

Hydrogen: The Facts

Oil and gas executives and their lobbyists are pushing fossil-fuel hydrogen, so they can continue profiting from fossil fuels, while claiming to be part of a climate solution. They've spent millions of dollars lobbying to get consumers to pay for this fossil fuel hydrogen — an unproven and exorbitantly expensive technology that will lock in costs for decades. They're trying to confuse the issue and mislead Californians by claiming it's clean energy - and that's by design.

Hydrogen is a polluting and expensive niche fuel that makes sense only in narrow applications. The industry's focus on hydrogen, and its attempts to conflate it with hydrogen derived from renewables, is an attempt to boost their own profits and block California's responsible transition to clean energy.



HERE ARE THE FACTS...

Fossil-fuel hydrogen is polluting and expensive.

- Hydrogen's usefulness as a climate solution depends on how it's made, and can range from very dirty to clean. Today, *95% of the hydrogen produced* in the United States is made from fossil fuel gas.
- A 2021 study *found* that making hydrogen from fossil fuels causes significant climate pollution. Globally, hydrogen production is *responsible* for more greenhouse gas emissions than the entire country of Germany.
- Producing hydrogen from fossil fuels also *releases methane*, a super polluter that contributes to climate change. Creating hydrogen from fossil fuels produces more methane than burning natural gas — even when paired with carbon capture technology.
- The oil and gas industry wants to use the state's *gas infrastructure* to pipe fossil-fuel hydrogen into buildings and homes, a prospect that raises serious concerns. Altering already leaky gas pipes for hydrogen would be costly to consumers, raise energy bills for everyday Californians, and increase the risk of indoor pollution and explosions.

As the state considers the future of hydrogen, policymakers should be clear about the types of hydrogen being used and the pollution and costs involved. Californians shouldn't foot the bill for the oil and gas industry's empty promises and polluting fossil-fuel hydrogen pipe dream.

The oil and gas industry is trying to squeeze public money for their schemes.

- Today, the industry is pressuring regulators and lawmakers for access to *funding* that is supposed to be for clean energy. They're trying to convince policymakers to use fossil-fuel hydrogen to keep demand for their product and justify the building of polluting pipelines.
- Right now, the IRS is *determining* what actually counts as clean hydrogen, and there are over \$1 billion in *subsidies* on the line. Money that could be going to real climate solutions like building out renewable energy, including wind and solar. Oil companies are *urging* leaders to make the standards as lax as possible so they can squeeze out profits.

California's leading climate obstructionist shouldn't get to set energy policy in the state.

- SoCalGas, an *investor-owned* utility, is leading pro-fossil-fuel hydrogen efforts, while opposing key climate policies that would bring clean energy into more facets of our lives and economy.
- SoCalGas has been *caught* funding front groups to oppose or delay climate policies, *creating* an astroturf group that *misused* ratepayer money to further SoCalGas' agenda of opposing clean energy, and *opposing* commonsense and lifesaving policies — all to protect their own profits.
- SoCalGas *only sells gas* to its customers, unlike some *other* utilities or companies that also supply electricity. This explains its desperation to *slow* California's transition to renewable energy and *push* expensive and polluting options (like fossil-fuel hydrogen) onto consumers.