

Convening Expertise to Reduce Energy Poverty Globally

The Stanford Natural Gas Initiative will host a symposium on May 9 and 10, 2017 at Stanford on *Reducing Energy Poverty with Natural Gas: New Technologies and Changing Paradigms*. There are 1 billion people in the world without access to electricity, another 2 billion that have inadequate, unreliable electricity, and 3 billion without access to modern cooking energy. Achieving access to modern energy in developing economies is required to allow countries to realize their full economic potential and meet the aspirations of their citizens.

Natural gas can play a significant role in addressing energy poverty. Natural gas is a clean-burning fuel, with lower greenhouse gas emissions than coal or oil, and results in virtual elimination of mercury, particulates, and other toxic by-products. Natural gas-fired power generation is efficient and can be produced affordably at scale. As a cooking fuel, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is a substitute for traditional biomass resulting in gains in indoor air quality, safety, and forest preservation. Natural gas contains important feedstocks for petrochemical manufacturing and fertilizer production.

The symposium will convene Stanford experts and external leaders to explore ways that natural gas can most effectively be used to address energy poverty around the world. The symposium will include participants from Stanford, industry, foundations, non-governmental organizations, and government. Symposium goals are to identify:

- (1) The most effective role of natural gas in addressing energy poverty
- (2) New business models for bringing natural gas resources to areas that lack access to adequate energy
- (3) Policies that help, and constraints that hinder, development, movement, and use of natural gas
- (4) New technologies that could enable use of natural gas in energy-poor regions at different scales and in different markets, including floating storage and regasification units (FSRU), micro-turbines, micro-grids, home-use, and transportation
- (5) Regions in the developing world that would benefit most from new use of natural gas resources

The final product from the symposium will be an action plan which summarizes the challenges and opportunities for natural gas to address energy poverty and a framework for new Stanford research to follow up on symposium discussions.

How to Get Involved

The symposium is being held by the Stanford Natural Gas Initiative in collaboration with the Stanford Global Development and Poverty Initiative, the World Bank, the Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation, the Breakthrough Institute, the Department of Energy, and the Observer Research Foundation. Thank you to our NGI members and sponsors, who are listed below.

Additional organizations and individuals may support the effort in one of the following ways:

- **NGI membership.** Interested organizations may join NGI and participate in all NGI activities including this symposium as a sponsoring organization. NGI members may have up to five participants. For more information about NGI membership, please see [Stanford NGI's Get Involved page](#).
- **Symposium sponsor.** Organizations may participate as a symposium sponsor for \$10,000. Larger contributions will seed the REP Research Fund. Sponsors will be recognized in onsite symposium materials and will have entry for 2 symposium participants.
- **Participant.** Symposium participation for non-NGI members is by invitation only and will cost \$2,500. Scholarships may be available upon request. To request an invitation or scholarship, please email cbaroni@stanford.edu.

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