

# Greenville News

**OPINION** *This piece expresses the views of its author(s), separate from those of this publication.*

## Opinion: Infrastructure project would ensure Greenville has adequate natural gas supply

Greenville News

Published 1:57 p.m. ET Sept. 11, 2021

When people ask me what I do for a living, I used to tell them I work for Piedmont Natural Gas. But having witnessed so much hardship over the past two years, I've revised my response to say, I work for a company that delivers affordable and reliable energy.

Have you ever wondered how much energy costs for people who don't have access to natural gas? The answer is simple: They pay more for their energy.

The American Gas Association estimates households that use natural gas for heating, cooking and clothes drying save an average of \$874 per year, compared with homes using electricity for those purposes.

And when comparing the initial cost of each fuel source, according to the US Energy Information Administration, even with current natural gas prices, residential customers who have access only to electricity and propane for cooking and heating pay double and sometimes triple what natural gas customers pay.

Piedmont Natural Gas customers in Greenville County, and across the Carolinas and Tennessee, are enjoying a reliable supply of natural gas for prices that are among the lowest in the country – mostly because of our reliable infrastructure.

We need your support to keep it this way.

As the population of Greenville County approaches 550,000, Piedmont's customer base here has soared to nearly 92,000 homes and businesses. A recent report by the Charleston Post & Courier estimates Greenville County will have more residents than 24 of South Carolina's 46 counties combined by 2035. All of those residents deserve affordable energy and the opportunity for a better life in South Carolina.

While Piedmont Natural Gas hasn't driven its growth in the Upstate, it is our responsibility to meet the resulting increased demand and offer everyone affordable natural gas.

We can do our part at Piedmont Natural Gas by responding with a new infrastructure project - the Greenville County Reliability Project. The need for this project is clear - to increase capacity and ensure reliable natural gas service for all customers in Greenville County, given recent growth and demand on our system.

Having an adequate supply of natural gas, even in communities that are not growing rapidly, is vital not only to commercial businesses, but also to the local housing market.

At Piedmont Natural Gas, we invest in our communities. We work here and live here, and we believe access to affordable energy is an important key to happy, healthy communities. In a thriving community, all homes and businesses should have access to affordable energy.

Please join Piedmont and me in supporting the Greenville County Reliability Project. The people and businesses here need it and deserve it. Our promise is to listen to you, learn from your perspectives and adapt our plans accordingly. Consider Piedmont Natural Gas a neighbor who is just as invested as you are in the preservation of this beautiful community we share.

For more information about Piedmont's Greenville County Reliability Project, visit: [www.piedmontng.com/Greenville](http://www.piedmontng.com/Greenville).

*Hank McCullough is community relations manager for Piedmont Natural Gas*