

Bolstered by natural gas and innovation, the U.S. has proven that you can reduce emissions without sacrificing affordable energy. We have a road map to success, and we have forged a path for others to follow. As world leaders continue to meet this week in search of a plan, we offer [U.S. energy as a model](#) for us all to build on this progress - which a chorus of industry experts has already weighed in on:



“While most major economies saw a rise in carbon emissions, some others experienced declines...The biggest decline came from the U.S., where emissions dropped by 0.5%, or 25 Mt...marking the third consecutive year of decline.”

[“Global Energy & CO2 Status Report”, International Energy Agency](#)



“U.S. electric power sector CO2 emissions have declined 28% since 2005 because of slower electricity demand growth and changes in the mix of fuels used to generate electricity... **The power sector has become less carbon intensive as natural gas-fired generation displaced coal-fired and petroleum-fired generation** and as the noncarbon sources of electricity generation—especially renewables such as wind and solar—have grown. **The substitution of natural gas for other fossil fuels has largely been market driven**, as ample supplies of lower-priced natural gas and the relative ease of adding natural gas-fired capacity have allowed it to pick up share in electric power generation in many markets.”

[U.S. Energy Information Administration](#)

Forbes

“**Natural gas in the U.S. has been a game changer. The abundance of low-cost natural gas has really started an energy transition** that we are taking advantage of and hoping to follow through our 111D process. So it's been a significant benefit to the United States. **It's been a significant benefit to air quality.**”

[Gina McCarthy, Former EPA Administrator under the Obama Administration](#)



“The all-of-the-above energy strategy I announced a few years ago is working, and today, America is closer to energy independence than we’ve been in decades. **One of the reasons why is natural gas, if extracted safely, it’s the bridge fuel that can power our economy with less of the carbon pollution that causes climate change.**”

[Barack Obama, Former President of the United States](#)



“**North American emissions from fossil fuel combustion have declined** on average by 1% per year over the last decade, **largely because of reduced reliance on coal, greater use of natural gas** (a more efficient fossil fuel), and increased vehicle fuel efficiency standards. As a result, North America’s share of global emissions decreased from 24% in 2004 to 17% in 2013.”

Second State of the Carbon Cycle Report (SOCCR2): A Sustained Assessment Report, [U.S. Global Research Program](#)

CSIS

“...**gas electricity production, which can be over 50 percent cleaner than coal generation** from a CO₂/kWh perspective, has seen its size increase from 46 percent of coal-generated TWhs in 2000 to 58 percent in 2015; this has put positive downward pressure on the sector’s carbon intensity. **In fact, it is in part this shift from coal to gas power generation that has helped to produce the recent U.S. emissions reductions.**”

[Philippe Benoit, Senior Associate, Center for Strategic and International Studies](#)



“Carbon emissions from energy use from the US are the lowest since 1992, the year that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) came into existence... **Declines in CO2 emissions in 2017 were led by the US...This is the ninth time in this century that the US has had the largest decline in emissions in the world.** This also was the third consecutive year that emissions in the US declined, though the fall was the smallest over the last three years.”

[Mark J. Perry, American Enterprise Institute Scholar](#)



“The United States is showing that GHG mitigation need not conflict with economic growth. Rather, it can boost efficiency, productivity, and innovation... **The American electric-power sector**—the largest source of GHG emissions in our economy—**is being transformed**, in large part, because of market dynamics. **In 2008, natural gas made up ~21% of U.S. electricity generation. Today, it makes up ~33%, an increase due almost entirely to the shift from higher-emitting coal to lower-emitting natural gas**, brought about primarily by the **increased availability of low-cost gas due to new production techniques.**”

[Barack Obama, Former President of the United States](#)



“Since 2005, U.S. power sector carbon dioxide emissions have fallen by nearly one-quarter, even as electricity generation has increased. As the U.S. Energy Information Administration [illustrated](#), **about 60 percent of this decline reflects the increased use of natural gas**—driven by low gas prices, which make coal relatively more expensive as a power source—and about 40 percent reflects the growth in wind and solar power, which benefitted from subsidies that lowered their investment costs.”

[Joseph Aldy, Associate Professor of Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School](#)



“Electricity generated by burning natural gas results in around half the CO2 output as does coal, and far less damaging particulates. **Some may be surprised to learn that investing in fossil fuel infrastructure can be consistent with desiring a cleaner planet.**”

[Simon Lack, Forbes Contributor and SL Advisors, LLC Founder](#)



“...The largest decline of CO2 emissions in the world came from the United States...The biggest jump in terms of the clean-energy technologies came from the United States...followed by some European countries and China.”

[Fatih Birol, Executive Director of International Energy Agency](#)