



Corpus Christi, 2022

## Mythbusting the Impacts of Liquefied Natural Gas Exports on Communities, Consumers and the Climate

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is a methane gas product, not a clean energy solution. LNG exports have been in the energy spotlight recently and touted as a solution to enhance energy security, lower energy prices for American consumers, and reduce global climate pollution. As the U.S. becomes one of the largest exporters of LNG, the benefits of LNG exports have been widely overstated and the drawbacks not well publicized. As the oil and gas industry seeks to expand exports of LNG, it is critical that policymakers and consumers understand the myths and facts associated with exporting this dirty fuel.

**Myth #1: LNG is a clean alternative to other fossil fuels like oil and coal.**

**FACT: Natural gas is composed almost entirely of methane, which is 80 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide<sup>1</sup>.** From upstream processes to combustion for energy, there are significant emissions associated with every step of LNG's lifecycle. Building new LNG infrastructure now will lock in climate impacts for decades to come. The full proposed buildout of LNG in the U.S. could equal the climate contributions of 578 new coal plants<sup>2</sup>.

**Myth #2: Exporting more LNG will help lower the price of gas domestically and save Americans on their energy bills.**

**FACT: Exporting U.S. natural gas directly contributes to an increase in energy costs for American consumers.** U.S. produced natural gas has historically been insulated from global energy markets, but now with 20 percent allocated for export<sup>3</sup>, we are vulnerable to price volatility and forced to compete with other countries<sup>4</sup>. Recent experience has shown that when LNG exports pause, domestic natural gas prices drop<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Methane and climate change (stanford.edu)

<sup>2</sup> [https://contentdev.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/2552%20LNG-ClimateImpacts\\_FactSheet\\_02\\_low.pdf](https://contentdev.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/2552%20LNG-ClimateImpacts_FactSheet_02_low.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.eia.gov/international/data/world/natural-gas/dry-natural-gas-production>

<sup>4</sup> <https://ferc.gov/media/report-2022-2023-winter-assessment>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-06-08/us-natural-gas-prices-plunge-after-fire-at-texas-lng-terminal>

**Myth #3: LNG is safe for public health.**

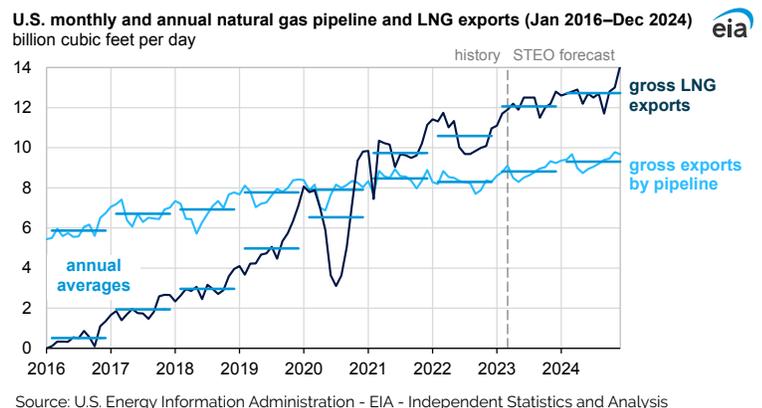
**FACT: In addition to climate pollution, LNG export facilities also release a host of dangerous pollutants including sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter<sup>6</sup>.** The facilities pose high risks of leaks and explosions<sup>7</sup>, and are largely planned in low income and disadvantaged communities, which already face higher risks of respiratory illness and cancer caused by air toxics.

**Myth #4: Exporting LNG to Europe is the most important way for our allies to achieve energy security.**

**FACT: LNG is a short-term solution to a long-term effort to eliminate European dependence on Russian oil and gas.** Weaning our European allies off one volatile energy source and locking them into another will only exacerbate their energy woes while hurting consumers, communities, and the climate. Instead, real energy independence will require expanded electrification and renewable energy buildout across the European energy system, paired with a reduction in energy demand as part of the EU's Repower Plan<sup>8</sup>.

**Myth #5: All U.S. LNG exports will go to support our allies, and accelerated development is therefore in the public interest.**

**FACT: Mexico is planning to use U.S. LNG to become an LNG exporter itself<sup>9</sup>, and could then supply it to countries with which the U.S. does not necessarily have a free trade agreement, a precursor to determining public interest under the Natural Gas Act.** A proposal submitted to FERC by Oneck, Inc. indicates intent to transport U.S. natural gas across the border and then to an export terminal on Mexico's pacific coast, where it may then go to China<sup>10</sup>.



**Myth #6: "Clean" natural gas can create economic opportunity, bolster energy security, and provide an environmentally-friendly energy solution.**

**FACT: We've seen these claims before when industry pushed for "clean coal." Fossil fuels weren't clean then and they aren't clean now.** Attempts to rebrand coal, oil, and gas as "clean" energy solutions are nothing more than industry-led public relation stunts, intended to distract from the transition to a *real* clean energy economy and net-zero emissions future. Any efforts to greenwash fuels that poison our communities and pollute our air must be roundly rejected.

6 <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>  
7 <https://alerts.skytruth.org/report/a5ced035-b6fb-6f5c-b8f1-9d8cad02c6c2/>  
8 [https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/repowereu-affordable-secure-and-sustainable-energy-europe\\_en#:~:text=REPowerEU%20is%20the%20European%20Commission%E2%80%99s%20plan%20to%20make,as%20a%20Union%2C%20Europe%20can%20achieve%20this%20faster.](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/repowereu-affordable-secure-and-sustainable-energy-europe_en#:~:text=REPowerEU%20is%20the%20European%20Commission%E2%80%99s%20plan%20to%20make,as%20a%20Union%2C%20Europe%20can%20achieve%20this%20faster.)  
9 <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-08-12/mexico-plans-to-become-lng-export-hub-using-american-drilled-natural-gas>  
10 <https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.citizen.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2FOneokSaguaro.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>



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