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TOXIC GAS LEAKS IN RICHMOND

A SAFE AND BETTER FUTURE

Created by VCU 2023-24 Focused Inquiry Service Learning Students

TOXIC GAS LEAKS

Richmond toxic gas leaks is an issue currently facing the city of richmond. This is when a leak of natural gas either from a pipe or another contained area is exposed in an area where gas should not be. There are over 900 toxic gas leaks in richmond and this can be very dangerous to the community of richmond due to the fact carbon monoxide is released from Natural Gas when gas burns incompletely. This exposure to carbon monoxide is so fatal for anyone who inhales it requires immediate medical attention. These and more are many health effects of toxic gas leaks.

\$47 million worth of gas lost from 2012 to 2022 which customers paid for. 

\$16 million in 2022 alone.



PROBLEMS

- Potentially causes health problems: asthma in children, headaches, nausea, dizziness, fatigue, and even difficulty breathing
- Richmond Gas Works has gone into millions of dollars into debt in attempt to fix the toxic gas leaks, which the residents of Richmond will unfortunately be taxed to help with the costs



OUR ASK

The customers of Public Utilities are asking the Richmond City Council to take action against the increase of toxic gas leaks in the city of Richmond by approving the establishment of a Public Utilities Commission to help enforce and regulate policies that will help decrease the incidence and intensity of the toxic gas leaks



SOLUTIONS

- Renewable energy from wind and solar is competitive with gas and cheaper than coal or nuclear. If the costs of climate change, gas, electricity, and health impacts were included in the price of gas, renewable energy would be much cheaper than coal or nuclear.
- The federal Inflation Reduction Act includes incentives, tax credits and deductions for customers to convert to high-efficiency heat pumps to meet their heating or cooling needs and hot water needs as well as for insulation, weatherization and upgrading their homes.
- Engage in education, copying and invest in the use of heat pumps.



Toxic Gas visual and infographics Map and Graph Citation
Richmond, Virginia
Richmond Times Dispatch
https://richmond.com/news/local/climate-richmond-gas-methane-leak/article_3e47a766-10c8-11ed-8262-236e52113eac.html
Image of the city Richmond
Business Insider
<https://www.insider.com/everything-you-need-to-know-about-traveling-to-richmond-virginia>
Image of Richmond Citation
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BENEFITS OF SOLUTIONS

A Public Utility Commission is going to help ensure that Virginia receives utility services and at a reasonable rate. Implementing this will help oversee that the people of Richmond are able to affordably invest in utilities like natural gas. It will help with financial decisions, like managing debt. This then helps keep the city from going bankrupt.



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