

Systematic Review on Effect of CNG Gas on Ozone Layer

CNG: AN ALTERNATIVE FUEL

Dr. Vikas Rana¹, Asima Singh², Tejasvi Surya³, Chitransh Darwal⁴, Rahul Sharma⁵

^{1,2,3,4,5} Vivekananda Global University Jaipur, Rajasthan

¹vikas.rana@vgu.ac.in, ²asimasingh01@gmail.com, ³tejasvisurya12875@gmail.com, ⁴chitranshdharwal@gmail.com, ⁵sharmamanishkr46@gmail.com

ABSTRACT:

With the increasing global focus on sustainable and environmentally friendly energy sources, Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) has emerged as a prominent alternative to traditional fossil fuels. CNG is composed mainly of methane and is stored under high pressure, making it a clean and efficient fuel option for various applications, including transportation and industrial use. The utilization of CNG as a transportation fuel is gaining momentum due to its lower carbon footprint, cost-effectiveness, and compatibility with existing infrastructure.

Exploration of CNG as a viable and environmentally responsible energy solution, contributing to the transition towards cleaner and greener energy alternative.

Keywords: Alternative fuel, Metane, sustainable energy, fuel efficiency

I. Introduction:

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) has emerged as a promising and environmentally friendly alternative to conventional fossil fuels, gaining significant attention in the global quest for sustainable energy solutions. Comprising primarily methane, CNG is stored under high pressure, offering a cleaner and more efficient fuel option for a variety of applications, with particular emphasis on transportation.

The escalating concerns surrounding climate change, air pollution, and the finite nature of traditional energy sources have led to a growing interest in alternative fuels that reduce environmental impact. CNG stands out as a compelling choice due to its lower carbon content and fewer harmful emissions compared to traditional gasoline and diesel fuels.

One of the defining characteristics of CNG is its composition, primarily consisting of methane extracted from natural gas deposits. The combustion of methane produces fewer

greenhouse gases, making CNG a vital player in the transition towards a more sustainable energy landscape. Additionally, the abundance of natural gas reserves enhances the energy security of nations, reducing dependence on imported oil.

This introduction sets the stage for exploring the various facets of CNG, ranging from its environmental benefits and economic viability to technological advancements and regulatory frameworks that contribute to its widespread adoption. As the world endeavors to strike a balance between energy demands and environmental conservation, CNG holds the potential to play a pivotal role in shaping a cleaner, greener future.



II. History:

The history of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as a viable fuel source spans several decades and is characterized by a gradual evolution from early experimentation to widespread adoption. Here's an overview of the key milestones in the history of CNG:

Early Experiments (19th Century): The use of natural gas for lighting and heating dates back to the 19th century. However, the idea of compressing natural gas for use as a fuel started gaining attention in the early 20th century.

World War II (1939-1945): During World War II, CNG gained some traction in vehicles as a response to fuel shortages. Countries like Italy and Argentina employed compressed natural gas to power public transportation.

First Commercial CNG Vehicles (1970s): The oil crises of the 1970s prompted renewed interest in alternative fuels. In response, the United States and other countries started developing and commercializing CNG vehicles. The first CNG-powered buses appeared in the United States during this period.

Advancements in Vehicle Technology (1980s): The 1980s saw improvements in CNG vehicle technology, including better storage systems and engine modifications to optimize performance. Fleet operators and government agencies began adopting CNG as a cleaner and more sustainable alternative to traditional fuels.

Infrastructure Development (1990s): As awareness of environmental issues grew, there was an increased focus on developing CNG infrastructure, including refueling stations. Governments and private entities invested in building

a network of CNG stations to support the expanding fleet of natural gas vehicles.

Environmental Regulations (2000s): Stringent environmental regulations and a growing emphasis on reducing greenhouse gas emissions further boosted the adoption of CNG. Many countries implemented policies to incentivize the use of alternative fuels, including tax credits and other financial incentives.

Global Adoption (2010s - Present): CNG has become a globally recognized alternative fuel. Numerous countries have integrated CNG into their transportation sectors, with buses, taxis, and commercial fleets increasingly using natural gas. The expansion of CNG infrastructure and ongoing technological advancements continue to contribute to its growing popularity.

Technological Innovations (Present): Ongoing research and development efforts focus on improving CNG storage technologies, engine efficiency, and overall performance. Innovations in tank materials and engine design contribute to making CNG an even more attractive and viable alternative.

III. Uses:

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) has diverse applications across various sectors due to its environmental benefits, cost-effectiveness, and versatility. Here are some common uses of CNG:

1. Transportation:

a. Vehicular Fuel: CNG is widely used as a fuel for vehicles, including cars, buses, trucks, and even two-wheelers. Many public transportation systems, taxi fleets, and private vehicles have converted to CNG for a cleaner and more sustainable alternative to traditional gasoline or diesel.

2. Industrial Applications:

a. Process Heating: CNG is utilized in industrial processes for heating applications, including kilns and furnaces.

b. Cogeneration: Combined Heat and Power (CHP) systems use CNG to simultaneously produce electricity and useful heat, increasing overall energy efficiency.

3. Residential Use:

a. Home Heating: In some regions, CNG is used as a residential heating source, providing an alternative to traditional heating fuels.

4. Electricity Generation:

a. Power Plants: CNG can be used as a fuel for electricity generation in power plants, either through conventional gas turbines or in combined cycle plants.

5. Commercial and Institutional Facilities:

a.Space Heating: CNG is employed for space heating in commercial and institutional buildings.

b.Cooking: In certain cases, CNG is used as a fuel for cooking in commercial kitchens.

6. Agricultural Sector:

a.Greenhouses: CNG is utilized in greenhouses for heating, helping to create optimal growing conditions for plants.

7. Marine Applications:

a.Boats and Ships: Some vessels are designed to run on CNG, providing a cleaner alternative to traditional marine fuels.

8. Backup Power Systems:

a.Emergency Generators: CNG is used as a fuel for emergency backup generators in critical facilities such as hospitals, data centers, and telecommunications facilities.

9. Gas-Powered Equipment:

a.Lawn Equipment: Some lawn maintenance equipment, like mowers and trimmers, can be powered by CNG, reducing emissions in localized areas.

10. Waste Management:

1.Waste Collection Vehicles: CNG is often used to fuel waste collection vehicles, contributing to reduced emissions in urban environments.

The versatility of CNG makes it a valuable energy source across a spectrum of applications. Its lower carbon footprint, cost-effectiveness, and compatibility with existing infrastructure contribute to its growing popularity in various sectors striving for more sustainable and environmentally friendly practices. susceptible to market fluctuations compared to oil prices.

3.Abundant and Domestic Resource:

Natural gas, the primary component of CNG, is abundant and often domestically sourced. This reduces dependence on foreign oil and enhances energy security for countries with substantial natural gas reserves.

4. Energy Security:

Utilizing CNG helps diversify the energy mix, contributing to energy security by reducing reliance on imported oil. Access to domestic natural gas resources can enhance a nation's overall energy resilience.

5.Reduced Air Pollution:**IV.ADVANTAGES:**

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) offers several advantages, making it an attractive and environmentally friendly alternative to traditional fossil fuels. Here are some key advantages of CNG:

1.Lower Greenhouse Gas Emissions:

CNG combustion produces lower levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and particulate matter compared to conventional gasoline and diesel fuels. This results in reduced greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to improved air quality and a smaller carbon footprint.

2.Cost-Effectiveness:

CNG is often more cost-effective than gasoline and diesel, providing potential savings for both consumers and businesses. In some regions, CNG prices are more stable and less CNG combustion results in fewer pollutants, leading to improved air quality in urban areas. It produces lower levels of sulfur dioxide (SO₂), particulate matter (PM), and other harmful pollutants that contribute to respiratory issues and environmental degradation.

6.Quiet Operation:

Vehicles powered by CNG tend to operate more quietly than their gasoline or diesel counterparts. This can contribute to reduced noise pollution in urban environments.

7.Technological Advancements:

Ongoing research and development in CNG technology have led to improvements in storage systems, engine efficiency, and overall performance. Modern CNG vehicles are designed to offer comparable performance to traditional vehicles.

8.Incentives and Support:

Many governments offer incentives and support for the adoption of CNG, including tax credits, subsidies, and infrastructure

development. These incentives encourage businesses and individuals to choose CNG as a cleaner fuel option.

9. Existing Infrastructure:

In regions where CNG infrastructure is well-developed, the existing network of refueling stations makes it convenient for users to adopt CNG vehicles without major infrastructure investments.

10. Compliance with Emission Standards:

CNG vehicles often meet or exceed stringent emission standards imposed by regulatory bodies. This compliance positions CNG as a favorable option in regions with strict environmental regulations.

These advantages collectively contribute to the growing popularity of CNG as a cleaner, cost-effective, and sustainable alternative in various sectors, particularly in the transportation industry.

V. DRAWBACKS:

While Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) has numerous advantages, it is essential to consider some drawbacks associated with its use:

I. Limited Driving Range:

CNG vehicles typically have a shorter driving range compared to traditional gasoline or diesel vehicles. This is because compressed natural gas has a lower energy density, requiring larger storage tanks for equivalent range.

2. Infrastructure Challenges:

3. Vehicle Conversion Costs:

Converting existing vehicles to run on CNG or manufacturing dedicated CNG vehicles can involve significant upfront costs. The expense of retrofitting engines or purchasing new CNG vehicles may be a deterrent for some individuals or businesses.

4. Storage and Weight Constraints:

CNG needs to be stored in high-pressure cylinders, which can add weight to the vehicle. This additional weight may affect vehicle performance and fuel efficiency.

5. Energy Intensity of Compression:

The compression process required to store natural gas at high pressure consumes energy. While the energy content of CNG is lower compared to gasoline or diesel, the energy used in compression can partially offset the environmental benefits.

6. Safety Concerns:

CNG is flammable, and there are safety concerns associated with the high pressures at which it is stored. While

modern CNG vehicles and infrastructure have numerous safety features, there is still a perception of risk, which may impact public acceptance.

7.Limited Model Availability:

The variety of CNG vehicles available in the market might be limited compared to traditional vehicles. Consumers may have fewer options in terms of vehicle type, make, and model when considering CNG.

8.Infrastructure Costs:

In many regions, the infrastructure for CNG refueling stations is not as widespread as that for conventional fuels. Limited availability can be a significant drawback, especially in areas with a developing or nascent CNG infrastructure.

Establishing and maintaining CNG refueling infrastructure can be expensive. Governments or private entities may be reluctant to invest in infrastructure development, particularly if there is uncertainty about the widespread adoption of CNG.

9.Global Warming Potential of Methane:

While burning natural gas is cleaner than burning other fossil fuels, the extraction and distribution of natural gas, which primarily consists of methane, can result in the release of methane into the atmosphere. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, and its uncontrolled release contributes to global warming.

10.Competing Technologies:

The emergence of alternative technologies, such as electric vehicles (EVs) and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, poses competition to CNG. Each technology has its strengths and weaknesses, and the landscape is dynamic, making it challenging to predict the long-term viability of CNG in the market.

While CNG has several advantages, addressing these drawbacks is crucial for its continued adoption and integration into the mainstream energy and transportation sectors.

VI.



WORLDWIDE ADOPTION:

As of last update in January 2022, the adoption of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as an alternative fuel has been growing globally, driven by various factors such as environmental concerns, energy security, and government policies promoting cleaner energy sources. Keep in mind that developments may have occurred since then. Here's an overview of the worldwide adoption of CNG:

- **China:** China has been a major player in the adoption of CNG, particularly in the public transportation sector. Many cities have deployed CNG buses, and the government has supported the development of CNG refueling infrastructure.
- **India:** CNG has gained popularity in India, especially in major cities where it is used for public transportation, taxis, and private vehicles. The government has implemented policies to encourage CNG adoption, including the development of refueling infrastructure.
- **Italy:** Italy has been a pioneer in CNG adoption, with a significant number of CNG vehicles on the road, including public buses and taxis. The availability of CNG refueling stations has contributed to its success.

Top ten countries with the largest NGV vehicle fleets – 2013 ^{[27][28]} (millions)					
Ra nk	Country	Register fleet	Rank	Country	Registered fleet
1	 Iran	3.50	6	 Italy	0.82
2	 Pakistan	2.79	7	 Colombia	0.46
3	 Argentina	2.28	8	 Uzbekistan	0.45
4	 Brazil	1.75	9	 Thailand	0.42
5	 China	1.58	10	 Indonesia	0.38
World Total = 18.09 million NGV vehicles					

- Germany: Germany has seen an increase in CNG adoption, particularly in the commercial sector. The country has been investing in expanding the CNG infrastructure.
- United States: While the adoption of CNG in the United States has been slower than in some other regions, there has been interest, especially in the commercial fleet sector. Some cities have adopted CNG buses, and there are efforts to expand refueling infrastructure.
- Italy: Italy has been a pioneer in CNG adoption, with a significant number of CNG vehicles on the road, including public buses and taxis. The availability of CNG refueling stations has contributed to its success.
- Germany: Germany has seen an increase in CNG adoption, particularly in the commercial sector. The country has been investing in expanding the CNG infrastructure.
- Iran: Iran has one of the largest fleets of CNG vehicles globally. The government has actively promoted CNG as a cleaner alternative, and many vehicles, including taxis and buses, run on CNG.
- Pakistan: CNG is widely used in Pakistan, with a substantial number of vehicles running on this fuel. The government has implemented policies to promote CNG as a cost-effective and cleaner alternative.

Overall, the adoption of CNG varies across regions, and success often depends on factors such as government policies, infrastructure development, and the availability of natural gas resources. As countries strive to reduce emissions and transition to cleaner energy sources, the global adoption of CNG is expected to continue evolving.

VII. COMPARISON WITH OTHER NATURAL GAS:

When discussing natural gas fuels, it's essential to differentiate between Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and other forms of natural gas, primarily Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). Each has unique characteristics and applications. Here's a comparison between CNG and LNG:

1. Physical State:

CNG: Compressed Natural Gas is stored at high pressures (typically around 3,600 psi) and remains in a gaseous state.

LNG: Liquefied Natural Gas is cooled to extremely low temperatures (around -260°F or -162°C) to convert it into a liquid state for storage and transportation.

2. Storage and Infrastructure:

CNG: Storage involves high-pressure cylinders, and the infrastructure includes compressed gas pipelines and refueling stations.

LNG: Storage requires cryogenic tanks, and the infrastructure includes specialized terminals for liquefaction, transportation, and regasification.

3. Energy Density:

CNG: Compressed natural gas has a lower energy density compared to LNG, which means larger storage volumes are required to achieve similar energy content.

LNG: Liquefied natural gas has a higher energy density, making it more suitable for applications where storage space is a critical factor.

4. Transportation:

CNG: CNG is typically transported via pipelines or using specially designed CNG vehicles with high-pressure cylinders.

LNG: LNG is transported in cryogenic tanker trucks or ships, making it more suitable for long-distance transportation and international trade.

5. Vehicle Applications:

CNG: CNG is commonly used as a fuel for buses, taxis, and light-duty vehicles. It's also suitable for some stationary applications.

LNG: LNG is often used in heavy-duty vehicles, long-haul trucks, and marine applications where the extended driving range is crucial.

6. Cost Considerations:

CNG: Infrastructure for CNG tends to be less expensive compared to LNG, making it more feasible for local applications and smaller-scale operations.

LNG: The infrastructure for LNG, including liquefaction and regasification facilities, can be more capital-intensive. However, LNG may offer cost advantages for long-distance transportation.

7. Environmental Impact:

CNG: CNG combustion produces fewer greenhouse gas emissions and pollutants compared to traditional fossil fuels, contributing to improved air quality.

LNG: LNG also results in lower emissions compared to traditional fuels, and its use can contribute to environmental sustainability.

8. Use in Power Generation:

CNG: CNG is used for power generation in some combined heat and power (CHP) systems and distributed energy applications.

LNG: LNG is often used for large-scale power generation, especially in areas where natural gas pipelines are not accessible.

In summary, the choice between CNG and LNG depends on specific applications, infrastructure availability, transportation requirements, and cost considerations. Both forms of natural gas play essential roles in the transition to cleaner energy alternatives, offering environmental benefits and reducing dependence on traditional fossil fuels.

VIII. EFFECTS OF CNG GASON OZONE:

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) combustion generally has lower emissions of pollutants compared to conventional fossil fuels, such as gasoline or diesel. However, it's important to understand the potential effects of CNG on the atmosphere, including its impact on ozone levels. Here are some key considerations:

☐ Ozone Formation:

CNG combustion typically produces fewer nitrogen oxides (NO_x), which are precursors to ground-level ozone formation, compared to traditional fossil fuels. Reduced NO_x emissions contribute to lower ozone levels in the immediate vicinity of CNG-powered vehicles and facilities.

☐ Lower Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) Emissions:

CNG engines generally produce lower NO_x emissions due to the combustion characteristics of natural gas. NO_x is a key contributor to the formation of ground-level ozone, which can have adverse effects on air quality and respiratory health.

☐ Reduced Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs):

effects of air pollution on public health and the environment.

☐ **Global Warming Potential:**

While CNG combustion is generally considered cleaner than traditional fossil fuels, it's essential to consider the global warming potential of methane, the primary component of natural gas. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, and uncontrolled releases during extraction and distribution can contribute to climate change. Proper management and mitigation measures are crucial to minimize methane emissions throughout the natural gas supply chain.

☐ **Regulatory Compliance:**

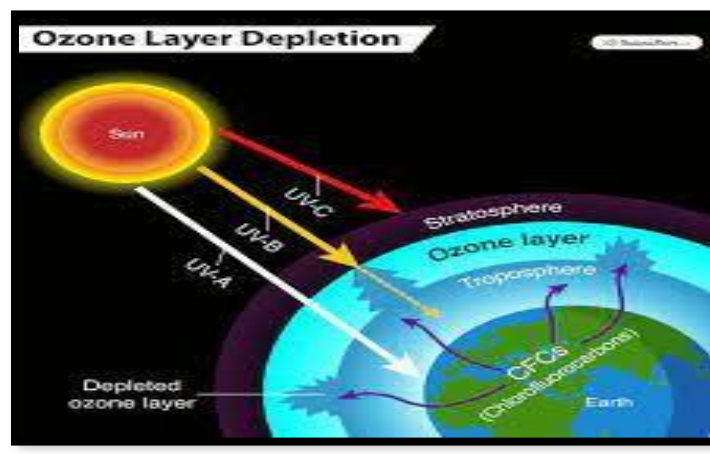
Many regions have established emissions standards and regulations to limit pollutants that contribute to ozone formation. CNG vehicles are designed to meet or exceed these standards, ensuring compliance with air quality regulations.

It's important to note that the overall impact of CNG on ozone levels will depend on factors such as the specific combustion technology, vehicle design, and the regulatory framework in place. While CNG is considered a cleaner alternative to traditional fossil fuels in terms of local air quality, continuous efforts are made to improve combustion efficiency, reduce emissions, and address environmental concerns associated with natural gas utilization.

CNG combustion also tends to emit fewer volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which can contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone. The lower emission of VOCs from CNG-powered vehicles is beneficial for air quality.

☐ **Air Quality Improvement:**

The use of CNG in vehicles and industrial applications can contribute to overall improvements in air quality. By emitting fewer pollutants associated with ozone formation, CNG helps mitigate the negative



IX. SIGNIFICANCE IN VARIOUS FIELDS:

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) holds significance across various fields due to its environmental benefits, cost-effectiveness, and versatility. Here are some key areas where CNG plays a significant role:

- **Transportation:**

CNG is widely used as a cleaner alternative fuel for vehicles, including cars, buses, trucks, and commercial fleets. It reduces emissions of pollutants such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and particulate matter compared to traditional fossil fuels.

- **Environmental Sustainability:**

CNG contributes to environmental sustainability by offering a lower-carbon alternative to gasoline and diesel. It helps mitigate air pollution and reduces the overall carbon footprint, supporting efforts to combat climate change.

- **Public Transit:**

Many public transportation systems use CNG buses, promoting cleaner and more sustainable urban mobility. CNG-powered public transit vehicles contribute to improved air quality in urban areas.

- **Industrial Processes:**

CNG is utilized in various industrial applications, including process heating and cogeneration. It provides a reliable and cost-effective energy source for industrial processes, reducing the environmental impact compared to some traditional fuels.

- **Power Generation:**

CNG is used in power generation, either through conventional gas turbines or in combined cycle plants. It provides a flexible and efficient energy source for electricity generation.

- **Residential Heating:**

In some regions, CNG is used for residential heating. It serves as a cleaner alternative to traditional heating fuels, contributing to reduced emissions at the household level.

- **Agriculture:**

CNG is employed in agricultural applications, such as providing fuel for equipment and vehicles on farms. Its use in agriculture contributes to cleaner and more sustainable practices in the sector.

- **Marine Applications:**

Some boats and ships are designed to run on CNG, providing a cleaner alternative to traditional marine fuels. This is particularly relevant in regions where stringent emissions regulations apply to maritime transportation.

- **Emergency Backup Power:**

CNG is used as a fuel for emergency backup generators in critical facilities like hospitals, data centers, and telecommunication facilities. Its reliability and lower emissions make it a suitable choice for backup power systems.

- **Greenhouse Gas Reduction:**

The use of CNG supports efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to global initiatives aimed at addressing climate change and promoting sustainable energy practices.

- **Waste Management:**

Many waste collection vehicles are powered by CNG. Its use in waste management contributes to reducing emissions in urban environments where air quality is a concern.

In summary, the significance of CNG extends across multiple fields, impacting transportation, industry, power generation, residential heating, and more. As societies strive for cleaner and more sustainable energy solutions, CNG plays a crucial role in reducing environmental impact and promoting a greener future.

X. CONCLUSION:

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stands as a pivotal player in the global transition towards cleaner, more sustainable energy alternatives. Its significance spans across diverse sectors, from transportation and industry to residential heating and power generation.

CNG's environmental benefits, including reduced emissions of greenhouse gases and pollutants, contribute to improved air quality and support efforts to address climate change. The versatility of CNG, coupled with its cost-effectiveness and domestic availability, positions it as a valuable component of the energy landscape.

As technology continues to advance, CNG infrastructure evolves, and regulatory support grows, the adoption of CNG is expected to increase, offering a cleaner and more environmentally responsible solution for meeting energy needs. The ongoing research and development in CNG technology, safety measures, and efficiency improvements underscore its continued significance in the global pursuit of sustainable energy solutions.

In the face of pressing environmental challenges and the imperative to reduce our reliance on conventional fossil fuels, CNG emerges as a viable and pragmatic choice. Its impact extends beyond individual sectors, influencing the broader narrative of responsible energy consumption and contributing to a more sustainable and resilient future. The journey towards a greener world involves collaborative efforts, and CNG, with its inherent advantages, plays a crucial role in shaping the energy landscape for generations to come.



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