

# COOKING THE CLIMATE

Transitioning away from dangerous fuels is key to mitigating the biggest health threat facing humanity

*The World Health Organization states climate change is the biggest health threat facing humanity.*



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## What is the Global Cooksafe Coalition?

The Global Cooksafe Coalition exists to promote universal access to safe and sustainable cooking in new kitchens by at least 2030 and existing kitchens by 2040 in the OECD and by 2035 and 2045 worldwide.

**Removing dangerous fuels from our kitchens is a crucial step in the urgent energy transition required to avoid worsening climate change.**

### Key Takeaways

- Climate change is the biggest health threat facing humanity.
- Natural gas systems are a major contributor to methane emissions, which account for nearly a third of global warming.
- The climate impacts of cooking with gas are significant due to its widespread use.
- Phasing out gas is key to avoiding catastrophic health impacts and preventing millions of climate change-related deaths.

*“If governments are serious about the climate crisis, there can be no new investments in oil, gas and coal, from now – from this year.”*

– Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency, 2021

# COOKING WITH DANGEROUS FUELS IS DRIVING CLIMATE CHANGE

## 1 Climate change is the biggest health threat facing humanity.

The World Health Organization says between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year, with direct costs to health estimated between US\$2-4 billion per year by 2030.<sup>1</sup> To avert catastrophic health impacts and prevent millions of climate change-related deaths, the world must limit temperature rise to 1.5°C by, in part, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

## 2 Natural gas systems are a major contributor to methane emissions, which account for nearly a third of global warming.

Clear evidence shows that oil and natural gas systems are a major contributor to methane emissions, which account for roughly 30% of global warming since pre-industrial times.<sup>2</sup> The main component of gas, methane, is a greenhouse gas more than 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide in the short term. Along the entire gas supply chain large quantities of methane are emitted.<sup>3</sup>

## 3 The climate impacts of cooking with gas are significant due to its widespread use.

The climate impacts of cooking with gas are significant in part due to its widespread popularity in the home. Gas remains the most common cooking fuel globally, used by around half of the world's population in 2019, and almost 70% of people in urban areas, according to the WHO.<sup>4</sup> Worse, past emissions figures do not take into account gas leakage.

## 4 Phasing out gas is key to avoiding catastrophic health impacts and preventing millions of climate change-related deaths.

The International Panel on Climate Change, the WHO and other international agencies agree: reducing emissions, including potent methane and gas emissions, is essential to the urgent energy transition needed to avert catastrophic impacts of climate change.



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*The main component of gas, methane, is a greenhouse gas more than 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide in the short term.*

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## FACTS & FIGURES

Clear evidence shows that oil and natural gas systems are a major contributor to methane emissions, which account for roughly 30% of global warming since pre-industrial times.<sup>5</sup>

In the US, methane leakage from more than 40 million gas stoves is comparable to the climate pollution from half a million cars on the road.<sup>6</sup>

Gas remains the most common cooking fuel globally, used by around half of the world's population in 2019, and almost 70% of people in urban areas, according to the WHO.<sup>7</sup>

### Sources

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- 3 Leah Burrows, "Urban Areas across U.S. Are Undercounting Greenhouse Gas Emissions," Harvard Gazette (Harvard Gazette, October 26, 2021), [news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2021/10/urban-areas-across-u-s-are-undercounting-greenhouse-gas-emissions/](https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2021/10/urban-areas-across-u-s-are-undercounting-greenhouse-gas-emissions/).
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