It's exciting to know that the future could hold a range of renewable, low-carbon and zero-carbon gases. With renewable gases already being developed and trialled globally and being investigated in New Zealand you'll be able to continue enjoying the benefits of gas in your life as we move to tomorrow's gas energy.

Learn more about future gases and follow our carbon-zero journey

thegashub.co.nz/future-zone

FUTURE SURE Gas

the gas hub

Powerco Limited. Produced December 2023.

the gas hub

Future of Gas

There's a renewed confidence in gas. It is here to stay, but it will be changing. What isn't changing is the value and benefits you get living in a home energised by gas.

What does the future look like?

Can I still connect to natural gas?

Yes, you can still connect your home or business to gas.

Will natural gas be turned off in the next few years?

No. Natural gas will continue to be delivered to connected consumers until we've fully moved to new low and zero carbon gases, likely to be by 2050. It's likely that the blending of natural gas with future gases like biogas or hydrogen will happen for connected customers on Powerco's* network by 2030. Just like today's gas, these new gases will be subject to rigorous safety protocols and standards before they are available to homes and businesses.

When will new blended gas energy be available?

Future gas blending trials are already underway with the goal of introducing blended gas energy by 2030.

What will transitioning to renewable gas for homes look like?

Aotearoa will transition to renewable gas over time.

The first step in this transition is blending gases, which will be an important part of our journey as we trial scaling up to low and zero carbon gas energy. Our current gas piping infrastructure allows us to blend natural gas and renewable hydrogen gas (up to 20%) or biogas.

The next step, which will happen somewhat simultaneously and beyond, will be to get our network and appliances 'renewable gas ready'. 'Ready' means that we're sure they can safely handle 100% renewable gas.

The entire country's gas pipes will not be switched to renewable gas in one go. Areas will be ready to be transferred across to 100% renewable gas at different times and this will be well communicated so that everyone will have plenty of time for preparation.

How will our infrastructure get renewable gas ready?

Luckily around 90% of Powerco's gas infrastructure is plastic piping, which is ready for renewable gas blends and biogas. It's only a small amount of steel piping that will potentially need to be replaced.

Most new subdivisions with piped gas are renewable gas ready.

How will our appliances get renewable gas ready?

If you currently own a modern appliance that uses gas, you can have confidence that you'll be able to use it for its expected lifetime (typically up to 15 years) as blended gas energy is introduced. Most modern gas appliances are already able to run on a blend of natural gas and renewable hydrogen gas (up to 20%) or biogas. Major gas appliance manufacturers are already designing renewable gas ready appliances, aiming to be on the market from around 2025.

Will gas prices increase substantially in the coming years?

Moving to renewable energy is likely to increase the cost of all types of energy. Renewable gases are likely to be more expensive than today's gas, but gas energy prices are expected to remain competitive with renewable electricity prices.

How much does the direct use of gas contribute to New Zealand's CO^2 emissions?

Kiwi homes (directly using gas energy) produce less than 1% of New Zealand's total greenhouse gas emissions.

*Powerco is The Gas Hub's parent business and has gas networks in Taranaki, Wellington (including Hutt Valley and Porirua), Manawatū and Hawke's Bay.