



E3G

Common terminology for gases

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The terminology works if...



...It is defined in a way that serves its objectives: supporting the transition to climate neutrality by or before 2050 + an affordable & secure energy system.

...It can be operationalised by likely future users, e.g.:

- Assessing climate-related transition risks – investors
- Deciding whether costs should be socialised – regulators
- Monitoring & compliance: progress towards decarbonisation, broader sustainability, renewables directive – Commission, Member States, civil society, companies
- Establishing a basis for intra- and extra-EU trade – DG Trade, EU trading partners.

The context

To achieve these objectives, it is **necessary, but not sufficient** to get the terminology right. **We will need the tools to aggregate sensible individual choices to sensible aggregate choices.**

Some examples :

- Limited potential of sustainable biomass or natural negative emissions mean they need to be targeted towards highest value use. [[Gas4Climate](#), [EC LTS](#), [ICCT](#)]
- Alternative gases can be a solution for decarbonising heat or providing seasonal stability/energy security. In many cases – based on current science – this can also be done through demand reduction and improved resource sharing. [[E3G](#)]
- Local decision makers are best placed to judge which solutions/regulatory interventions are most likely to succeed at least cost; but need to triage with least cost pathway for the EU (e.g. infrastructure). → consider all solutions, science-based, guidance what is reconcilable with a climate safe pathway & the Paris Agreement (upcoming E3G paper)

The benchmarks



E3G

Terminology

- **Lifecycle emissions** as basis, incl scope 3 emissions (→ methane strategy), include **CCS** residual emissions
- End use perspective: REDII caps
- Sources of biomass matter
- **Methanation**: source of CO₂ matters
- **Infrastructure implications** need to be clear (H₂ vs CH₄)
- **Consistency with other frameworks**, e.g. Sustainable Finance

- **Regular science based updates** to the terminology, the latest in line with scheduled EU NDC updates
- Process to **triage local vs European least cost pathway** to determine “public interest” infrastructure layout [TEN-E, PCIs etc]
- Market framework that **rewards all service providers equally** (sector integration, not only sector coupling)

Framework



- [Renewable and decarbonised gases – options for a zero-emissions society](#) (2018)
- [Pro-consumer, pro-climate: a new EU agenda for natural gas](#) (2019)
- E3G ACER & CEER consultation responses (available upon request)
- [More security, lower cost – a smarter approach to gas infrastructure in Europe](#) (2016)