

NARUC  Winter  

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Policy Summit

# **Natural Gas Infrastructure's Role in the Clean Energy Transition**

**NARUC Committee on Gas**

**Moderator:** Hon. Kristie Fiegen, South Dakota

**Panelists:**

- Erin Blanton, VP of Zero Emission Systems, GTI Energy
- Heather Dziedzic, Vice President, Policy, American Biogas Council
- Maria Garduna, Manager, Sustainability and Climate, Black Hills Energy
- Joanne Mello, VP of Corporate Sustainability, Southern Company Gas



## Net Zero Infrastructure Program

Erin Blanton, VP Zero Emissions  
Systems



Political  
polarization  
dominates  
conversation about  
current and future  
energy  
infrastructure

- Recent U.S. policy is super-charging hubs for hydrogen, direct air capture (DAC), and carbon capture and storage (CCS)—there are looming concerns about the myriad obstacles to building this infrastructure
- The ability to secure permits, financing, and community support are real risks that have no easy answers
- Growing controversy over decarbonization solutions such as hydrogen and RNG
- Need to shift the conversation if we are to have a hope of meeting net-zero goals

# What is NZIP?

The Net-Zero Infrastructure Program (NZIP) is a GTI-Energy led research collaboration that;

- Brings together industry, investors, academics, and technical experts
- Focuses on testing and mapping the most practical opportunities for integrating low-carbon solutions within the current natural gas infrastructure
- Provide a holistic understanding of the complexity of the existing natural gas system and how it will integrate with new energy systems

*NZIP strives to achieve a vision for how the nation's extensive natural gas infrastructure can evolve to better integrate emerging low-carbon fuels solutions and move toward net-zero energy systems with speed and at scale.*

# Partners



# Advisory Commitee

## Investors & NGOs

**J.P.Morgan**

**CALSTRS**

**Kimmeridge**

**Breakthrough  
 Energy**

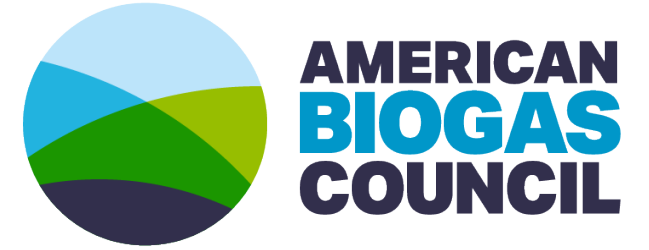
  
 Bipartisan Policy Center

 **Environmental  
 Defense  
 Fund**

  
**Ceres**

## Expert Advisory Panel

Naomi Boness	Stanford University
Amy Myers Jaffe	New York University
Peter Balash	National Energy Technology Laboratory
Anne-Sophie Corbeau	Columbia University
Jeffrey Brown	University of Wyoming
Andrew Logan	CERES



# American Biogas Council

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Heather Dziedzic, Vice President- Policy

February 26, 2024 | NARUC Winter Policy Summit

# About the American Biogas Council



## The voice of the biogas industry in the US

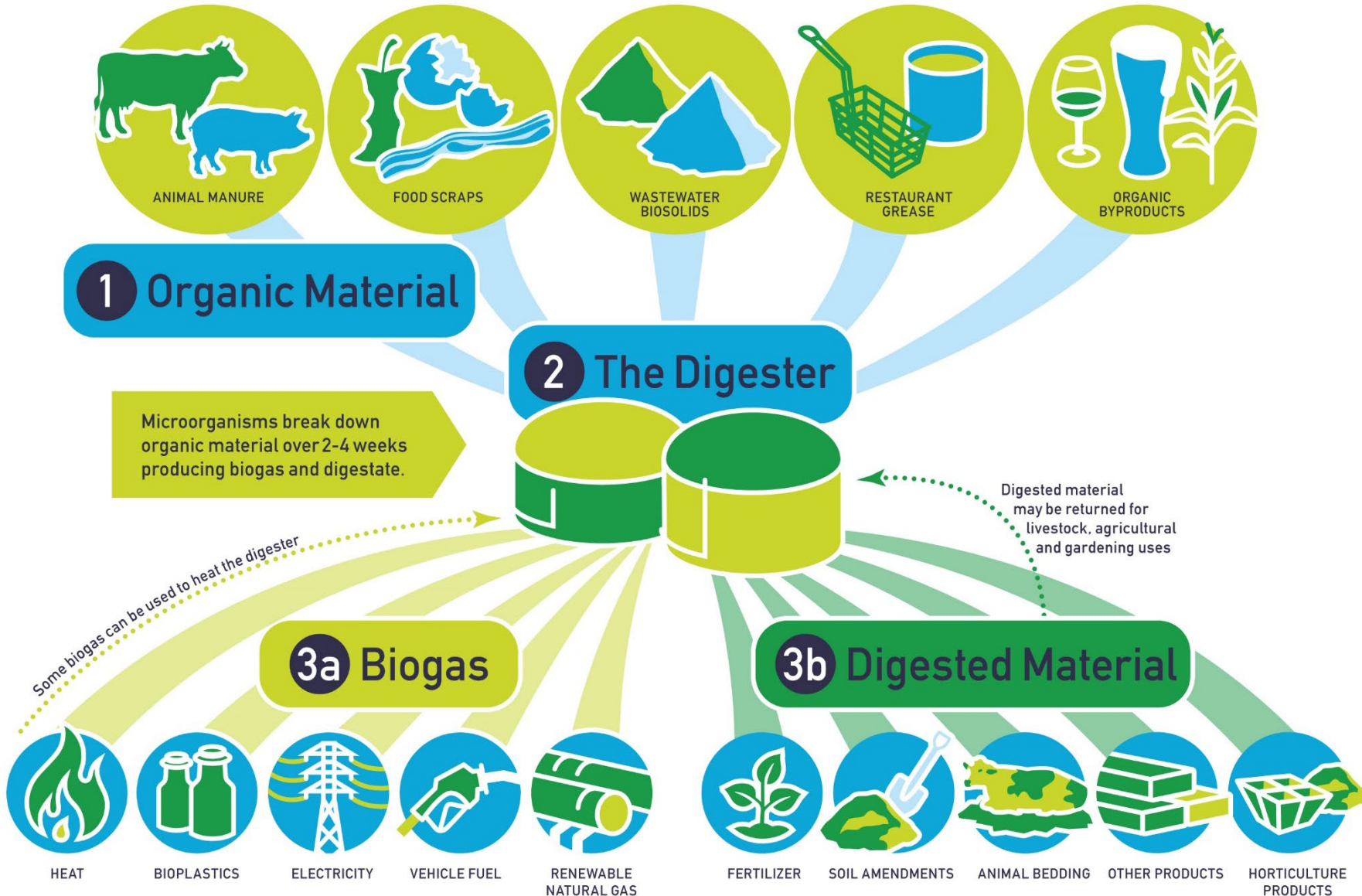
### All sectors represented

- Project developers/owners
- Equipment retailers and dealers
- Waste management companies
- Waste water companies
- Farms
- Utilities
- Renewable Electricity Producers
- Municipalities
- Consultants and EPCs
- Financiers, accountants, lawyers and engineers
- Non-profits, universities and government agencies

**400+**  
**organizations**  
**5,000**  
**individuals**

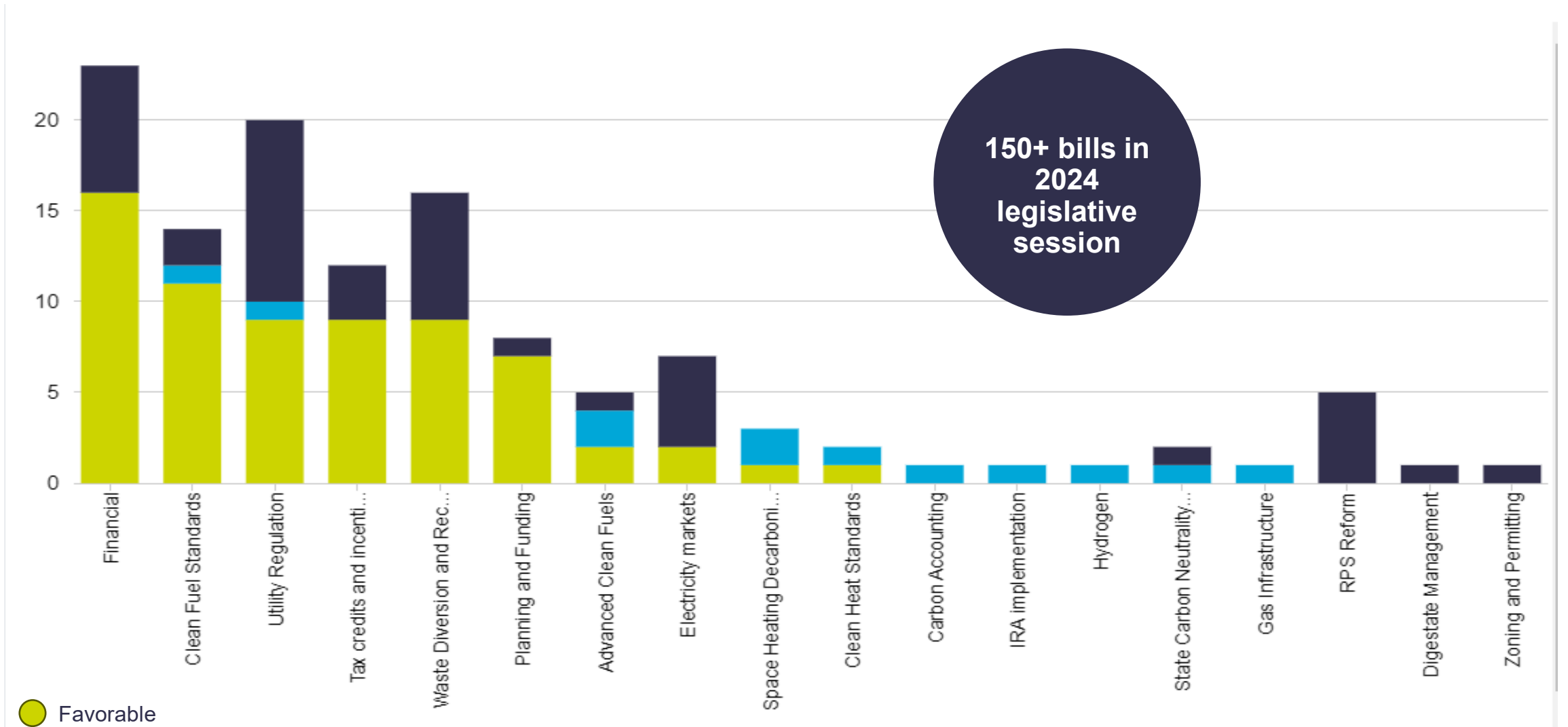


# We represent a diverse supply chain





# Supportive State Policies Continue



● Favorable  
● Unfavorable  
● Neutral

# Black Hills Energy

Maria Garduna

Climate and Sustainability Manager



We're a regulated, publicly traded electric and natural gas provider, serving:

**Eight**  
states

**1.3 million**  
electric and  
natural gas  
utility customers

**800+**  
communities



NATURAL GAS EMISSIONS

↓ **Net Zero** by 2035



ELECTRIC EMISSIONS

↓ **70%** by 2040

**IMPROVING LIFE WITH ENERGY**



# Our natural gas sustainability strategy:

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## 1) Operate a net zero distribution system

- Replace high emitting materials
- Damage prevention
- Advanced monitoring and leak detection

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## 2) Help customers reduce their carbon footprint

- Appliance efficiency
- Weatherization
- Green Forward

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## 3) Advance low carbon fuels

- Renewable natural gas
- Hydrogen





# Fueling a Sustainable Future of Energy

Joanne Mello  
Vice President, Corporate Sustainability





## Southern Company Gas

Atlanta-based natural gas services company and subsidiary of Southern Company.

★ **Corporate Headquarters**

💧 **GAS Distribution Operations**

Atlanta Gas Light  
Chattanooga Gas  
Nicor Gas  
Virginia Natural Gas

🏠 **GAS Marketing Services**

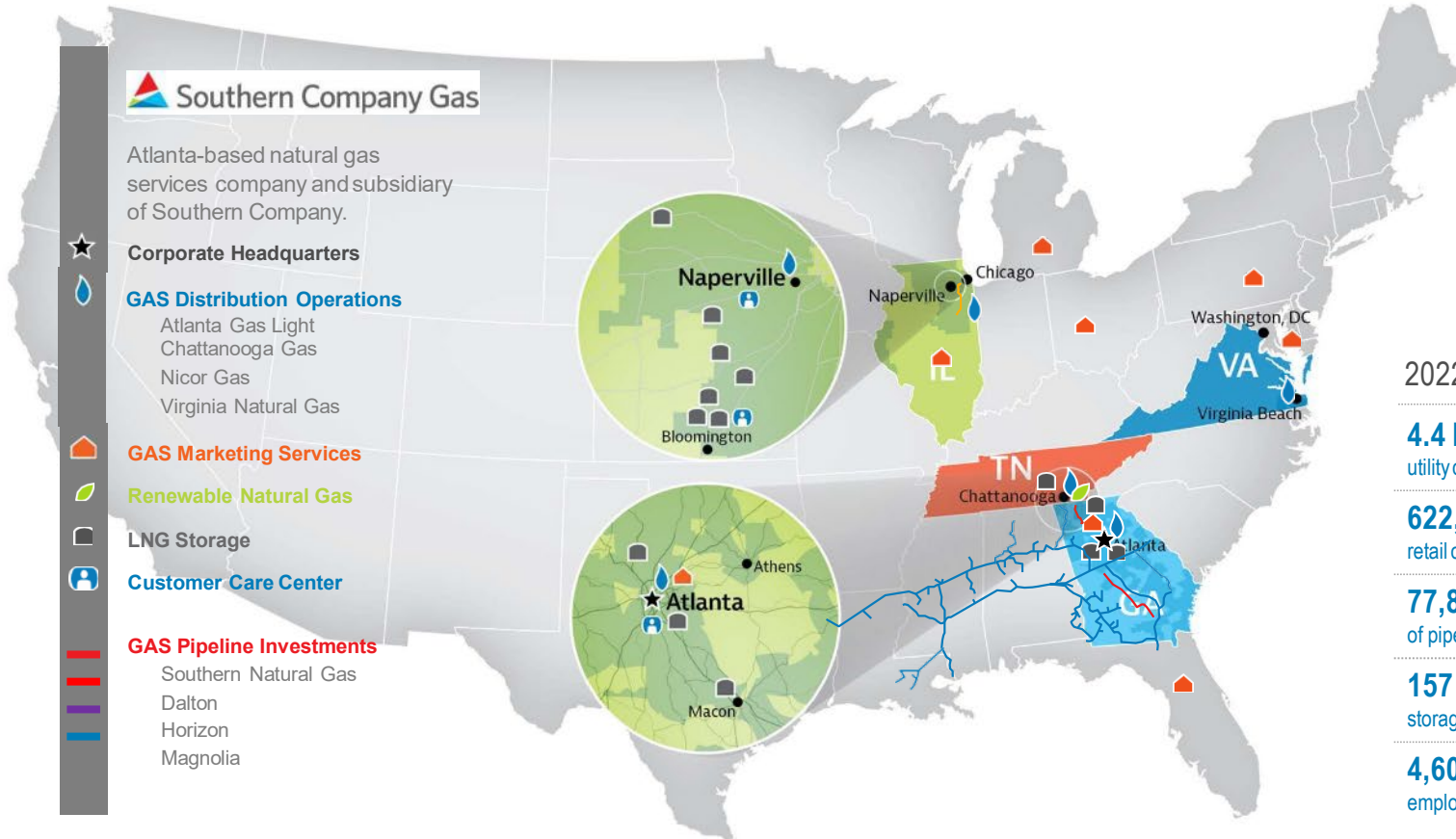
🌿 **Renewable Natural Gas**

🏠 **LNG Storage**

👤 **Customer Care Center**

📏 **GAS Pipeline Investments**

📏 Southern Natural Gas  
📏 Dalton  
📏 Horizon  
📏 Magnolia



### 2022 Stats

**4.4 Million**  
utility customers

**622,000**  
retail customers

**77,891 Miles**  
of pipe

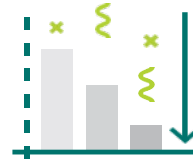
**157 Bcf**  
storage capacity

**4,600**  
employees

# Southern Company's Commitment to Natural Gas Sustainability



UPSTREAM



DOWNSTREAM



## Next Generation Natural Gas

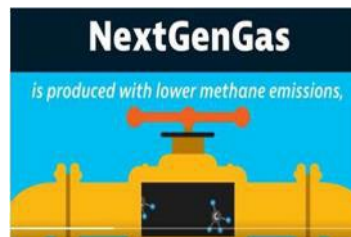
- Industry engagement and coalitions
- Natural gas supply procurement practices
- Focus on direct measurement and data
- Renewable Gas

## Net Zero Operational Emissions

- Pipeline modernization
- Advanced leak detection and repair
- Equipment mitigation efforts
- Damage prevention
- Fleet
- Renewable Gas

## Delivering Customer Solutions and Enriching Communities

- Energy efficiency and other programs
- Next generation natural gas technology
- Affordability and equity
- Transportation solutions
- Stewardship
- Workforce development



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**Lunch break at 12:15 p.m.**

**Check App for sessions  
and room names**

**Sessions resume at 1:45 p.m.**

# Relevant NARUC resources:



**NARUC**  
National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

## Certified Natural Gas: Primer, Regulatory Landscape, and Contributions Toward a Low-Carbon Future



Kiera Zitelman, Technical Manager, NARUC Center for Partnerships and Innovation

U.S. Department of Energy–National Association of  
Regulatory Utility Commissioners Natural Gas Partnership

February 2024

Certified Natural Gas:  
Primer, Regulatory  
Landscape, and  
Contributions Toward a  
Low-Carbon Future



bitly



**NARUC**  
National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

## Essential Guide to NARUC Natural Gas Resources



### Overview

NARUC members are increasingly seeking more information about natural gas infrastructure needs, impacts, and the role of Public Utility Commissions (PUCs). This guide connects commissioners and commission staff to essential natural gas resources that NARUC has developed. All of these resources can be found on the [NARUC Natural Gas webpage](#).

The NARUC Center for Partnerships & Innovation collaborates with the U.S. Department of Energy to maintain the DOE-NARUC Natural Gas Partnership (NGP). The NGP supports members in learning about emerging technologies and regulatory options, particularly around leak detection, infrastructure modernization, enhancing pipeline safety and reliability, and a broad range of issues relating to natural gas regulation. For more information, contact Kiera Zitelman, [kzitelman@naruc.org](mailto:kzitelman@naruc.org).

### Foundational NARUC Resources on Natural Gas and the Role of PUCs

The resources below provide a starting point for the many topical resources and activities throughout this guide.

#### [Task Force on Natural Gas Resource Planning, 2023-2025](#)

The NARUC Task Force on Natural Gas Resource Planning provides a forum for members to envision novel process approaches for considering natural gas distribution resource planning in their states. Visit the [webpage](#) for new resources and to keep up-to-date on task force activities.

#### [Artificial Intelligence for Natural Gas Utilities: A Primer, October 2020](#)

Artificial intelligence, machine learning, predictive analytics, and other applications of data analysis and statistical methods show great potential for improving the efficiency, reliability, and safety of the nation's natural gas infrastructure. In this resource, NARUC defines terminology and summarizes relevant applications and case studies for natural gas distribution utilities.

#### • [Innovation Webinar: Incorporating AI into Resilience-Informed Utility System Planning, June 2023](#)

#### [Report of the NARUC Task Force on Natural Gas Access and Expansion, November 2017](#)

The report provides states with educational tools and information on policies, mechanisms, and practices that utility regulators can use to help extend natural gas service to unserved and underserved areas.

Essential Guide to  
NARUC Natural Gas  
Resources



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