

GAS NEW ZEALAND

Representing New Zealand's Gas Industry

smart. clean. efficient.



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Welcome to Gas New Zealand, a joint publication of the LPG Association of NZ and the Gas Association of NZ.

Gas New Zealand will be published regularly as part of the industry's efforts to encourage the direct use of natural gas and LPG into households and small business.

Using natural gas and LPG as a direct energy source offers numerous cost, environmental and energy efficiency benefits, and Gas New Zealand hopes to educate consumers and policy makers about the many advantages of making wider use of this strategic energy asset.

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BLACK CARBON A MAJOR CAUSE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

A new report by Atlantic Consulting suggests that Black Carbon (BC) is probably the second largest contributor to global warming, as well as compromising both outdoor and indoor air quality.



"BC has not, until now, been considered to be a major global warming threat," said LPGA, executive director, Peter Gilbert.

"The IPCC has now recognised the potential global warming impacts of BC and has since commissioned a further report specifically on this issue. This report is due this year."

BC is the soot and particulates emitted from combustion processes associated primarily with wood burners and diesel engines.

Mr Gilbert said it has been the norm to look only at CO₂ emissions when establishing the global warming potential of fuels.

"When BC is taken into account, the global warming potential of fuels such as wood and diesel changes significantly.

"Traditionally wood has been given a CO₂ free status and, as such, is presented as a very attractive low greenhouse gas emitting fuel, when, in fact, it should have some global warming potential attributed to it," he said.

The report examines the nature and role of BC in global warming and was prepared by Atlantic Consulting, an independent, privately owned firm based in Zurich and London. Atlantic Consulting specialises in the assessment of environmental impacts.

NEW GAS HUB HELPS PROMOTE BENEFITS OF NATURAL GAS

The Gas Hub is a new brand created by Powerco to help promote the benefits of natural gas to New Zealanders.

The brand was launched in September 2010 to replace the old Powerco gas brand GetGas!, said The Gas Hub marketing co-ordinator, Shelley Wilson.



The concept, which includes a newly-formed website, makes it easier for customers to get connected by providing them with a range of services under the one roof.

"The Gas Hub aims to be a central point of information on anything natural gas, to make it easier for consumers and the industry to get connected with people, information and of course to get connected to natural gas," she said.

The concept hopes to promote the direct use of gas and grow the natural gas industry in New Zealand.

"We wanted to support the whole gas industry and bring it together in a way that hadn't been done before."

For more information, please [click here](#).

GASFITTING CERTIFICATION AND FEES REVIEW UPDATE

Energy Safety, part of the Ministry of Economic Development, has released a public discussion document reviewing the gas and electricity certification and fees regimes.

"The certification and fees regimes are being reviewed to assess how well they are achieving the safe supply and use of energy, and to identify any improvements that can be made," said acting Energy Minister, Hekia Parata, in the foreword to the document.

"The review will also help us understand how well recent changes to the Gas Regulations and the Electricity Regulations are working, or if we need to make more adjustments."

She said "the government is conscious of the need to balance energy safety with commercial realities and public risk. It is continually assessing these factors to ensure regulation meets industry and public safety needs."

Peter Gilbert, executive director of the LPGA, is attending a public forum, hosted by the Department of Building and Housing, to discuss the document.

The LPGA has distributed the document to relevant members and will look to write a submission following the forum.

[Click here](#) to view a copy of the discussion document.

KIWI FIREPLACE MAKES GOOD IN THE US

Dunedin-based designer, manufacturer and exporter of leading edge gas fireplaces, Escea, has had one of its products included in a high-priced US design project.

The work involved 35 high profile designers who were charged with developing a luxurious and brand-new high-rise complex, the Astoria, located in a 17 hectare 'park' in California.

Residents of this high-rise pay up to US\$2.7 million for an apartment.



They can also now enjoy the ambiance that comes from the Escea EF 5000 outdoor fire which was the focal point of one of the designs of one of the 35 designers selected for the project.

According to the designer, the public response to the fireplace presentation was overwhelming and Escea can probably expect more orders as a result.

Established in 2002, Escea is now selling its fireplaces in the UK, Australia and Canada, as well as the US.



BREAKFAST WITH GAS

Viewers of TVNZ's Breakfast programme may soon get an up-close-and-personal look at some of the infrastructure that powers New Zealand's gas industry.

The hope is that Breakfast's famous weatherman, Tamati, will visit some of the production and distribution facilities that underpin the gas industry, and spend a bit of time in a specially-built house that features the latest and greatest gas appliances and systems.

The move is part of the promotional and advocacy programme that the Gas and LPG Associations are mounting jointly to raise awareness of the value of gas and LPG as strategic energy assets.

Industry spokesperson, Ray Ferner, said the goal is to encourage the direct use of gas by households and small businesses.

"It's all part of promoting gas as a reliable, cost effective and energy efficient substitute to electricity."

"There are some things that gas is particularly suited for – water heating, space heating and cooking – and it's often a better option for those things than using electricity," Ray said.

The industry hopes to finalise plans soon for the Breakfast programme to do the segment on New Zealand's gas industry.

WORLD'S GAS ESTIMATES DOUBLE

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), the world may have twice the amount of natural gas as originally thought.

A BBC news report, quoting the IEA, states the globe could have up to 250 years of gas reserves after a technological breakthrough was made where minor explosions were used to release unconventional gas found in shale and coal beds.

However, the amount of available gas the world has will depend on how much of the resource can be extracted based on technology and accessibility of supplies.

The news report said studies are under way to determine how much of the unconventional gas is recoverable and the environmental impacts which may occur through extraction.

At this stage, the world cannot survive on renewable energy alone. Because of this, people are calling for lower carbon emission fuels.

Gas, with only half the carbon emissions of coal and the news that reserves could last for 250 years, will be a key resource and energy choice for years to come.

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