

NATURAL GAS AT A GLANCE

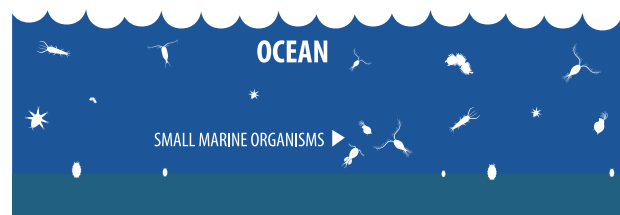


Natural Gas provided about 36 percent of all energy consumed in the United States in 2024.

WHAT IS NATURAL GAS?

Natural gas is generally considered a nonrenewable fossil fuel. Most natural gas was formed from the remains of tiny sea animals and plants that died 300 to 400 million years ago. When these tiny sea animals and plants died, they sank to the bottom of the oceans where they were buried by layers of sediment that turned into rock. Over the years, the layers of sedimentary rock became thousands of feet thick, subjecting the energy-rich plant and animal remains to enormous pressure. The pressure, combined with the heat of the Earth, changed this organic mixture into petroleum and natural gas. Eventually, concentrations of natural gas became trapped in the rock layers like a wet sponge traps water. Some natural gas is produced from renewable sources like landfills and agricultural wastes. Known as biogas or renewable natural gas, these once-unused resources are now being utilized as a source of heat and electricity.

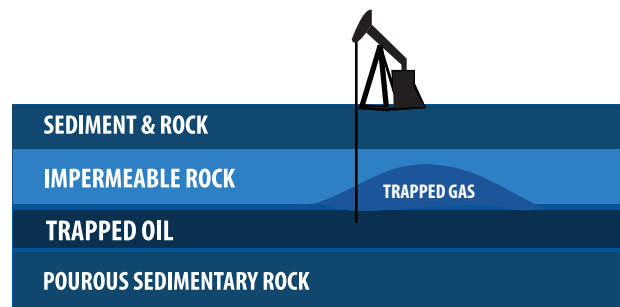
HOW NATURAL GAS WAS FORMED



300 to 400 MILLION YEARS AGO



50 to 100 MILLION YEARS AGO



TODAY



PRODUCING NATURAL GAS

Natural gas can be difficult to find since it is usually trapped in porous rocks deep underground. Geologists use many methods to find natural gas deposits. They may look at surface rocks to find clues about underground formations. They may set off small explosions or drop heavy weights on the Earth's surface and record the sound waves as they bounce back from the sedimentary rock layers underground. They also may measure the gravitational pull of rock masses deep within the Earth.

If test results are promising, the scientists may recommend drilling to find the natural gas deposits. Natural gas wells average more than 8,600 feet deep and can cost hundreds of dollars per foot to drill, so it is important to choose sites carefully.

Approximately 60 percent of the exploratory wells produce gas. The odds are better for developmental wells—wells drilled on known gas fields. Over 90 percent of the developmental wells drilled yield gas. Natural gas can be found in pockets by itself or in petroleum deposits.

After natural gas comes out of the ground, it goes to a processing plant where it is cleaned of impurities and separated into its various components. Approximately 90 percent of natural gas is composed of methane, but it also contains other gases such as propane and butane.

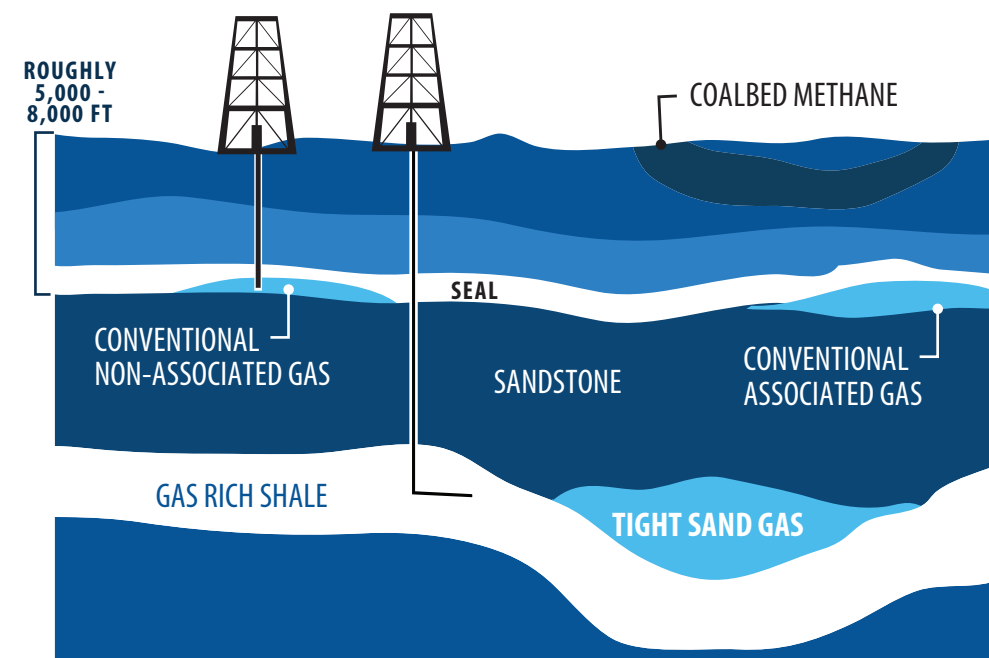
Natural gas may also come from several other sources. One source is coalbed methane, natural gas found in seams of coal. Coalbed methane was once considered a safety hazard to miners, but is now considered a valuable source of natural gas. Just under 3 percent of the total natural gas produced in the last few years came from coalbeds.

Another source of natural gas is the methane produced in landfills. Landfill gas is considered a renewable source of methane since it comes from decaying garbage. Biogas recovered from landfills is either burned on the landfill site to release pressure within the landfill, or it is burned to generate electricity for the facility or to be sold to consumers. Instead of burning the gas, it can be purified and used as RNG within the natural gas pipeline system.

Today, natural gas is produced in 34 states, but the top five states produce more than 70 percent of the total. Natural gas is also produced offshore. About 3 percent of U.S. natural gas comes from offshore wells. Altogether, the U.S. produces about one-fourth of the world's natural gas each year.

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LOCATIONS OF NATURAL GAS



NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

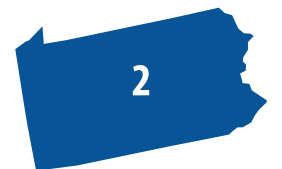
OVER 2.1 MILLION MILES OF PIPELINE



TOP NATURAL GAS STATES



TEXAS



PENNSYLVANIA



NEW MEXICO



LOUISIANA



ALASKA

Data: Energy Information Administration