

Sustainable Tallahassee's Natural Gas Position Statement

Statement of Position: **Tallahassee needs to invest in clean renewable energy sources to power our electric grid and begin the move away from the use of natural gas to generate electricity – to the point that by 2050 very little natural gas is in use for that purpose.**

Position Justification: Natural gas has been applauded as a cleaner fuel to bridge the gap as we move away from coal and oil until a cleaner fuel can be found. Rightly so, natural gas when burned emits half the CO₂ of coal and oil. However, it is still a fossil fuel and it still emits CO₂ when burned.

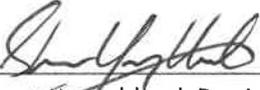
Even more worrisome, methane (the major component of natural gas) is an extremely potent greenhouse gas, with a shorter life span than carbon dioxide but 80 times the heat-trapping power, according to some estimates. Methane leaks along the entire supply chain of the oil and gas industry account for a key source of overall emissions. Over the long term, reducing the use of natural gas (methane) is critical to stopping the worst effects of climate change caused by this greenhouse gas.

The City of Tallahassee uses natural gas for the generation of city electricity and pipes it throughout our urban area for residential and commercial uses. Knowing the detrimental effects of this and other greenhouse gasses, the city has committed to using 100% renewable energy by 2050. It follows that a major reduction in the use of natural gas should be one of the goals of the city's Clean Energy Plan.

Sustainable Tallahassee has been a major proponent and supporter of an effective Clean Energy Plan. Its Renewable Energy Advocacy committee has been working closely with city staff over the past 8 years, offering many suggestions on ways to decarbonize our local economy to achieve the net zero goal as soon as possible, but no later than 2050.

Now is the time to begin the reduction in the use of natural gas.

This Policy was adopted by the Sustainable Tallahassee Board of Directors on 9 / 20 / 2021.



Shawna Youngblood, President

References

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