices and heating and cooling bills; energy costs impact consumer products and American businesses. As an essential ingredient for U.S. industry and the products made here, natural gas supply and

demand fundamentals impact the lives of nearly all U.S. consumers on a daily basis. You don’t have to heat your home with natural gas to have a reason to want access to additional natural gas supplies; you simply need to go about your daily life. ■



A. All of them!