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**APGA Visits Net Zero Energy Residential Test Facility**

*Washington, D.C. (June 13, 2019)* – On June 11, staff of the American Public Gas Association (APGA) visited the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Net Zero Energy Residential Test Facility in Gaithersburg, MD. It was a great opportunity to see, first-hand, the facility, recently utilized to analyze gas versus electric heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems in mid-Atlantic region homes. The research is to be published in the September issue of the Journal of Building Engineering but currently available in PDF form [here](https://www.nist.gov/news-events/news/2019/05/gas-vs-electric-nist-says-fuel-choice-affects-efforts-achieve-low-energy).

The study shows that under current full-fuel-cycle emissions and energy costs, there are economic and environmental advantages for homes using natural gas, as opposed to electricity, for space and water heating. Given the push by some for electrification as a means to meet certain “economic and environmental goals,” APGA is pleased that this study, which presents an unbiased look at home energy usage, demonstrates that the direct use of natural gas, rather than electrification, is the more economic and environmentally-friendly choice. This finding is particularly important in light of the US’s abundantly available, low cost natural gas resources that can meet our needs well into the future.

The following statement can be attributed to Bert Kalisch, APGA’s President & CEO, “We are pleased that this study affirms what APGA and its members have been saying for some time regarding the economic and environmental benefits of the direct use of natural gas. As the study affirms, the use of electric heating equipment leads to higher construction, energy, and life-cycle costs whereas the use of natural gas appliances will put significant dollars back in consumers’ pockets. The direct use of natural gas, and not electrification, should play a critical role in our effort to improve efficiency, provide affordable energy to consumers while minimizing environmental impacts.”

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*APGA is the national association of municipally and publicly-owned local distribution systems. There are about 1,000 public gas systems serving more than 6 million customers. These public gas utilities are not-for-profit retail distribution entities that are owned by, and accountable to, the citizens they serve. They include municipal gas distribution systems, public utility districts, county districts, and other public agencies that have natural gas distribution facilities.*