



DegreeDays

News from the Virginia Propane Gas Association

The Top 10 Reasons All Electric is a Bad Idea The Risky Proposition of Rushing Electrification

By Matt Chester

Politicians and government officials at every level seem to be entranced these days by a specific goal when it comes to pushing forward on clean energy: shifting to an all-electric energy system. The idea may seem to make sense because fossil fuels and their carbon emissions have become a pariah in the face of climate change, but does it, really?

When looking at a national energy system comprised of an electric grid (powered by a mix of fossil fuels like coal and gas); gas distribution systems for heating, cooking and other energy needs; and direct burn of fuels ranging from propane to wood chips to petroleum, the all-electric thought process seems to go like this:

Let's remove all direct fuel burning from the energy ecosystem, given they release greenhouse gas emissions, and

Let's make sure the electric grid is powered only by carbon-free sources to remove the rest of the fossil fuels from our energy use.

Leaders under pressure about climate and clean energy issues, who also don't have direct energy experience or understanding themselves, see no flaw with this logic. And by adopting that way of thinking, they can make big sweeping promises like a carbon-neutral grid by 2040 or a 100% clean energy system by 2050. These goals seem so simple, and for them, it starts with going all-electric in buildings, all-electric in transportation, all-electric in industry... all-electric, all the time!

But is this goal a good idea? Are we collectively rushing to this conclusion? And have we looked beyond the "100% electrification" slogan to consider potential unintended consequences?

To kick-start that discussion, here are just 10 potential risks to consider of an all-electric energy system that may have you pumping the brakes on such goals.

continued on page 5>

2022 Meetings

SPRING MEETING

April 3–5, 2022

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SUMMER MEETING

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President's Message



Happy Winter to Everyone!

There is no doubt that we have had some favorable weather lately and everyone seems to be quite (or extremely) busy. How blessed we are!

However, we have this frustrating virus still hanging around (Omicron is the latest apparently). I know this has been particularly taxing for some folks as we generally do not have "staff to spare" at this time of the year. My prayer continues to be that this disease fades away quickly and we can all get back to "as normal as possible".

By the time this newsletter comes out, our new Governor will have been sworn in and the 2022 Legislative session will be well underway. Please stay tuned for announcements regarding your assistance with "getting to know" your local elected officials. There will be many new faces who will have so much to learn and absorb – but this also presents us with a real opportunity to educate them before it's too late. I am not suggesting that we overwhelm them right out of the gate, but we shouldn't let too much time go by before making an appointment to see them and share our story with them. We know that many folks become more

empathetic to our cause once they understand a little more about our industry and this wonderful energy source that we represent and provide. Be on the lookout for updates and information from our Government Affairs Chair, Elizabeth McCormick and our industrious volunteer in this effort, Tom Krupa. This is also a perfect time to remind everyone of our "[One Page](#)" handout that is available for all those in need of education. Professionally printed versions are available in limited quantities from Zach at any time.

Please also remember that NPGA and PERC are constantly working on new and improved programs for all of us. There are a host of resources for you to tap into as needed with so much being available on their websites and apps.

Plans are being formulated for our Spring meeting and I am very excited to see everyone again soon; I know we will have a very enjoyable time in the Winchester area!

Stay safe and well; and thank you all for the service that you provide for the communities that you serve. We do make a difference and our contributions are meaningful.

Blessings always,

Colin Wood-Bradley
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1 Electric systems are awfully wasteful. The most climate-friendly way to approach energy is not to waste any of it, but centralized electric systems actually bring with them great inefficiencies. These inefficiencies start at the source, with EIA noting that more than 60% of the energy used for electricity generation is lost in the conversion process. Add to that the 8% to 15% of the power that's lost due to inefficiencies during transmission and distribution. And if an operator needs to use energy storage, which becomes more and more necessary as intermittent renewable generation is added to the grid, tack on another 10% to 60% of energy losses during that round trip.

2 Weather makes electrical transmission even more inefficient. The dream of a 100% electric-based energy system, full of renewable energy, ignores weather-related challenges. Clean sources of electricity, solar, wind and even hydropower are all reliant on weather patterns cooperating, which history has shown is tough to count on. But further, the heat of the summer months will lead to greater inefficiencies in transmission. This impact can amount to transmission capacity dropping by 2% to 6%

during the summer, at a time when the grid must already contend with downed power lines, excess demand from cooling needs, and even interruptions from hurricanes and wildfires.

3 Coal-powered electricity isn't leaving quickly enough, elevating the carbon intensity of the grid. Transitioning to 100% electric assumes that fossil fuels can be wiped from the grid. However, coal-fired power plants still represent a significant portion of the nation's generating capacity and account for nearly 25% of total annual generation. Even regions that are forward-thinking on clean energy can't just shake coal out of their systems. For example, in Austin, Texas — the place Elon Musk dubbed an ecological paradise — the dirty secret is that the Fayette Power Plant provides a big chunk of the city's power. So, even ecological paradises would find that as soon as they shifted to all-electric, they would end up replacing coal with gas and other fuels, resulting in lower, but not zero carbon emissions.

4 Electricity simply isn't practical for all energy needs. Over the past decade, innovation and progress have

continued on page 6 >

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Bad Idea, continued from page 5 >

made the idea of electric vehicles not only feasible but also a practical choice for many people. That shift represents a great success in replacing gasoline with electricity, but it doesn't mean we should put the carriage before the electric-powered horse for all means of transportation. For large electric ships, studies show to sail from Asia to Europe, 40% of the ship's cargo weight would have to be replaced with batteries. Replacing long-haul trucking with electric vehicles in the EU would require 10% of the continent's generated power alone. And given the inefficiency of burning fossil fuels to create power, and the stubborn part of the generating capacity stuck on fossil fuels, experts say this change would be economically and ecologically pointless. Electricity may work for some use cases, but many industries would not thrive under an all-electric paradigm.

5 Common clean electricity sources, such as biomass, carry environmental questions of their own. Much of the transition to all clean electricity turns out to be more an accounting exercise than actual benefit to the environment, and the biomass industry represents that

issue well. Biomass supporters claim that burning trees, wood mass and other biofuels is technically carbon neutral, because all the carbon that is emitted was vacuumed out of the atmosphere by the plants in the first place, meaning there is no net effect. Experts call that conclusion into question. Bill McKibben, the founder of 350.org, notes, "Burning wood to generate electricity expels a big puff of carbon into the atmosphere now. Eventually, if the forest regrows, that carbon will be sucked back up. But eventually will be too long ... we're going to break the back of the climate system in the next few decades. For all intents and purposes, in the short term, wood is just another fossil fuel, and in climate terms, the short term is mostly what matters." So even the clean electricity sources we're looking to shift to could be doing more damage than good in the long term.

6 Rural and disadvantaged populations have specific reliability needs electricity can't meet. The energy needs between rural and urban residents come with inherent differences, and so the best solutions for them will naturally differ as well. Across the world, 940 million

continued on page 7 >



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Bad Idea, continued from page 6 >

people don't have access to electricity. Although that might not seem like a problem in the U.S., many rural and low-income areas across the U.S. find themselves with poor electricity service, even when it's available. Within these areas, access to nonelectric sources of energy means they can continue to heat their homes, cook their food and ensure reliable energy use. Given the limited amount of funds available for the electric sector, money in these regions would be better spent to tackle a whole-energy system approach that recognizes electricity isn't always the best option for them.

7 The grid isn't equipped to handle full-blown electrification. Clean electricity is only as good as its reliability and affordable delivery to end users, and the state of that transmission and distribution system today is well behind where it should be. In the rush to advocate for an all-electric system, advocates may be overlooking the reality that the deployment of electric cars, heat pumps and other electric technology is poised to increase power consumption by 40% by 2050. Given that the present-day demand on the grid has led to blackouts, brownouts and unreliable power, this shift towards greater electricity consumption will only make these painful interruptions more frequent.

8 Individual buildings need energy resilience. If a customer, a building or even an entire community are forced to rely solely on electricity for all of their energy needs — heating and cooling, food storage and preparation, transportation, etc. — then a single point of failure can interrupt all of those systems at once. Customers are unlikely to accept a nonresilient energy system and the idea that all their modern amenities could go down in the blink of an eye because of a single downed powerline. In contrast, customers who retain a gas line will still have heating and cooking options, and customers without electric cars can still fill up at the gasoline station.

9 All-electric homes, on average, have greater carbon footprints. Assuming the goal of addressing climate change and reducing carbon emissions, the move to electrify all homes and actors on the grid is a short-sighted idea. When comparing all-electric homes with homes of comparable size and profile that use natural gas, studies find that the gas homes are responsible for about one-third fewer greenhouse gas emissions. So, if you're seeking to reduce the carbon footprint of a building, required electrification is not considered a win. And given the common knowledge that the time remaining is narrowing to suitably address climate change before the effects are

irreversible, pumping extra emissions into the atmosphere now does those efforts no favors.

10 Customer preference doesn't lie with electricity for many applications. Consumer choice is a good thing, and the simple fact remains that for many applications requiring energy, customers prefer the efficacy and results they get with gas. Surveys show that almost 70% of customers prefer gas for home heating, water heating and cooking. Similarly, many customers with homes in cold environments refuse to give up their wood-burning household heating because of the ability to store the wood in their home and the comfort this heating method gives them. Forcing all these nonelectric uses to be electrified limits application, effectiveness and utility that these customers desire for important reasons.

2022 Rebates



2022 REBATES GO LIVE ON FEBRUARY 1, 2022

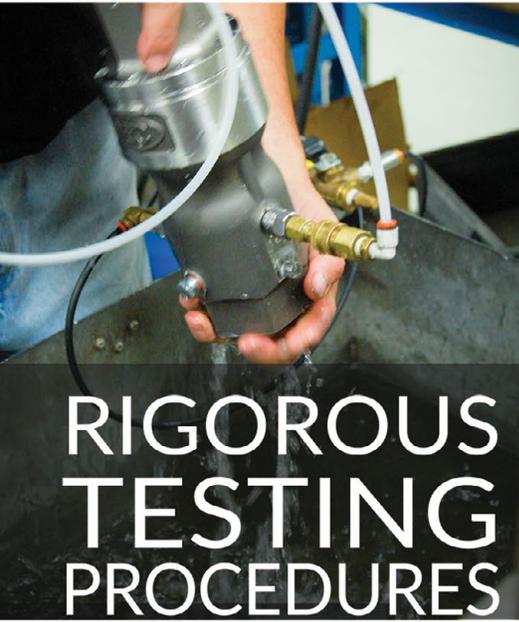
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| AroundtheCapitol

Bill Filed to Prohibit Localities from Eliminating Natural Gas Propane Impact Uncertain

New House Majority Leader Terry Kilgore has filed legislation to prohibit local jurisdictions in Virginia from enacting bans on natural gas service. Specifically, the bill states that “No public entity shall enact an ordinance or resolution or promulgate or impose any building code contractual provision or other requirements that limits, prohibits, or has the effect of prohibiting residential, commercial, or industrial consumers within their boundaries from acquiring or using the following:”The bill then specifically mentions natural gas as well as propane. But the propane reference covers only jurisdictional propane systems linked to above or underground lines. We are endeavoring to obtain an amendment to add non-jurisdictional propane as well. While it is impossible to predict how this will turnout, we expect that the bill will be opposed by environmental groups and local government lobbyists. It will be controversial.

Electrification Mandate

Senate bill 160 by Senator Hashmi of Chesterfield passed Committee 3-1 last week. This bill would facilitate the electrification of commercial and residential properties in Virginia. If passed it would authorize the electrification of



space heating, water heating/cooling/drying, industrial processes and other applications that would otherwise be serviced by fossil fuels. Cost would no longer be a consideration, only the abolition of fossil fuels. We oppose this bill and are working with the natural gas industry in coordinating efforts to defeat Senate 160.

In addition to the above, we have identified a significant number of bills that will impact the industry in a variety of ways and we are following them closely. You can view that list [here](#).

Mike O'Connor
VAPGA Lobbyist

Make a PAC Donation Today!



The mission of VAPGA’s PAC is to distribute contributions to candidates for the state legislature who, by their acts, demonstrate support of the propane industry and the private enterprise system. Your donations help VAPGA gain visibility and leverage access to promote our industry. Now more than ever, we need your support to combat the electrification and fuel ban efforts that threaten our industry. Please consider making a donation to the PAC today.

If you’d like to make an investment in the future of Virginia’s propane industry, contact **Zach Eisenman**, Executive Director, at zach@eametings.com, or **John Phillips**, VPAC Committee Chair, at jphillips@peifuels.com.

In addition to PAC donations, please let us know if you would be interested in hosting and/or meeting with a legislator this fall.

Scholarship Opportunities

Young Gassers

The VAPGA Young Gassers Scholarship Application is now live! Deadline for submissions is May 31, 2022. The VAPGA YG Scholarship is offered to current VAPGA members and their dependents who are enrolled full-time in an accredited two- or four-year academic institution or trade school (as of Fall 2022).

Click [here](#) for additional rules and requirements and [here](#) for the scholarship application.

Brightpoint Community College

VAPGA recently revived its endowed scholarship with Brightpoint Community College, formerly John Tyler Community College, in Chester, VA (outside of Richmond). The endowed scholarship is available to all Brightpoint students, and annual scholarship awards are determined by the Brightpoint Foundation, based on the amount of funds available and the number of students eligible



to receive a scholarship. Preference is to be given to students who work for a VAPGA member or dependent. The application period is February 1 through April 15. Recipients are notified by July 1. More information, as well as an application, can be found [here](#).

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VAPGA Partners with PriMedia for Environmental Messaging

VAPGA has partnered with PriMedia, a leading advertising and marketing company in the energy sector, to design a 2-sided infographic with [talking points](#) highlighting propane's impact on the Virginia economy, its environmental sustainability, and energy security.

Many thanks to Governmental Affairs Chair, **Elizabeth McCormick**, for helping to spearhead this effort! A PDF of the infographic, pictured to the left, is available for download by clicking [here](#).



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WE SUPPORT



Tell the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to Include Propane Buses in Future Infrastructure Investments



We need your help! The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is developing its education and outreach plan for the new clean school bus program as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and we need to ensure propane is included within the plan. Tell the U.S. EPA how important propane school buses are to your community!

It's simple: click on [THIS LINK](#), fill in your contact information, and a pre-written letter will appear. If you want, include information about how propane school buses have helped your local school district. Then hit "Send Email," and you're done! Once you've sent your letter, be sure to share the link with your co-workers, friends, and family – we need as many letters supporting propane as possible.

NPGA is working with the Propane Education & Research Council and state and regional propane associations on this effort, encouraging transportation providers and existing propane customers to also send letters of support. NPGA and PERC have already weighed in with EPA, and the state/regional associations are submitting comment letters highlighting propane's environmental and economic benefits for school bus fleets. For more information, contact NPGA's [Lesley Garland](#).

Update to NFPA 58

The 2017 edition of NFPA 58 as adopted last July has an interesting update we should all be aware of. I say interesting because upon reading the code revision it was scary to realize what the code had overlooked prior to the update.

Chapter 6, Installation of LP-Gas Systems, covers location of containers, container separation distance, additional location requirements, as well as piping, regulators, etc.

The update found in chapter 6 of the 2017 edition is in a new section – **6.3 Location of Containers Not Connected for Use**.

This section was added to address containers that are not yet connected or are disconnected yet remain on site. One of the most common situations where these were found was when a new supplying company disconnected a competitor's tank and set it aside in order to take over the account.

Until this revision was added to NFPA 58, a tank not connected for service was not subject to any of the location requirements. For example, in previous editions of NFPA 58, a full 1,000-gallon tank could be set directly beside a building provided it was not connected for service. If the same 1,000-gallon tank tipped over causing the relief valve to no longer communicate with the vapor space, this too would not have violated the previous editions of NFPA 58.

While it's difficult to imagine containers being unregulated if not connected for service, it is very clear that this was the case in NFPA 58. Inspectors often found unsafe placement of unconnected tanks and were unable to take corrective action. It was decided this needed to be addressed in code as apparently common sense did not always prevail.

With the addition of section 6.3 this oversight has been addressed and the location of all tanks is now covered.

While this is an update to the code, I look at it just as much as a reminder for what we should always do regarding containers. Proper location, separation and protection for all containers is essential to safe operations.

Note: storage requirements for cylinders awaiting use, resale or exchange are still found in Chapter 8 of NFPA 58.





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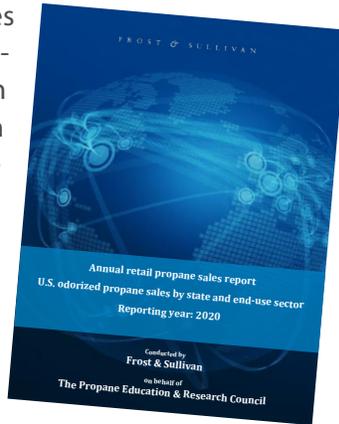
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PERC 2020 Annual Retail Propane Sales Report has been Published

In 2020, U.S. retail odorized propane sales totaled 9.44 billion gallons, a 7.0% year-over-year decline from the 10.14 billion gallons sold in 2019. This is in line with 7.3% drop in energy consumption in the U.S. in 2020 – from 100.43 quadrillion btu in 2019 to 93.13 quadrillion btu in 2020. However, total sales for 2020 were 8.5% above the ten-year average of 8.7 billion gallons of odorized propane volumes per year. While propane sales have decreased across the regions (Midwest, South, West, and Northeast), the Midwest region, which is also the largest consumer of propane, experienced the largest drop of 9.2%. The full report is available [here](#).



The Virginia State Propane Market Profile can be found [here](#). (You must be logged in to your PERC account to view it.)

Entry Level Driver Training

As of February 7, 2022, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) requires all new CDL- and HME-applicants to successfully complete classroom and behind-the-wheel training before they are eligible to sit for state CDL or HME exams. The new Entry Level Driver Training requirement applies to all potential commercial drivers. NPGA ACE Program has been established to assist your company by reviewing regulatory compliance and serving as your Registered Training Provider, including submitting drivers' materials to FMCSA. Using NPGA's ACE as your company's Registered Training Provider shields you from FMCSA audit and ushers your new drivers through the education and training requirements.

Learn more [here](#).

Check out past PERC webinars [here](#).

Tell Us Your Story!

Do you have any company news to share? Big anniversaries? Success stories? Philanthropic events? We'd like to know! Please send your news to **Zach Eisenman**, Executive Director, at zach@eameetings.com. Your news may be published in a future newsletter.

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Stay Granted: Vaccine ETS Litigation

Earlier this month, by a decision of 6 to 3, the Supreme Court of the United States issued a stay on the Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) for vaccination or testing and face covering policies for all companies with 100 or more employees. NPGA's counsel, representing NPGA and several other associations in a litigation coalition, argued before the Supreme Court to urge the justices to reinstitute the stay granted by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. NPGA's counsel was one of only two litigants granted review by the Supreme Court; the other litigant being a collection of state attorney generals. In December, the Fifth Circuit's stay was removed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, which granted the U.S. Department of Labor's motion to vacate the stay.

With the stay back in place, NPGA's counsel will now shift to argue against the merits of the ETS before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Given this action by the Court, we anticipate that the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) will revise its recent Enforcement Discretion Notice to abide by the terms of the stay.

NPGA will continue to keep our members informed of the litigation process, our efforts, and resources available to assist you in navigating these policies. NPGA is pursuing three parallel tracks: OSHA rulemaking on the ETS; litigation before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit; and guidance materials for the ETS, if the compliance deadlines are enforced. Material available on the Member Dashboard includes guidance and templates to develop ETS policies as well as guidance and FAQs on the primary requirements of vaccination executive orders for federal contractors and subcontractors.

NPGA's litigation petition joins several trade associations that rely on over-the-road transportation and provide consumer services or goods. The heart of the matter is not premised on the value or efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines, but rather the recognition that our members have taken extraordinary measures to protect our employees, customers, and communities during the pandemic and the immediate irreparable harm of losing employees, incurring substantial compliance costs, and worsening already fragile supply chains and labor markets.



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VAPGA CETP Training We Want To Hear From You!

We are in the process of determining the CETP training schedule and format for 2022. That information will be released to the membership as soon as it is finalized. We encourage members to reach out to **Trent Johnson**, Chair of the Education & Safety Committee and **Dennis Cruise** to make them aware of your needs. Please take a moment to advise the committee of all specific training or safety programs that will deliver the most value to you this year. If you would be willing to host a VAPGA training at your company, please let them know that as well.

Trent Johnson
trent.johnson@bergquistinc.com

Dennis Cruise (434) 841-1636 or
propanetrainingservices@gmail.com

Women in Propane Host Celebration Summit

April 23 in Nashville, Tennessee

The Women in Propane's Celebration Summit is a culmination of 10 years of excellence from this organization. The day will start by hearing from four women who have broken through the glass ceiling and advanced not only their careers, but the industry as well. Listen to Paula Wilson, the former chair of PERC; Leslie Woodward, the former chair of the TS&S Committee; Michelle Bimson, chair-elect of NPGA; and Nancy Coop, Founding Chair of Women in Propane Council and first woman inductee into the LPGas Hall of Fame, as they talk about their experiences in making change in the propane industry.

After that session concludes, a celebration networking lunch with awards and prizes will be hosted in the banquet room.

The event will close with two feature educational training sessions, 'Own Your Leadership Success: Create a Highly Engaged, Remote Team' will be presented by Alyson Van Hooser, a leadership development training, author and keynote speaker. 'Why Should Someone be Led by You: Five Hard-Hitting Questions to Ask Yourself About Your Ability to Lead People' will be presented by Margaret Morford, the CEO of HR Edge, and an expert trainer returning to us for her fourth year of educating at Women in Propane events.

"We look forward to celebrating 10 years of excellence this year with the women who are true changemakers for this industry," said Women in Propane Chair, Jennifer Jackson.

These impactful training sessions will provide the audience with valuable tools to succeed in this changing corporate climate and virtual world, while empowering each individual to take control of his or her career and determine ways to help propel their organization forward. **Please join us Saturday, April 23rd from 10:30 – 4:00 p.m at the Music City Center in Nashville, Tennessee.**

For more information about the Summit or about Women in Propane, contact [Greg Wasson](#), Chair, Communications & Marketing. Ticket information coming soon!



Workforce Development Update



VAPGA leadership has made the decision not to continue its partnership with Vets2Techs and GenerationNext in 2022. We appreciate their work and all of their efforts over the past year to assist our members. However, the Workforce Development Task Force, led by **Trent Johnson** and **Randy Doyle**, has reached out to the Virginia Values Veterans Program (V3) as a new partner in workforce development. V3 is a program run by the state's Department of Veterans Services. As a state funded program, V3 is completely free to use and enrollment is as easy as 1...2...3!

1. Employer enrolls in program by submitting [application](#) online.
2. Employer completes the [training requirement](#) within one year.
3. Employer completes and submits an Executive Cover Letter to their assigned V3 Regional Program Manager to supply to the Governor's Office requesting certification.

V3 certification is valid for 5 years. Certified employers can proudly display their V3 Certified Seal and V3 program logo to highlight their commitment to military employment.

Read the Executive Summary [here](#).

Learn more [here](#).