



- ▶ How to kick start your energy bill savings
- ▶ Feel good about going natural
- ▶ What everyone should know about efficiency

Forget everything you thought you knew about natural gas ...

At The Gas Hub, we know the last thing you need when you are trying to make household energy decisions are myths and mixed messages. Forget the spin, here's the real facts:

- 1 Natural gas is not running out any time soon.
- 2 Daily fixed charges can still allow for good energy bill savings.
- 3 Using natural gas in the home is easy on the planet.



the gas hub

Your natural gas connection

Find out everything you need to know about natural gas at thegashub.co.nz

Inside:

▶ Take the slasher to monster electricity bills

Find out how to kick start your energy bill savings this year.

▶ Feeling good about going natural

A busy mum shares her story on the decision to switch to natural gas.

▶ Create a warm, dry and healthy home

Renovations and retrofitting provide an ideal opportunity to upgrade the style and comfort of your home while downgrading your energy bill.

▶ The big picture on efficiency

Efficiency ratings on home appliances only tell you half of the story. Find out the full story and why it matters.

▶ How The Gas Hub can help you

We're not an energy retailer – and we're not an appliance retailer either! As a division of Powerco, The Gas Hub is here to tell Kiwis about the wonders of natural gas, and help you get connected.

Welcome to easy living

Hi there,

I'm Mark Hermann from The Gas Hub. I'm not an energy techie, I'm more of the 'give it to me in plain English' type.

When I moved to Wellington with my wife and three full on children, I realised how confusing it is to access and understand information around getting the best value on powering up our homes. Talk about frustrating.

A couple of chats over the printer at work soon proved that plenty of my team had the same frustration, and their friends and so on. There had to be an easier way to find straight up information about energy choices. We all love how easy natural gas makes life at home, so we decided to create an online hub for consumers to find out all sorts of information about natural gas.

We developed The Gas Hub brand at the same time, with the idea of providing plain talking information about natural gas – no jargon and no tossing of the fancy word salad.

At The Gas Hub we asked experts to read all the technical stuff and build calculators that are super easy for everyone to use. So we can find answers to the questions most householders are interested in like;

- *Am I getting value for money with my household energy choices?*
- *Can I get a better deal?*
- *Does paying two line charges really cost me more?*
- *Can I connect to the natural gas network and save money?*

At The Gas Hub we have prepared simple answers backed up by in-depth analysis. And, if you ever want to know the detail behind our claims we're happy to supply it.

So read on or visit our website to find out how a few simple changes to your energy choices can improve your lifestyle or reduce your overall energy costs.

Mark Hermann

Natural gas spokesperson – The Gas Hub

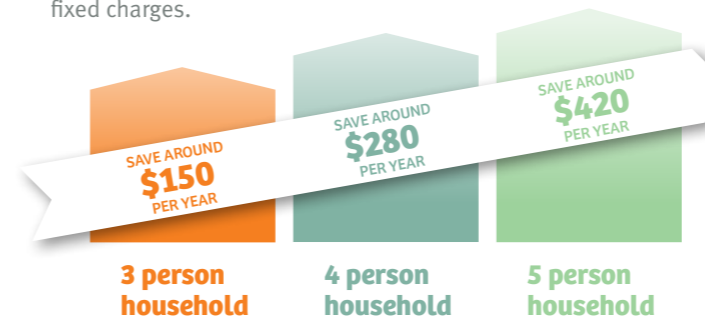
SAVINGS: Take the slasher to monster electricity bills

We get it. You hate huge energy bills but still want to be comfortable. Life's just easier when you can enjoy reading the weekend paper at home without needing to layer up in your woollies. Well, you know that buzz you get when you save money? You can get pretty comfy with that feeling when you use natural gas for hot water and heating instead of electricity. Especially when you kick start savings with a free gas connection worth around \$2,000.



The more you use the more you save

The more you use natural gas, the more you can save on your energy bill. You might be surprised to learn that if you installed gas central heating and gas hot water instead of an electric cylinder and two heat pumps – you'd probably reduce your energy bill by around \$420 per year. That's savings of over \$30 a month, including daily fixed charges.



Source: electricity v natural gas calculator at thegashub.co.nz

Save with daily fixed charges

It's pretty handy to know that when it comes to natural gas, because you only pay around 1/3 of the cost of electricity per unit of energy, you can use the other 2/3 to cover your daily fixed charges – and still have savings left over for your pocket. Even just using gas for hot water in a family of four can deliver running cost savings compared to using LPG or electric cylinder hot water.

Daily fixed charges. Why?

Just like your landline phone or electricity bill, natural gas incurs daily fixed charges and a variable charge per unit of gas used. If retailers removed the fixed charge portion from your bill, the cost you pay per unit of natural gas would increase hugely. Retailer daily fixed charges usually cover the cost of distribution, metering and their own charges. And you know what? Some retailers offer some brilliant discounts on daily charges too, so it pays to shop around.

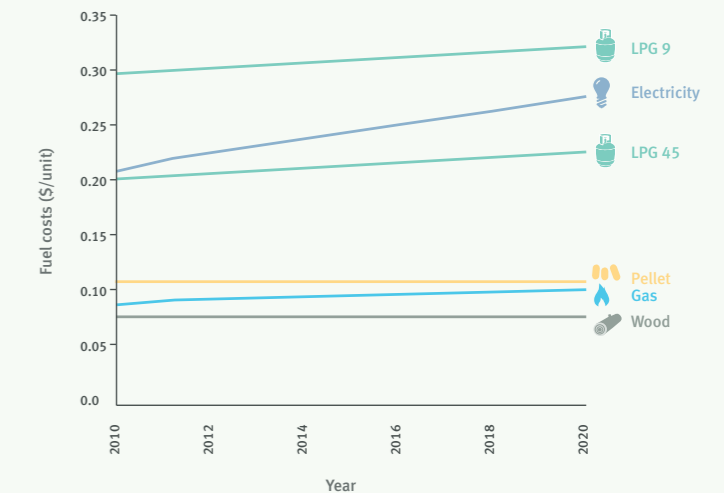
What savings can you make?

If you want to know how economical natural gas might be in your home compared to electricity or LPG, thegashub.co.nz has two really easy to use calculators you can take for a spin.

The future of gas

Price projections to 2020

It's useful to know fuel price projections show natural gas will continue to be a cost effective energy choice well into the future for most homes. It's expected to remain significantly cheaper than all fuels other than wood – and with some regional councils starting to insist on clean heat sources – it just makes sense.



Source: Gas Industry Co Recommendation to the minister on DUoG 2009.

Gas supply

Experts have estimated there is 30 years supply left in New Zealand.

For many years, the Maui gas field was New Zealand's main source of natural gas. Today, we have thirteen other gas fields in production, including Pohokura, Kupe, Kapuni and Mangahewa. There's heaps to go around. Pohokura alone produces enough to supply the entire reticulated market for piped gas. And the discovery of the massive Kowhai gas field in 2008 means secure supply for decades to come.

The future beyond that is exciting too. Powerco's existing natural gas infrastructure is capable of taking us all the way into the green gas era. Imagine biogas created from waste and algae being pumped through natural gas pipelines into the gas appliances in your home.

Feeling good about going natural...

I've only got 20 minutes before I pick up the boys from rugby practice. The wind is howling and the rain is pounding on the windows. The thought of venturing outside makes me slightly irritated.

Six months ago, this wouldn't have been the case. The house was as cold inside as it was outside. But now every room in the place is cosy and warm. The heat is just there, nothing needs to be lit or stoked. Having to drag myself away from the comfort isn't fair.

We upgraded to natural gas after our friend convinced us of the many benefits of converting to a more efficient energy source.

He told us he's saving heaps of money and the installation was really easy. He's got a gas fire, which looks like real flames. Rather romantic for him and his new wife.

While we were impressed with the atmosphere and warmth the gas fire created, we opted for central heating so every room could be warm. With two growing teenagers we jumped at the idea of a heating system that would make it easier for them to hang out in their rooms when their mates are 'round. They seem much happier now they can enjoy their own space.

“While we were impressed with the atmosphere and warmth the gas fire created, we opted for central heating so every room could be warm.”

They all used to laze about in the lounge because it was the only warm room in the house. I cringe a bit when I think of how our friends used to leave their jackets on as we ushered them into the kitchen for a coffee. Central heating has meant we've reclaimed the lounge and the jackets are now left at the door. I'm not missing those noisy lounge lizards either.

When there's a big game on TV, hubby loves it now that he can escape to our media room while I crank up the heat in the lounge. The arguments over me being too cold, and him being too hot are now a thing of the past. Same with the TV remote, no more channel surfing battles like when the whole family was confined to the 'warm room'. I now have a standing date with 'Packed to the Rafters' and I love it.

Installing gas has been good for the youngest one's health too. He suffers from asthma and allergies and his symptoms have nearly disappeared since we upgraded to gas. Our flued system produces a dry heat that combats dampness and mould. The doctors told us damp living conditions were affecting our son's health so that was a bit of a wake up call.

Not only is our entire family warmer and more comfortable, our energy bills have gone down – and that's with both electricity and gas combined. Compared to the year before, we are making significant savings. That means some extra money for the things we enjoy.

We also decided to replace our electric hot water cylinder with a natural gas continuous flow water system. Now I don't feel guilty when I have a long shower – there's no chance of running out of hot water. The screams of annoyance that could be heard when the water went cold are something I don't miss.

The boys will be dirty and cold when I collect them from rugby practice. They'll race each other to the shower but the older one will win. The younger one will never admit it but I'm sure he appreciates that mum always has a hot bath ready for him in the other bathroom so he can warm up quickly. Sometimes I wonder if he loses the shower race on purpose. And yes, there'll still be enough hot water for hubby to have one when he gets home from work too.

“The most surprising thing I learnt about gas is that it's a lot kinder on the environment than I had thought.”

When we were considering our energy options for an upgrade, the most surprising thing I learnt about gas is that it's a lot kinder on the environment than I had thought. What a nice thing that was to learn. I like the idea of caring for our environment and didn't realise natural gas was so green. It's the cleanest of all fossil fuels. I feel good knowing I'm doing my bit towards reducing pollution and maintaining a clean and healthy environment.

I'm such a fan of natural gas, I've been telling all my friends about it.

The lifestyle and savings benefits of natural gas have stacked up so well for my family, I want all my friends to know how good it is to enjoy easy living with gas. You too can enjoy natural gas – and as soon as you do, I bet you'll be raving about it to your friends too.

RETROFITTING: Create a warm, dry and healthy home

Remember when you were a child and used to tear through the house leaving doors open in winter. You didn't think twice about it, but the person who yelled 'were you born in a tent?' sure did. Whoever invented natural gas central heating must have kids. Genius. Why tough out damp and cold living conditions when you can sort it out with a natural gas retrofit? It provides the ideal opportunity to upgrade the efficiency, style and comfort of your home – while downgrading your energy bill.



Discover the doors gas heating can open

When you install gas heating, not only can you open the door to affordable energy, you can also discover brilliant performance that's second to none. How? Natural gas is powerful, and can throw heat around your room faster than any other convenient fuel source, especially when it's frosty outside.

There are installation options to suit your home - no matter how or when it was built. Ducts can be installed in the floor or ceiling, and the heating unit can be positioned under the house, in the roof cavity or outside. With gas ducted central heating systems that start at just \$6,000, why would you pay the same for two heat pumps that will heat two rooms, when you can heat your whole house?

21st century gas heating

New generation gas heaters and fireplaces have come leaps and bounds from what they used to be. Modern gas heaters can be equipped with the same climate and control features you'll find on electric heaters such as timers, thermostats and remote controls. They have a knack for looking good too.

On offer you'll find plenty of heating appliances made right here in New Zealand. Here's a glance of what's available:

- Flued space heaters with flue options that are easily retrofitted, and can heat up to 90m².
- Zoned central heating systems allow you to start with the basic model and upgrade later on with additional outlets as your budget allows.
- Clean burning, stylish fireplaces that add a touch of class and meet upcoming council emissions requirements.

A smart investment

When you invest in a natural gas retrofit, you will enjoy easy living now, with wide appeal for buyers when it comes time to sell – not that you'll ever want to leave.

"I've been selling homes in Wellington for over 20 years and I consider reticulated natural gas as a very positive selling feature when I'm showing a property to potential purchasers. The clean burning, efficient, and cost effective nature of natural gas always adds to the appeal of the home."

Peter Graham – Remax Leaders Real Estate

Need help with efficiency improvements?

Many older New Zealand homes are cold, damp and hard to heat. It's disappointing but not unusual to discover the home you love isn't up to scratch when it comes to energy efficiency.

If you've moved into – or decided to renovate – an older home take the opportunity to insulate it properly and install energy efficient natural gas home and hot water heating.

Install modern and efficient gas heating appliances and you may be eligible for Government funding from ENERGYWISE™. And if you need help finding a supplier, just give us a call at The Gas Hub on 0508 427 482.



Breathe easy

Did you know that retrofitting flued gas heating helps ensure your home is healthy for your family? Some models have Asthma Foundation endorsement so you can rest assured that flued gas heating is perfect for those little tykes with asthma. What's more, flued gas heating emits a dry heat, which reduces dampness and mould.

Unlock savings with hot water

Natural gas continuous flow hot water is the best reason to retrofit. It's also key to unlocking the best savings too for running your heaters because it easily takes care of your daily fixed charges, making gas heating comparable with heat pumps to run.

Currently using LPG?

If you use more than four large LPG cylinders per year, chances are it will be cheaper for you to use natural gas. You can compare the running costs of LPG and natural gas with the simple online calculators at thegashub.co.nz

EFFICIENCY: Natural gas costs less for you and the planet.

Energy is useful stuff when it comes to making our lives easier. So is efficiency and the ability to do more with less especially as we figure out better ways to live whilst keeping the planet in check. The bonus that comes with efficiency is that it can save you a few bucks along the way with reduced energy bills, the efficiency of natural gas is a star player when it comes to that. But you know the nice thing that comes with choosing natural gas for easy living? The fact that natural gas treads lightly on the planet too.



Twice as efficient

Did you know, when used directly, natural gas is the most efficient convenient fuel you can use for cooking, heating and hot water in your home? As a direct fuel source natural gas is about twice as efficient as electricity made from natural gas, so it delivers around 90% usable energy to your home compared to just 45% for electricity made from natural gas. That's just part of the reason why gas costs less.

The big efficiency picture

What if we told you that energy star labeling only tells you half the efficiency story? Energy star ratings are great, we're all for them and gas appliances shoot as high as 7 stars. Energy star ratings tell you how efficiently the appliance will convert gas or electricity into heat energy.

But you know what else? Energy efficiency works on two levels. Appliance efficiency that's detailed on energy star ratings is the second half. The first half of the story is the overall efficiency of the energy source you choose to power your appliances. Natural gas offers outstanding efficiency on both counts.

Efficiency + effectiveness = performance

Some appliances are super efficient but fail on performance – like a heater that's cheap to run but doesn't keep you toasty in the middle of winter. That's where effectiveness comes in. Effectiveness is getting the same or even better result faster, for less.

Together, effectiveness and efficiency deliver outstanding performance.

Picture a mini. It could be the most efficient car in the world. But you wouldn't ask it to tow a big trailer. A sedan-sized car would get the job done much more effectively and can still be economical on fuel.

Similarly, if you have a big home, or want to heat more than one small area, you need a heat source that will be both effective and efficient. And that's natural gas.

Naturally greener than you might think

Experts reckon that if all the North Island homes with natural gas pipes in their streets switched their electric hot water to natural gas, it would save a whopping 430,000 tonnes of carbon emissions every year. And, the carbon footprint of natural gas continuous flow hot water is even lower than electricity boosted solar.

In fact, when used directly, natural gas is a clean heat source that emits less carbon than electricity on average. At peak times it can be as little as a quarter. Because gas is clean burning, it also contributes to reducing smog in our cities, especially in winter because it releases no ash or dust particles into the air.

Keeping up with energy demand

We all love the idea of fully renewable energy resources, but reality is they fall about 35% short of generating the electricity New Zealand needs to keep the country running. What's more, electricity demand is creeping up at about 2% every year, and building infrastructure to keep up with demand is expensive. Especially when there's lots of capacity left on the natural gas network.

Hot water: No.1 reason to get natural gas

Hot water is the number one reason to get natural gas. The benefits are so brilliant we can go on and on and on. It never runs out, is heated the instant you need it, and because there are no standing losses, unlike electric cylinders, you only pay for what you use. Not to mention the on-going energy bill savings you can get by using the most efficient and effective form of traditional water heating around. Continuous flow water heating is super efficient – appliance ratings reach as high as 7 Energy Stars and 95% efficiency compared to an average of 80% for electric cylinders. And because natural gas produces significantly less carbon emissions than electricity, it's good for the planet too.

Check out the estimated savings you can make on your energy bill when you switch from an electric cylinder to natural gas continuous flow hot water. Savings include daily fixed charges.

People in household	Savings with natural gas
3	26%
4	36%
5	42%

Source: electricity v natural gas calculator at thegashub.co.nz

Making it easy

The Gas Hub can help you in all sorts of ways – whether you're ready to get the easy living lifestyle or just thinking about your options:

- ▶ We'll answer your questions about natural gas.
- ▶ We'll connect you with businesses like gasfitters, appliance shops and energy retailers.
- ▶ We'll help you get connected to the Powerco gas network if you live in Wellington, Manawatu, Taranaki or Hawke's Bay.
- ▶ We'll let you know if you're eligible for a free natural gas connection worth up to \$2,000.
- ▶ We'll help coordinate the connection process to make it easy for you.

And the best thing? It costs you nothing for our help.

Call 0508 427 482 or visit thegashub.co.nz