

THE A TO Z OF NATURAL GAS

Natural gas can be found in its natural state in porous rock formations underground.

It is formed when organic matter is converted into gas.

This makes it a FOSSIL FUEL.

It is made up of hydrocarbons, mainly methane, but also propane, butane, ethane and pentane.

Two-thirds of resources are located in Russia and the Middle East.

It is a fuel that is adapted to both industrial and domestic use.

Producing gas requires complex infrastructure.

It can be transported by onshore or submarine pipelines, or in liquid form on boats.

Advantages

Natural gas is described as a “clean” energy or fuel, because burning it mostly releases steam and CO₂.

It emits 25% less CO₂ than fuel oil, and 50% less than coal.

Challenges

Global demand for natural gas is rising steadily.

Production, transportation and storage techniques are therefore continually being optimized.

So too are techniques for exploring for and producing natural gas in currently inaccessible reserves under the ocean and in permafrost.

Summary

- Natural gas = a “clean” fossil fuel that is made up of hydrocarbons found underground and is used industrially and domestically.
- Requires complex infrastructure for production and transportation.
- Challenge: improving exploration and production to meet demand.