

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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PLAN FOR GAS IN CHRISTCHURCH RE-BUILD

The designers and builders of the Christchurch-of-the-future are being urged to think carefully about what energy resources will be used to power the re-built city.

The LPG Association says the re-build of Christchurch is a perfect opportunity to make greater use of gas as a direct energy source, instead of relying so heavily on electricity.

"Gas is a strategic energy asset for New Zealand. Using it instead of electricity for water and space heating, and cooking, in homes and small businesses has many advantages, both for consumers and for the country as a whole," said LPG Association Executive Director, Peter Gilbert.

Peter said Christchurch already uses reticulated LPG in some parts of the city, and LPG in cylinders is available to all residents. The re-build is a chance to expand that use throughout the region and to displace what is a sizeable electricity demand.

"Using LPG directly can reduce CO₂ emissions when compared to other energy sources, it's energy efficient and it reduces local air quality impacts and particulate emissions which can cause adverse public health impacts," Peter said.

"Nor do LPG appliances need the kind of chimneys that were so prevalent in Canterbury, and which collapsed in the quakes, and this will be a very welcome design feature given what happened to many homes in the region."

He said the LPG supply network in Christchurch also survived the two earthquakes relatively intact, ensuring some degree of energy security, which is another reason to ensure its use in the re-build.

Because LPG can be used to displace electricity it can help to alleviate the need to build new electricity generation plants, and it can reduce the load on the national electricity grid.

"Many European countries rely heavily on direct use of LPG and gas for space and water heating and cooking. We don't have that tradition in New Zealand.

"But, there is certainly no reason why we can't expand our use of LPG as an end-use energy source in the residential and small business sector.

"It's a strategic energy asset, we have plenty of it and we need to consider carefully how we factor its use into the energy policy mix.

"The Christchurch re-build provides a valuable opportunity to think carefully about how we can use this asset to maximum advantage, for the country and consumers," Peter said.



MEETING WITH MINISTER PRODUCTIVE

A meeting with acting Energy Minister, Hekia Parata, was very positive, says Gas Association Chairman, Craig Muirhead.

Craig met with Ms Parata in April, together with LPG Association Executive Director, Peter Gilbert.

They used the opportunity to brief her on current initiatives in the wider gas industry and ensured she was up to speed with Gas NZ's plans to promote direct use of gas to the residential and small business markets.

As part of this, the Minister undertook to discuss with EECA its policies surrounding the dissemination of materials and information designed to promote gas technologies, alongside other efficient technologies.

In a follow-up letter to both Associations, she noted that EECA had agreed that its communications and marketing channels should be used to promote gas technologies, and that the crown entity had made efforts to ensure this goal was achieved. It will continue to do so.

She urged both Associations – and the Gas NZ lobby group – to work closely with EECA to maximise the promotion of efficient use of gas.

KIWIS URGED TO SERVICE THEIR GAS APPLIANCES

Owners of household gas appliances are being urged to get them serviced before winter.

That's the message from Gas New Zealand, which says an annual service will keep gas appliances operating efficiently and safely.

"The beauty of gas is that it's energy efficient, cleaner burning, cheaper than electricity in many cases, and it provides powerful heat and endless hot water," says Gas New Zealand spokesperson, Ray Ferner.

"However, just like getting a WOF on your vehicle, it does pay to have gas appliances serviced once a year to ensure they continue to provide reliable and effective service.

"Preventative maintenance is definitely better - and cheaper - than cure," Ray said.

All gas appliances sold in New Zealand must meet very rigorous international safety standards and only suitably qualified gasfitters can install and service them.

Gas heater manufacturers in particular recommend an annual appliance service.

In support of this, Gas NZ has generated national media publicity urging appliance owners to contact an approved service agent, and the LPG Association itself will be following up shortly with its nationwide LPG cabinet heater servicing campaign to reinforce the message.

Ray said gas is becoming an increasingly popular energy source in New Zealand and the industry estimates that about half of all New Zealand households now have a gas appliance.

"It adds a touch of affordable luxury to a home, which is one of the reasons most new houses are now built with gas."

Appliance owners should visit the website of the appliance manufacturer or see the yellow pages under 'gas installers'.

MARK YOUR DIARIES

Mark your diaries now for the 2011 LPG Association conference.

The conference will be held at Taupo's Wairaki Resort on October 20 and 21, and the usual line-up of insightful speakers and relaxing leisure time activities is being arranged.

In a bid to broaden the event's reach this year, the conference will be held jointly with the New Zealand Institute of Gas Engineers (NZIGE).

LPGA Executive Director, Peter Gilbert, says the joint conference will bring a wider variety of gas interests to the table and ensure delegates can explore pan-gas industry issues in some detail.

There will be breakout sessions to accommodate both LPG-specific and natural gas industry interests, Peter said.

More details of the joint conference will be published in the near future.



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The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the LPGA and GANZ. The LPGA and GANZ can be contacted by telephone  (04) 914 1765 , fax: (04) 914 1766, or mail PO Box 1776, Wellington.

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