

Low-emission propane is safe, affordable and portable: Perfect for the patio

OTTAWA, November 12, 2020 – Low-emission propane is providing an important source of energy that allows restaurants to survive and stay open during the pandemic as many turn to outdoor propane heaters to keep patrons warm outside.

Propane is an excellent energy choice that is safe, affordable and environmentally friendly. It is harmless to air, land, and water. In the unlikely event of a spill, propane dissipates into the breeze. Contrast that to natural gas which does emit methane greenhouse gases when released into the atmosphere.

Some believe that electricity is a cleaner alternative to propane. That is true when the source of the electricity is hydro or nuclear.

However, when the source is coal or oil as it is in several provinces, that same electric heater is emitting about 38 per cent more GHGs than low-emission propane. If natural gas is used to produce electricity, then really, these fuels are similar but for the above-mentioned distinction. Propane also burns hotter and gives off more heat than electricity, which is why it is often the fuel of choice for outdoor heaters.

And the future of propane looks very bright. Renewable propane is now available commercially in Europe and North America. In California, U-Haul announced it purchased one million tonnes of renewable propane. The environmental benefit that will be realized is equivalent to removing 1,000 cars off the road.

Propane is an important fuel for Canada, not only in helping the country reduce GHG emissions but it is also an important component in many of the products that we use. For example, propane is helping to stop the spread of Covid-19; it is the main ingredient used to make the polypropylene fabric Health Canada recommends adding to the face masks we use to protect ourselves and others.

As we move to a greener economy, we must not lose sight of what is practical and what is needed now. Low-emission propane is an excellent energy choice that is safe, affordable and portable. Perfect for the patio.

For information on the safe use of patio heaters, link to [Safety Tips: Patio Heater Safety Guidelines](#).



About the Canadian Propane Association

With over 450 members, the Canadian Propane Association (CPA) is the national association for a growing, multi-billion-dollar industry that impacts the livelihood of tens of thousands of Canadians. The CPA develops and produces industry training materials, offers an emergency response assistance plan to its members, and provides advocacy services for the propane industry. The CPA does not monitor or provide an analysis of propane prices or supply and cannot comment on individual businesses' operations.

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