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Natural Gas: An Overview of its Role in Energy, Economy and Environment

David Thompson*

Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, University of Melbourne, Australia

Abstract

Natural gas has become an integral component of the global energy landscape, recognized for its versatility, e ciency, and relatively lower environmental impact compared to other fossil fuels. This article provides a comprehensive overview of natural gas, exploring its properties, extraction methods, and diverse applications in electricity generation, residential use, and industrial processes. The economic signiýcance of natural gas is highlighted, particularly in terms of job creation and its role in enhancing energy security. However, environmental concerns, particularly regarding methane emissions and the impacts of hydraulic fracturing, are critically examined. The article also discusses the evolving role of natural gas in the context of climate change and the transition to renewable energy sources. Innovations in technology and potential developments in carbon capture and storage are explored as pathways for integrating natural gas into a sustainable energy future. Ultimately, this overview underscores the dual challenge of leveraging natural gas for economic beneýts while addressing its environmental implications.

accessible to regions that previously relied heavily on coal or oil. is shi not only diversi es energy sources but also contributes to reduced greenhouse gas emissions on a global scale [5].

However, the bene ts of natural gas must be weighed against its environmental implications. Methane leaks during production and

***Corresponding author:** David Thompson, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, University of Melbourne, Australia, E-mail: Thompson.david@gmail.com

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for intermittent renewable energy generation, such as wind and solar. is exibility can help stabilize the grid during periods of low renewable output, facilitating a smoother transition towards a more sustainable energy mix [9].

Moreover, the economic implications of natural gas are profound. In many regions, it has generated employment opportunities, stimulated local economies, and reduced energy costs for consumers. However, the economic bene ts are o en accompanied by local and global challenges, including the need for infrastructure development and potential con icts over land use and resource extraction. Balancing these economic opportunities with community concerns and environmental stewardship remains a critical challenge for policymakers. As the global energy landscape continues to evolve, so too does the conversation surrounding the future of natural gas. e urgency of addressing climate change necessitates ongoing research, innovation, and collaboration across sectors. Stakeholders-including governments, industry leaders, and environmental advocates-must engage in dialogue to develop strategies that maximize the bene ts of natural gas while minimizing its ecological impacts [10].

69092.

In conclusion, this article will explore the complex interplay between natural gas, economic development, and environmental sustainability. By examining the current state of natural gas production and consumption, its implications for energy security, and the challenges it faces in light of climate goals, we aim to provide a nuanced perspective on the role of natural gas in shaping a sustainable energy future. rough this exploration, we hope to contribute to the broader discourse on how to navigate the transition to a low-carbon economy while harnessing the potential of natural gas as part of a balanced energy portfolio.

None

None

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