



We bring the future: H-gas is coming

Conversion from L-gas to
H-gas in the Westerwald
natural gas network



New natural gas quality from 2021

L-gas becomes H-gas

As your network operator, energienetze mittelrhein will do everything it can to ensure that you have a safe and reliable supply of natural gas at all times. At the moment, your supply comes from German and Dutch gas fields. This region, like 30 per cent of Germany, is supplied with L-gas (low calorific value), but reserves of this gas are running short. The remaining 70 per cent of Germany is supplied with H-gas (high calorific value), of which there are still abundant deposits. As the two types of gas differ in terms of their calorific value and other characteristics, all appliances need to be adapted to the new gas quality.

Almost all regions of Germany that are still supplied with L-gas will be converted to H-gas by 2030.

Costs of adapting the appliances

There is no direct charge for having your appliances adapted. As the change in natural gas quality is aimed at securing the supply throughout Germany in the long term, all gas consumers will pay a share of the conversion costs.

The natural gas office will coordinate the conversion

energienetze mittelrhein wants to ensure that the conversion process runs smoothly for all customers. For this reason, we are working with experienced service providers. Gas- und Wärme-Institut Essen e. V. (GWI) is responsible for project management and quality assurance. Its employees will work in the natural gas office to coordinate the adaptation of end consumers' appliances.

Higher calorific value

Will a higher calorific value mean higher costs?

No. The new quality will have no effect on energy costs. Consumers are billed by unit of energy (kWh = kilowatt hour), not by cubic metre (m³) of natural gas. If the gas has a higher calorific value, you will use less.

Example calculation

L-gas

$$\begin{aligned} 1 \text{ m}^3 &= 9.8 \text{ kWh/m}^3 \\ 2,551 \text{ m}^3 \times 9.8 \text{ kWh/m}^3 \\ &= \mathbf{25,000 \text{ kWh}} \end{aligned}$$

(consumption × calorific value = billable energy)

H-gas

$$\begin{aligned} 1 \text{ m}^3 &= 12 \text{ kWh/m}^3 \\ 2,083 \text{ m}^3 \times 12 \text{ kWh/m}^3 \\ &= \mathbf{25,000 \text{ kWh}} \end{aligned}$$

(consumption × calorific value = billable energy)

The costs are the same per kWh for L-gas and H-gas!

Quality control

Throughout the appliance survey and adaptation period, 10 per cent of all households will be visited again as part of a quality assurance process.

Gas conversion in three phases

Phase 1: Appliance survey

The survey of industrial customers' gas appliances has been in progress since October 2018. In May 2019, the survey of all natural gas-powered appliances in homes and businesses will commence. The natural gas office will announce the first of at least two dates for the conversion in writing with a minimum of three weeks' notice. During the first visit, an installer will determine whether and how the appliances can be adapted to the new quality. The findings will be recorded in a report.

Phase 2: Adaptation of appliances

The parts needed in order to adapt the appliances will be procured on behalf of energienetze mittelrhein. During the second visit, the installer will install the parts and adapt the appliances. The installer will contact you to arrange a date for this visit. The adaptation will take around 30 to 60 minutes, depending on the appliance type.

The type and design of the appliance will also determine whether the work is carried out before or after the gas conversion date.

Some very old appliances cannot be adapted for use with H-gas. If this is the case, you would need to purchase a new appliance. If certain conditions are met, you may be entitled to a grant of €100 to €600, depending on the type and age of the appliance.

Phase 3: Technical conversion

energienetze mittelrhein has made arrangements with the transmission system operator for the technical conversion from L-gas to H-gas. In your network area, this will take place between May and October 2021. From that time onwards, the pipes will deliver H-gas to your house. In general, you should not notice the conversion taking place.

Good to know:

Natural gas conversion—is it really necessary? As Dutch exports of L-gas to Germany will be discontinued at the end of 2029, all L-gas areas in Germany will need to be converted to H-gas.

What will the natural gas conversion process look like?

Surveying of gas appliances in the Westerwald commenced in October 2018. The appliances will then be adapted around the time of the network switchovers, which will take place between May and October 2021.

After the gas conversion, will I still need to have my system serviced annually?

Yes. You should still have your systems serviced once a year by a certified firm. The companies we have appointed to carry out the natural gas conversion are not authorised to do this. As before, the servicing should be carried out by a trusted installer.

What happens if my gas appliance cannot be adapted?

In this case, you would need to replace it with a new appliance. You may be entitled to a grant of €100 to €600, depending on the age of your appliance, if certain conditions are met.

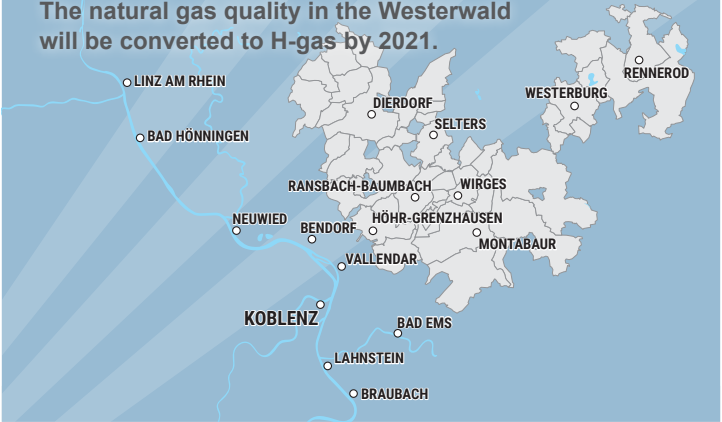
What happens if, during the survey, the installer sees that my appliance or heating system is not working correctly?

In this case, the installer will leave you a card with a list of the faults. You should have the faults fixed as soon as possible by an installation company of your choice. Otherwise, it may not be possible to adapt the appliance. Repairs are not included in the conversion process.

Could my gas supply be disconnected during the conversion?

We will only do this if you do not give us the opportunity to survey your appliances or if serious faults are identified in your gas installation. This is for your own protection and that of your neighbours. Only adapted appliances will be safe to use.

The natural gas quality in the Westerwald
will be converted to H-gas by 2021.



Do you have any questions? We are at your service!

Our natural gas office at energienetze mittelrhein
is on hand to assist you:

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Opening times:

Mon., Tues., Thurs.: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Weds.: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Fri.: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

This flyer is also available in:

German , Russian , Turkish , and Arabic 

You can access it directly at enm.de/Erdgasumstellung.

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