

BURNING BRIDGE: DEBUNKING LNG AS A CLIMATE SOLUTION

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To: Share key take-aways from Burning Bridge report which covers the science on the climate impacts of natural gas/LNG, the necessary reductions in gas/LNG supply and demand under the Paris Agreement and how this disqualifies Canadian liquefied natural gas as a climate solution.

Summary of Burning Bridge report findings:

- LNG expansion exacerbates B.C. and Canada's challenges in achieving climate targets and is highly unlikely, even under best case scenarios, to reduce global emissions.
- Any possible incremental reductions in global GHG emissions resulting from Canadian LNG are not enough to be part of a Paris-aligned (1.5 C) energy transition.
- LNG is a diversion that wastes time and capital not available for clean technology and renewable development and locks in emissions the world can ill afford.
- LNG undermines expansion of renewable energy that the world urgently needs.
- It's time for B.C. to pull the plug on any further LNG expansion and cease providing public financing, infrastructure support or preferential treatment for the sector.
- Canadian energy policy would be better directed at promoting a direct transition to renewable energy at home and abroad.



DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION RESEARCH SHOWS
THIS AD IS FALSE

The 2023 Net Zero Roadmap report from the International Energy Agency supports the report's findings:

"In the updated net zero scenario, a huge policy-driven ramping up of clean energy capacity drives fossil fuel demand 25% lower by 2030, reducing emissions by 35% compared with the all-time high recorded in 2022. By 2050, fossil fuel demand falls by 80%. As a result, no new long-lead-time upstream oil and gas projects are needed."

Climate-constrained LNG narrative (Burning Bridge):

UN secretary general António Guterres called on countries at the UN's Climate Ambition Summit in September this year to stop expanding coal, oil and gas production as a response to international efforts to the climate crisis that came up "abysmally short".

Amidst mounting calls around the world to move off fossil fuels, the fracked gas industry in British Columbia is moving forward with plans to expand liquefied natural gas production.

B.C. governments and industry have a history of claiming that expanding B.C.'s LNG exports can be a climate solution by displacing dirty coal in Asian markets with cleaner burning natural gas. In 2023, arguments for fossil fuel infrastructure expansion require tough scrutiny. Additionally, full life cycle LNG analysis – from wellhead to burner tip – does not support claims of significant gains in switching from coal to gas.

Fossil gas, marketed as "natural gas" and its liquefied form used for long-distance maritime transport,

“liquefied natural gas” (LNG), have been proposed as a middle ground between more carbon-intensive fossil fuels and renewable energy.

Burning Bridge reviews literature on climate science, emissions associated with LNG, energy transitions, the role of renewables and the interplay of B.C. and federal GHG emissions policies. It assesses the merits of gas as a “bridge fuel” to replace coal and considers policies by the federal and British Columbia governments that are intended to lower the carbon intensity of LNG exported from B.C.’s coast.

The report finds that gas/LNG has an increasingly constrained role in a Paris-compliant energy transition, and that additional gas infrastructure such as new LNG export terminals in B.C. cannot be seen as advancing a climate-safe future.

B.C.’s emissions intensity target, while allowing for gas-powered liquefaction and still performing better than many LNG facilities in the U.S. and other competing exporters, does not lower life cycle emissions sufficiently for Canadian LNG to be advantageous over LNG from other sources.

Some top reasons why gas obstructs the clean energy transition we need:

1. Methane losses throughout the oil and gas supply chain are underreported and, at present, these “fugitive emissions” substantially increase the climate impact of gas.
2. The possible emissions savings from LNG terminal electrification will only reduce eight per cent of total LNG life cycle emissions.
3. Even though B.C. requires that LNG export terminals stay below an emissions intensity that is lower than many competitors, this still allows for substantial direct, upstream and downstream emissions associated with B.C. LNG.

4. Increasing supply makes gas cheaper in receiving markets and incentivizes its consumption. This rebound in demand can negate any marginal benefit of coal-to-gas switching.
5. Renewables are ready to deploy, and in many target markets for B.C. LNG, are already competitive or cheaper than fossil alternatives.
6. There is already enough gas and LNG export capacity either producing or under construction to meet demand for gas as we transition to a Paris-compliant world. By 2030, gas demand will be falling and LNG capacity excessive.

Take-aways

Industry claims that B.C. LNG is part of a credible global energy transition but the findings of this report and growing body of research invalidate this assertion.

LNG locks up investment, locks in emissions and locks out renewables – a poor bet all around.

In light of the overwhelming evidence, there is no reason that gas/LNG should be granted a special privilege in the energy transition. It remains a fossil fuel with unacceptable climate impacts, and its continued production will delay and impede the transition to GHG emissions-free sources of energy.

The focus must be on significant increases in investments in renewable energy as the clear way forward to both safely and securely meet our energy needs while averting catastrophic levels of global warming.

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View the full report here:

<https://davidsuzuki.org/science-learning-centre-article/burning-bridge-debunking-lng-as-a-climate-solution/>