

AFRICA

JUST
STOP
COOKING?

A Fair Carbon Future Starts
with Clean Cooking

JUNE 2025

JUST STOP COOKING

wePlanet™



FOREWORD

BY HON. ISSIFU SEIDU

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF GHANA

Hon. Seidu Issifu is a Ghanaian politician and former Member of Parliament for the Nalerigu–Gambaga Constituency in the North East Region, in Ghana's 8th Parliament.

As Ghana's first Minister of State for Climate Change and Sustainability, appointed by H.E John Dramani Mahama in 2025, Hon. Seidu is committed to advancing climate action, building resilience, and enhancing adaptation efforts both locally and internationally.



As climate impacts accelerate, affecting the most vulnerable countries in sub Saharan Africa with droughts, floods and heatwaves, it is important that the momentum for reducing carbon emissions does not lead to an increase in the burden felt by the poorest.

This report illuminates the real danger that pressure for carbon reductions leveraged by the Global North against the Global South via the World Bank and other MDBs could preclude the increased use of LPG as a cooking fuel because it is classed as a 'fossil fuel'.

This would be a terrible injustice. In Ghana, half of households are still dependent on solid fuels like charcoal and fuel wood for cooking. This causes deforestation and leads to many premature deaths, particularly among women and children.

LPG can avoid that, which is why our government has an LPG promotion program, aiming to make it easier and cheaper for rural households to be able to make the switch to clean cooking gas and away from wood and charcoal.

We need all the help we can get, including the ability to leverage international concessional financing to assist, and the Global North ban on fossil fuel financing risks getting in the way.

This would be a serious injustice perpetrated on Africa in the name of the climate, and cannot be allowed to stand. As Africans, we must raise our voices and ensure that our development takes priority, as does saving the lives of our people.

I will encourage all and sundry to read this report and consider the implications of its findings. My government remains committed to LPG as a cooking fuel because this will save many lives – and that is the most important thing of all.



PREAMBLE

In June 2025 WePlanet Africa launched the **Just Stop Cooking campaign** — a satirical yet sobering response to a quietly devastating policy failure unfolding in climate circles. Across the Global North, climate finance rules are evolving to exclude all fossil fuels from development funding, even those used for life-saving purposes. That includes LPG — a clean, affordable, and widely accessible cooking fuel. In theory, this policy sounds principled. In practice, it is lethal. For millions of African families who rely on wood and charcoal, being denied access to LPG means being denied the right to cook safely — or at all.

The Just Stop Cooking (JSC) campaign uses humour to expose this injustice. Through a fictional pledge — asking Africans to stop cooking on Mondays and Wednesdays (or perhaps Tuesdays and Thursdays) to help the Global North meet its emissions targets — the campaign highlights the absurdity of current development finance policies. While Europe builds dozens of new LNG terminals to power its own economy, it urges Africa to wait for solar cookers that don't work at night, or electric stoves in villages that still lack electricity. The message the Global North sends is clear: fossil fuels for us, deforestation and hunger for you.

At the heart of this campaign is a critique of what we call carbon colonialism: a new form of climate injustice in which the poorest are asked to sacrifice the most, while the richest continue to expand the very emissions infrastructure they refuse to allow in Africa. There is no denying the urgency of decarbonisation. But if we do not distinguish between fossil fuels that lock in emissions for decades and those that offer a short-term bridge to health, dignity, and development, we risk deepening existing inequalities while doing nothing to save the planet.

WePlanet's position is grounded in science, data, pragmatism, and ethics. We fully support the long-term transition to clean energy for all — including electric cooking. But we also recognise that in regions where the grid may not arrive for decades, LPG is the fastest and most effective way to save lives, protect forests, and empower women. Denying this reality because of ideological rigidity is not environmentalism — it's moral failure.

The time has come to reframe the conversation. This report lays out the evidence, the carbon math, the public health stakes, and the policy ask. We invite development agencies, donor governments, and climate advocates to read it with openness — and to recognise that asking Africa to Just Stop Cooking isn't just a joke.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A serious injustice is being done to Africa. In the name of climate change, hundreds of millions of people are prevented from being able to cook their food in a safe and sustainable way.

Much of the Global North cooks on gas. However, international agencies like the World Bank tell Africa that they can't support a shift to cooking gas because it's a fossil fuel, and that climate investment rules pushed by Global North NGOs and governments forbid any money going to fossil fuels.

With hundreds of millions of people still without access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa, this means African families are stuck with only wood and charcoal to cook on. As a result, thousands of women and children are dying from indoor air pollution each year and Africa's forests are being levelled.

Funding agencies and green NGOs in the Global North are right to push for strong restrictions on fossil fuels financing. As the climate emergency escalates, and the 1.5°C Paris limit slips out of reach, everyone agrees that there should not be financial support for large-scale fossil fuel exploration or production. But this must not be at the expense of the lives and livelihoods of the poorest, and the primary burden should not fall on Africa.

Case in point: Europe is building dozens of new terminals to import fossil, climate-warming natural gas (LNG). Europe isn't bound by World Bank rules because its economies are developed and it doesn't need concessional financing. EU countries can therefore pour billions into new LNG terminals using commercial loans backed by state policies and there's nothing the World Bank can do to stop them.

So what's the carbon cost of this? Our calculations show that just one of Europe's LNG import terminals is the equivalent in energy terms of sub-Saharan Africa's entire current LPG use. So who is Europe to lecture Africa about fossil fuels? Or is Europe in reality telling Africa to 'Just Stop Cooking' for two days a week to save carbon, as our satirical campaign asserts?

As always, it's one rule for the rich, and another for the poor. Led by Germany, Norway (itself a major gas producer, ironically) and the legacy green NGOs, the Global North is telling Africa not to use LPG cooking gas even when Europe has 11 major LNG gas projects underway and 39 more proposed (full calculations below; see also p.4 for an explanation of the difference between LPG and LNG).

Just in (formerly) climate-conscious Germany alone, LNG capacity currently under construction totals three times more than the entire LPG use of sub-Saharan Africa. In other words, Germany is happy to import fossil fuel so German householders can cook their food, but forbids this in the Global South. This is worse than a hypocrisy, it is an injustice. And Africans are left paying the price with their lives, breathing in wood-smoke.

At WePlanet we believe in fighting injustice wherever it occurs, especially on issues that the mainstream ignores. WePlanet Africa is therefore calling on the World Bank, other multilateral development banks, and governments in high-emitting countries to explicitly support an exemption from the ban on fossil fuel financing for LPG cooking gas in Africa. This exemption should be agreed at the World Bank/IMF AGMs in October 2025.

In order to achieve the IEA's 'Clean Cooking for All' targets, sub-Saharan Africa needs to triple LPG use. Cancelling just three of the 11 ongoing LNG terminals in Europe would easily cover the small increase in fossil fuels that is needed to deliver clean cooking for all by 2030. This is a short-term interim measure to save lives and forests hopefully just for a decade or so: we believe that post-2030 a full shift to electricity for cooking will help eliminate fossil fuels altogether in Africa too. But in the meantime, people need to eat.



The situation is increasingly urgent. As our report shows, deforestation actually creates far more carbon emissions than LPG cooking gas. We calculate that sub-Saharan Africa's direct CO₂ emissions from cooking gas would rise from 0.032 Gt to 0.1 Gt/year in a Clean Cooking for All scenario – still only a tenth of the emissions that will be generated by Europe's LNG building spree.

But in reality the net impact of a shift to LPG in sub-Saharan Africa will very likely be carbon positive, because unsustainable deforestation also releases millions of tonnes of carbon. And deforestation devastates biodiversity too. Thousands of hectares of African forest are being lost each year, turned into charcoal for ordinary people who desperately need fuel to cook food for their families.

WePlanet Africa says: the World Bank must finance our governments in supporting LPG to make it cheaper and more accessible than charcoal and wood for ordinary families in countries like Kenya and Uganda. There must be subsidies for poorer families to access LPG, and cheaper cookstoves to reduce upfront costs. This policy must start immediately, in 2025.

The burden of a diminishing 1.5 to 2-degree carbon budget should not fall on sub-Saharan Africa, whose per capita and historical emissions are miniscule. If Europe wants to stop new fossil fuel, its efforts should begin at home and not be imposed as carbon colonialism on Africa.



LPG vs LNG

Yes it's confusing: LNG and LPG sound similar but aren't the same. Both are fossil fuels, but they are not exactly equivalent. **LPG is liquid petroleum gas**. Largely butane and propane, it is produced as a by-product of oil refining. LPG is usually distributed in gas cylinders for household use. **LNG is liquefied natural gas**, mainly methane which is liquified by extremely cold temperatures for transport on ships. It is re-gasified at import terminals to then enter the gas pipeline network.

Butane and propane from LPG are not considered greenhouse gases^[1], while methane from LNG is a highly potent greenhouse gas with a climate forcing 30x that of CO₂ over 100 years^[2], so if leakage is considered LNG is far more climate destructive than LPG and may according to some assessments even be worse than coal^[3]. However we do not consider this in our calculations, in order to be conservative.

[1] US Dept of Energy, Alternative Fuels Data Center. <https://afdc.energy.gov/vehicles/emissions-propane>

[2] US EPA, Overview of Greenhouse Gases. <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/overview-greenhouse-gases>

[3] Howarth, R. W. (2024). The greenhouse gas footprint of liquefied natural gas (LNG) exported from the United States. *Energy Science & Engineering*, 12(11). <https://doi.org/10.1002/ese3.1934>



THE EVIDENCE

"European countries such as Germany — a major consumer of coal and natural gas — and Norway, one of the world's largest exporters of natural gas, are seeking to ban the financing of all fossil-fuel projects in low- and middle-income countries entirely. This puritanical, one-size-fits-all approach is bad for the climate and overwhelmingly leaves women breathing in dangerous smoke from dirty cooking fuels. The West needs to get a grip and devise a more sensible strategy to solve this public-health crisis."^[4]

VIJAYA RAMACHANDRAN
NATURE JOURNAL, 2022



HOW REAL IS THE BAN ON FOSSIL FUEL FINANCING?

Public health experts Nigel Bruce and Dan Pope from Liverpool University in the UK wrote in *The Conversation* back in 2023 that a "worrying factor that's emerged recently, and frequently reported to us by African country partners, is resistance from influential donor countries and their development institutions to invest in LPG because it's a fossil fuel"^[5] Experts we spoke to for this report, who must remain anonymous so they can share information without compromising their positions, agreed with Bruce and Pope that a de-facto ban on LPG is indeed being promoted by Global North governments and campaigners at MDBs (multilateral development banks, such as the African Development Bank and World Bank). "People simply won't talk about it," we were told regarding development donor attitude to LPG in Africa, or "they will say one thing publicly and another privately".

Experts we interviewed told us that this is particularly coming from Scandinavian governments and from Germany, both directly and via its development agency GIZ. One expert told us that because LPG is a fossil fuel there is basically a "knee-jerk" response that it cannot be supported, and that GIZ has even been "quite

disruptive" in closed-door meetings in pushing back against pleas from African governments for LPG support. However, this seems to be more a conspiracy of silence than anything: an absence of support rather than an explicit ban. There is also a focus on non-viable solutions, such as solar cookers (that don't work after sunset), 'improved cookstoves' (which still use biomass, albeit more efficiently than open fires, but still release dangerously high levels of indoor pollutants) and e-cooking (despite the lack of grid access and high electricity prices).

The publicly-advocated demands of climate campaigners for an end to fossil fuel financing make no exception for clean cooking in Africa, and do not acknowledge the climate justice issues inherent in different historical responsibilities. Big green NGOs have demanded "a commitment from the World Bank Group to end all types of financial support for fossil fuels" in a coalition called *The Big Shift*, which includes the Sierra Club and Friends of the Earth US^[6]. It makes no mention of clean cooking, implicitly demanding a ban on LPG support in Africa as part of "ending ALL fossil fuel finance" (*original caps*)^[7].

Under a page called 'The Gas Myth', the Big Shift links to the 'Step off the Gas' report by IISD which argues for the elimination of funding for gas projects in the Global South and the shift of support to renewables only^[8]. While we agree that in the long term electric cooking powered by clean energy should be the end goal across the whole world, the reality of electricity access in sub-Saharan Africa is that this is not feasible in the short term, and that LPG is the most rapid scalable solution to reduce the use of solid biomass for cooking, save thousands of African lives annually and stop the ongoing loss of millions of hectares of forest. However, the Step off the Gas report only discusses residential gas connections (obviously unfeasible) and does not mention LPG in Africa at all.

Green NGOs haven't explicitly said that they oppose LPG for clean cooking in Africa. We therefore invite all stakeholders to support our demand for an exemption for clean cooking options in any ban on fossil fuel financing in the Global South. This would clarify the situation for governments and MDBs and help support financing for this one vital area, saving thousands of lives per year and helping protect the rapidly-vanishing forests. African governments have been keen to implement charcoal bans, but for these to work cost-effective alternatives need to be in place. Otherwise the Global North is merely asking Africa to 'Just Stop Cooking'.

[4] Ramachandran, V. (2022). Blanket bans on fossil fuels hurt women and lower-income countries. *Nature*, 607(7917), 9–9. <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-022-01821-w>

[5] Pope, D., & Bruce, N. (2023, June 13). LPG is a fossil fuel. Experts explain why it's still Africa's best option for cleaner, greener cooking (for now). *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/lpg-is-a-fossil-fuel-experts-explain-why-its-still-africas-best-option-for-cleaner-greener-cooking-for-now-197723>

[6] The Big Shift Global: About us. <https://bigshiftglobal.org/about-us>

[7] The Big Shift Global campaign: <https://bigshiftglobal.org/end-fossil-fuel-finance>

[8] Muttit, G. et al (2021). Step Off the Gas: International public finance, natural gas and clean alternatives in the Global South. IISD. <https://www.iisd.org/publications/natural-gas-finance-clean-alternatives-global-south>



COUNTING CARBON

LPG COULD BE A CARBON SAVER DUE TO AVOIDED DEFORESTATION

LPG is a fossil fuel. Even though its constituent gases are not greenhouse gases (unlike the methane in LNG) it releases CO₂ when burned in a stove for cooking. However, if this carbon replaces CO₂ released during forest destruction – assuming this is net destruction because the forests don't regrow – then LPG may well help reduce carbon emissions dramatically.

According to the IEA, **cooking with traditional biomass can be as much as 10 times more carbon intensive than using LPG**, if this is unsustainably harvested^[9]. If this is true, then the carbon benefits of switching Africa to LPG could be substantial. According to a report by Atlantic Consulting for the World LPG Association (admittedly an industry body, but the methodology in the report is open and the calculations are well evidenced from public sources^[10]) a typical 13-kg cylinder of LPG avoids the deforestation of 6 square metres.

Adding this up, **100 households switching to LPG saves 1 hectare (100m²) of forest**. The report further concludes that achieving the IEA's target for clean cooking globally could save up to 2

million hectares of forest per year, **accounting for 40% of the current worldwide deforestation total**. If this is true, then our carbon calculations in this report are moot because the net carbon balance of LPG in clean cooking is a big reduction in emissions. **Scientists have estimated that at least half of deforestation in Africa is related to fuelwood and charcoal production^[11]**.

One study of Rwanda, published in 2021, found that 83% of rural households and 40% of urban households cook on traditional biomass – wood and charcoal – with only 6% using LPG and less than 1% cooking on electricity. **The authors find that if upscaled to 40% households using LPG in cooking this would save 243 million trees^[12]**. A 2023 paper published in Environmental Research Letters journal also found major climate benefits from upscaling clean cooking in low to middle-income countries^[13].

[9] IEA, 2023. Special report: A vision for clean cooking access for all (analysis). <https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/f63eebbc-a3df-4542-b2fb-364dd66a2199/AVisionforCleanCookingAccessforAll.pdf>

[10] Atlantic Consulting, July 2018. Substituting LPG for wood: carbon and deforestation impacts. A report to the World LPG Association. <https://www.worldliquidgas.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Substituting-LPG-for-Wood-Carbon-and-Deforestation-Impacts-Updated.pdf>

[11] Hosonuma, N., Herold, M., De Sy, V., De Fries, R. S., Brockhaus, M., Verchot, L., Angelsen, A., & Romijn, E. (2012). An assessment of deforestation and forest degradation drivers in developing countries. *Environmental Research Letters*, 7(4), 044009. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/7/4/044009>. See Figure 5.

[12] Čukić, I., Kypridemos, C., Evans, A. W., Pope, D., & Puzzolo, E. (2021). Towards Sustainable Development Goal 7 "Universal Access to Clean Modern Energy": National Strategy in Rwanda to Scale Clean Cooking with Bottled Gas. *Energies*, 14(15), 4582. <https://doi.org/10.3390/en14154582>

[13] Floess, E., Grieshop, A., Puzzolo, E., Pope, D., Leach, N., Smith, C. J., Gill-Wiehl, A., Landesman, K., & Bailis, R. (2023). Scaling up gas and electric cooking in low- and middle-income countries: climate threat or mitigation strategy with co-benefits? *Environmental Research Letters*, 18(3), 034010. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/acb501>



COUNTING LIVES

HEALTH IMPACTS FROM INDOOR AIR POLLUTION

Because a lot of cooking is done inside the home, a large amount of indoor air pollution is caused when solid biomass fuels are used. In poorly-ventilated dwellings, pollution levels can be 100 times healthy levels. **The death toll is staggering, and is estimated at 3.2 million worldwide each year**, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). **Nearly 240,000 of those deaths are children under 5.** "Almost half of all deaths due to lower respiratory infection among children under 5 years of age are caused by inhaling particulate matter (soot) from household air pollution," WHO reports^[14].

In Africa, almost 1 billion people rely on wood, charcoal or kerosene for household fuels, and household air pollution from these fuels causes 700,000 premature deaths per year^[15]. **This is 10% of total mortality in Africa, making indoor air pollution a bigger killer than malaria^[16].** "We have demonstrated that rapid transition to clean cooking with LPG in sub-Saharan Africa meets the immediate public health priority with climate, gender and environmental co-benefits," says Dr Elisa Puzzolo, Co-Director of CLEAN-Air Africa. In Africa, hundreds of thousands of lives could be saved each year with LPG.

The IEA stated in 2022: "The improvement rates needed for universal clean cooking access by 2030 are unprecedented, but the benefits are huge: **reducing premature deaths by over 500,000 a year by 2030**, drastically cutting time spent gathering fuel and cooking, and allowing millions of women to pursue education, employment and civic involvement."^[17]

[14] WHO, 2024. Household air pollution. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/household-air-pollution-and-health>

[15] National Institute for Health and Care Research, 2023. CLEAN-Air Africa: addressing the disease burden from household air pollution. <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/story/clean-air-africa-addressing-disease-burden-household-air-pollution>

[16] WHO, 2023. Malaria, key facts. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malaria>

[17] IEA, 2022. Africa Energy Outlook, 2022.

<https://www.iea.org/reports/africa-energy-outlook-2022/key-findings>



THE NUMBERS

QUOTABLE NUMBERS AND SUPPORTING CALCULATIONS

WePlanet is evidence-based, and our claims will always be supported by transparent evidence others can check. We don't hide our numbers in the footnotes. Here are our statistical calculations and evidence sources for the claims made above, plus some additional quotable numbers.

Total LPG consumption in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) was obtained from the 2023 Statistical Review of Global LPG^[18]. The 2022 SSA total is 4.5 million tonnes (Mt, or megatonnes). (For comparison, India consumes 30 Mt, China 73 Mt and the US 46 Mt.)

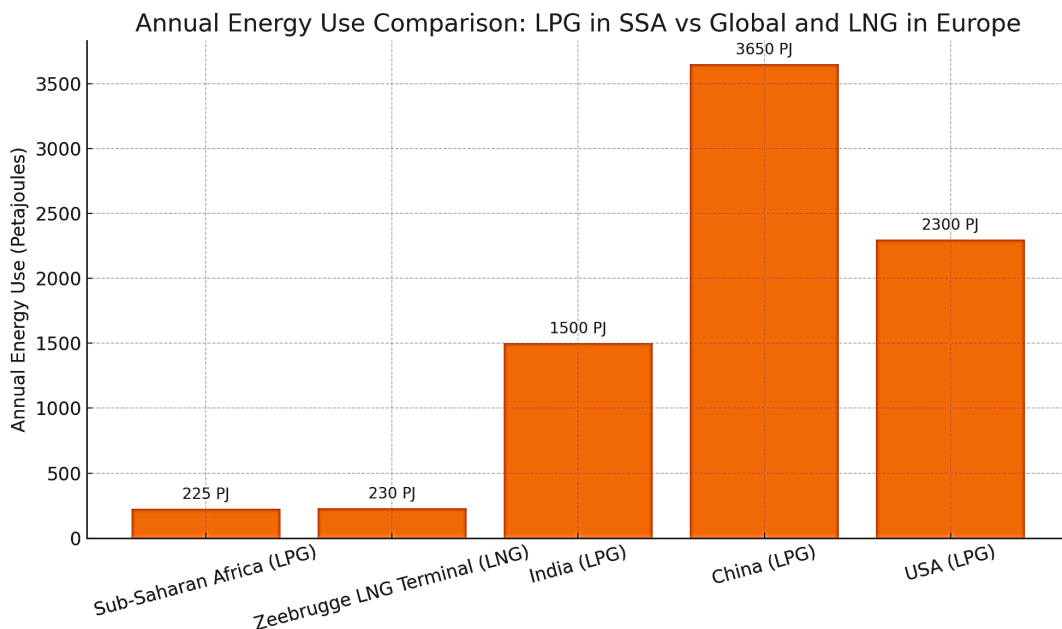
1kg of LPG equates to about 50 MJ (megajoules) of energy^[19].
 x1000 for 1 tonne of LPG = 50 GJ (gigajoules) of energy.

To calculate 2022 SSA energy use from LPG multiply 50 x 4.5 million = 225 million GJ or 225 PJ (petajoules) per year.

1 bcme (billion cubic metres equivalent) of natural gas = 0.036 EJ (exajoules) of energy = 36 PJ^[20]. To calculate SSA's equivalent natural gas use, divide 225/36 = 6.25 bcme per year.

2024 expansion project of Zeebrugge LNG Terminal in Belgium = 6.4 bcm capacity per year^[21].

JUST STOP COOKING



Sub-Saharan Africa's total annual LPG use equates in energy terms to a single large LNG terminal in Europe like the one at Zeebrugge in Belgium.



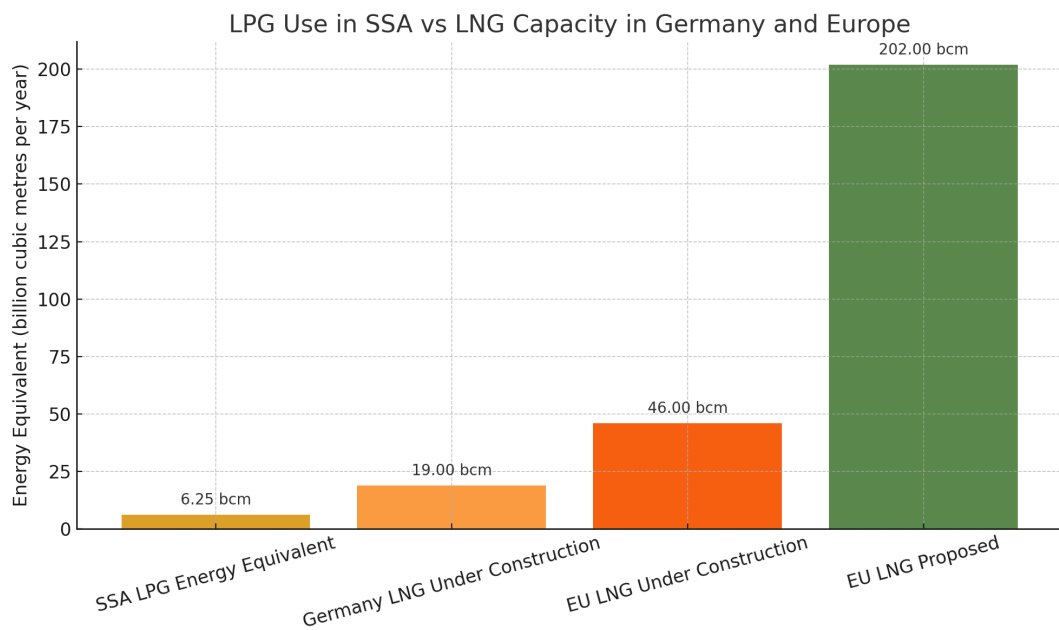
THE NUMBERS

QUOTABLE NUMBERS AND SUPPORTING CALCULATIONS

Germany currently has 19 bcm of LNG capacity under construction^[22]. This is three times more than the current LPG use of all of sub-Saharan Africa. $19/6.25 = 3$.

Europe has 46bcm of LNG import capacity in construction (11 projects) and 202bcm proposed (39 projects)^[23].

$46/6.25 = 7.36$. $202/6.25 = 32.32$.



In energy terms Europe has 7x more LNG under construction than the whole of sub-Saharan Africa's current consumption of LPG, and 32x more proposed.

THE NUMBERS

QUOTABLE NUMBERS AND SUPPORTING CALCULATIONS

Greenhouse gases: LPG is a fossil fuel. There is no dispute about that. **If substituting for unsustainable forestry, its climate impact may be substantially net positive however.** There are multiple uncertainties in calculating specific figures for this because we don't know forest regrowth rates, or the climate forcing impacts of particulates like black carbon released in combustion of wood and charcoal. **To be highly conservative we therefore look only at the direct combustion emissions below.**

In direct combustion terms LPG's emissions intensity is $72\text{kg CO}_2/\text{GJ}^{[24]}$.

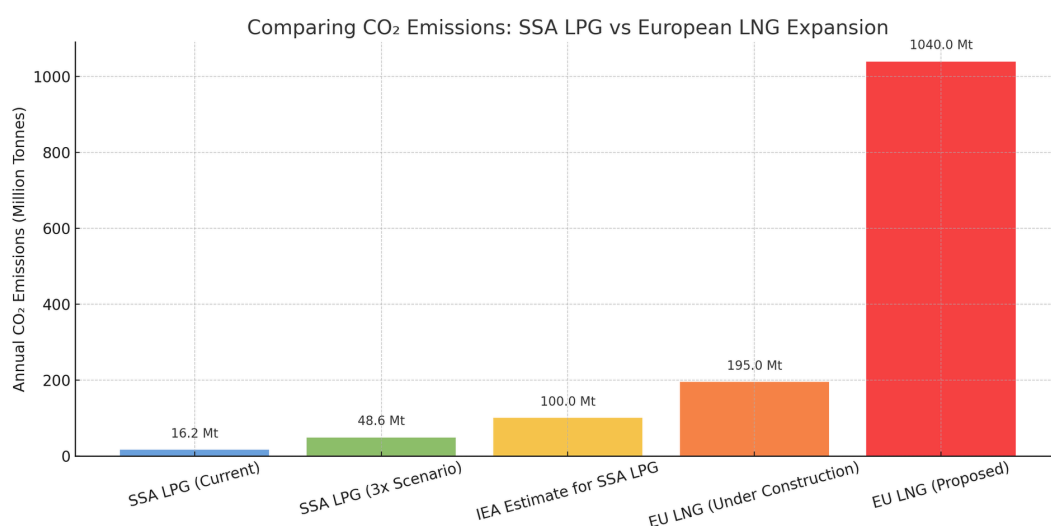
Current SSA energy use (see above) from LPG is 225 million GJ \times = 16,200 million kg of CO_2 . To convert to tonnes, divide by 1,000, so current annual SSA emissions from LPG combustion = 16.2 million tonnes of CO_2 .

In the IEA's Clean Cooking Access for All scenario, LPG use in SSA increases by about 3x. This means $16.2\text{ Mt} \times 3 = 48.6\text{ Mt}$ = approx 0.05 Gt CO_2 .

The IEA says "The switch to clean cooking solutions, such as LPG, drives up emissions [in SSA] by 0.1 Gt in 2030^[25]." However, the source and any methodology for this figure is not given. Our figure is about half that of the IEA – but conversion factors for LPG vary and so this can be considered a range estimate.

How does this compare to Europe's emissions from LNG plant? According to Global Energy Monitor's report on European gas, the LNG terminals and pipelines already under construction in Europe will generate 195 megatonnes of $\text{CO}_2\text{e}/\text{yr}$. If we include proposed projects, LNG terminals alone equal 1,040 megatonnes of CO_2e annually. (For LPG CO_2e and CO_2 are almost exactly equivalent because N_2O and CH_4 combustion emissions are tiny^[26]).

Using our figures, SSA annual emissions from LPG are 16.2 Mt. Europe's LNG under construction is 195 Mt. $195/16.2 = 12$. For proposed projects, $1040/16.2 = 64$.



The LNG terminals and pipelines in Europe under construction, if fully used, would result in annual carbon emissions **12 times higher than all of sub-Saharan Africa's current LPG use**. If all proposed LNG projects are built in Europe, the resulting emissions will be **64 times higher than the LPG combustion emissions in all of sub-Saharan Africa**.

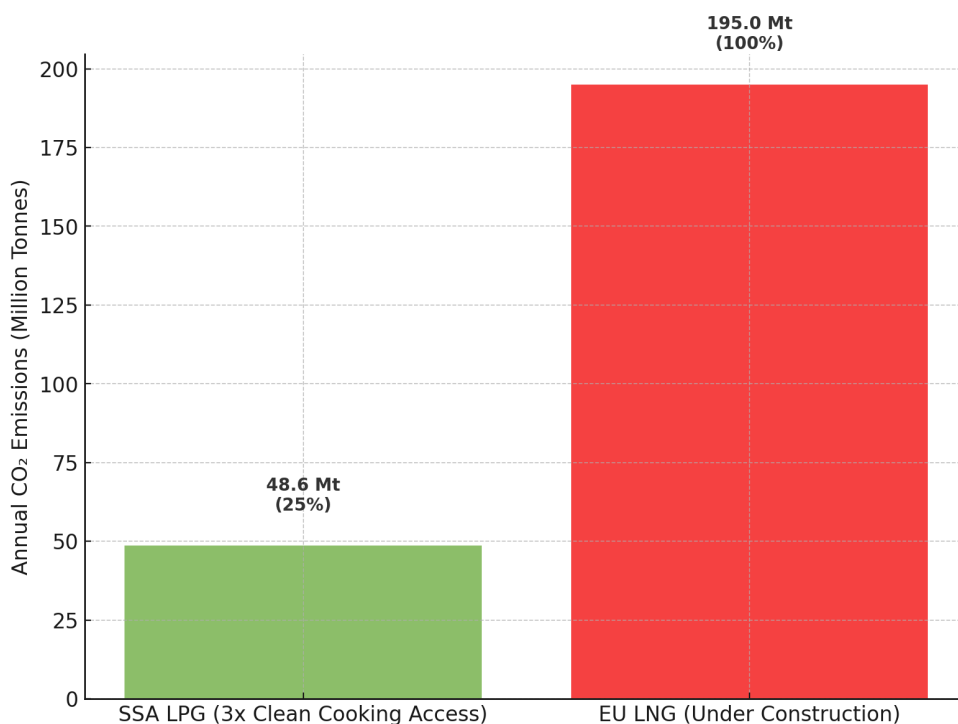
THE NUMBERS

QUOTABLE NUMBERS AND SUPPORTING CALCULATIONS

Multiply SSA CO₂ by 3 for IEA's Access for All scenario: 48.6 Mt. 195/48.6 = 4.

- [18] Statistical review of global LPG, 2023. WLPGA/Argus Media.
- [19] World Nuclear Association. Heat Values of Various Fuels. <https://world-nuclear.org/information-library/facts-and-figures/heat-values-of-various-fuels>
- [20] See General Conversion Factors for Energy table, IEA World Energy Outlook. <https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/86ede39e-4436-42d7-ba2a-edf61467e070/WorldEnergyOutlook2023.pdf>
- [21] Global Energy Monitor Wiki: Zeebrugge LNG Terminal. https://www.gem.wiki/Zeebrugge_LNG_Terminal
- [22] Global Energy Monitor, 2024 Europe Gas Tracker Report. https://globalenergymonitor.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/GEM_Europe_Gas_Tracker_2024.pdf
- [23] Global Energy Monitor, 2024 Europe Gas Tracker Report. https://globalenergymonitor.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/GEM_Europe_Gas_Tracker_2024.pdf
- [24] Table 2, WLPGA/Atlantic Consulting 2018: Substituting LPG for wood: carbon and deforestation impacts. <https://www.worldliquidgas.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Substituting-LPG-for-Wood-Carbon-and-Deforestation-Impacts-Updated.pdf>
- [25] IEA, 2023. Special report: A vision for clean cooking access for all (analysis). <https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/f63eebbc-a3df-4542-b2fb-364dd66a2199/AVisionforCleanCookingAccessforAll.pdf>
- [26] ClimaTiq, LPG emissions factor. <https://www.climatiq.io/data/emission-factor/85989164-d53d-46e7-b301-af34adac3033>

JUST STOP COOKING



Even supposing a 3x increase in LPG so that everyone in sub-Saharan Africa has access to clean cooking,

this would still mean African emissions would total a quarter of Europe's emissions just from the LNG terminals and pipelines under construction.



HOW MUCH WOULD THIS COST?

Writing in Nature journal, Vijaya Ramachandran states that "about **US\$4.5 billion a year is needed to achieve universal access to clean fuels for cooking** (this estimate includes supplying infrastructure, such as LPG stoves)." This is for the whole world, not just Africa. For Africa, the IEA states that: "Clean cooking requires around US\$2.5 billion per year of investment in clean cookstoves and other end-use equipment^[27]." This is about a tenth of the cost of a typical large LNG terminal investment, according to the IEA. Thus cancelling one of Europe's many LNG terminals in planning and repurposing the money for Africa would be able to deliver clean cooking to the whole continent ten times over.

OUR ASKS

- The World Bank should make clear that funding for clean cooking, including **LPG, is not covered by its ban on financing new fossil fuels.**
- The World Bank's shareholders, particularly those which have been privately lobbying against LPG, must make clear that they have changed their view.
- This must be clearly communicated to African governments, with **funding windows with highly concessional financing becoming available.**
- The IEA's Clean Cooking for All scenario of a **3x increase in LPG use** should guide policy.
- African governments can assist by **removing VAT on LPG canisters** and facilitating pay-as-you-go schemes to reduce upfront costs for poorer households.
- **Bans on charcoal production** should be maintained or introduced only once alternatives are available and affordable.

REFERENCES

1. US Dept of Energy, Alternative Fuels Data Center. <https://afdc.energy.gov/vehicles/emissions-propane>
2. US EPA, Overview of Greenhouse Gases. <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/overview-greenhouse-gases>
3. Howarth, R. W. (2024). The greenhouse gas footprint of liquefied natural gas (LNG) exported from the United States. *Energy Science & Engineering*, 12(11). <https://doi.org/10.1002/ese3.1934>
4. Ramachandran, V. (2022). Blanket bans on fossil fuels hurt women and lower-income countries. *Nature*, 607(7917), 9–9. <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-022-01821-w>
5. Pope, D., & Bruce, N. (2023, June 13). LPG is a fossil fuel. Experts explain why it's still Africa's best option for cleaner, greener cooking (for now). *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/lpg-is-a-fossil-fuel-experts-explain-why-its-still-africas-best-option-for-cleaner-greener-cooking-for-now-197723>
6. The Big Shift Global: About us. <https://bigshiftglobal.org/about-us>
7. The Big Shift Global campaign: <https://bigshiftglobal.org/end-fossil-fuel-finance>
8. Muttit, G. et al (2021). Step Off the Gas: International public finance, natural gas and clean alternatives in the Global South. IISD. <https://www.iisd.org/publications/natural-gas-finance-clean-alternatives-global-south>
9. Statistical review of global LPG, 2023. WLPGA/Argus Media.
10. World Nuclear Association. Heat Values of Various Fuels. <https://world-nuclear.org/information-library/facts-and-figures/heat-values-of-various-fuels>
11. See General Conversion Factors for Energy table, IEA World Energy Outlook. <https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/86ede39e-4436-42d7-ba2a-edf61467e070/WorldEnergyOutlook2023.pdf>
12. Global Energy Monitor Wiki: Zebrugge LNG Terminal. https://www.gem.wiki/Zeebrugge_LNG_Terminal
13. Global Energy Monitor, 2024 Europe Gas Tracker Report. https://globalenergymonitor.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/GEM_Europe_Gas_Tracker_2024.pdf
14. Global Energy Monitor, 2024 Europe Gas Tracker Report. https://globalenergymonitor.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/GEM_Europe_Gas_Tracker_2024.pdf
15. Table 2, WLPGA/Atlantic Consulting 2018: Substituting LPG for wood: carbon and deforestation impacts. <https://www.worldliquidgas.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Substituting-LPG-for-Wood-Carbon-and-Deforestation-Impacts-Updated.pdf>
16. IEA, 2023. Special report: A vision for clean cooking access for all (analysis). <https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/f63eebbc-a3df-4542-b2fb-364dd66a2199/AVisionforCleanCookingAccessforAll.pdf>
17. ClimaTiq. LPG emissions factor. <https://www.climatiq.io/data/emission-factor/85989164-d53d-46e7-b301-af34adac3033>
18. IEA, 2023. Special report: A vision for clean cooking access for all (analysis). <https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/f63eebbc-a3df-4542-b2fb-364dd66a2199/AVisionforCleanCookingAccessforAll.pdf>
19. Atlantic Consulting, July 2018. Substituting LPG for wood: carbon and deforestation impacts. A report to the World LPG Association. <https://www.worldliquidgas.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Substituting-LPG-for-Wood-Carbon-and-Deforestation-Impacts-Updated.pdf>
20. Hosonuma, N., Herold, M., De Sy, V., De Fries, R. S., Brockhaus, M., Verchot, L., Angelsen, A., & Romijn, E. (2012). An assessment of deforestation and forest degradation drivers in developing countries. *Environmental Research Letters*, 7(4), 044009. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/7/4/044009>. See Figure 5.
21. Ćukić, I., Kypridemos, C., Evans, A. W., Pope, D., & Puzzolo, E. (2021). Towards Sustainable Development Goal 7 "Universal Access to Clean Modern Energy": National Strategy in Rwanda to Scale Clean Cooking with Bottled Gas. *Energies*, 14(15), 4582. <https://doi.org/10.3390/en14154582>
22. Floess, E., Grieshop, A., Puzzolo, E., Pope, D., Leach, N., Smith, C. J., Gill-Wiehl, A., Landesman, K., & Bailis, R. (2023). Scaling up gas and electric cooking in low- and middle-income countries: climate threat or mitigation strategy with co-benefits? *Environmental Research Letters*, 18(3), 034010. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/acc501>
23. WHO, 2024. Household air pollution. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/household-air-pollution-and-health>
24. National Institute for Health and Care Research, 2023. CLEAN-Air Africa: addressing the disease burden from household air pollution. <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/story/clean-air-africa-addressing-disease-burden-household-air-pollution>
25. WHO, 2023. Malaria, key facts. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malaria>
26. IEA, 2022. Africa Energy Outlook, 2022. <https://www.iea.org/reports/africa-energy-outlook-2022/key-findings>
27. IEA, Africa Energy Outlook 2022 https://www.iea.org/reports/africa-energy-outlook-2022_p124



