

HEADED WEST

The Challenges and Opportunities Facing Exports of Wyoming Natural Gas to Decarbonizing Western Markets

AUTHORS: **Melissa Firestone, Esther Wagner** | School of Energy Resources, University of Wyoming

WHAT THE STUDY WAS ABOUT

This paper provides an overview of natural gas production in Wyoming, explains the challenges facing exports of the State's natural gas posed by other states' energy policies, and describes how Wyoming is uniquely positioned to thrive given the low-carbon attributes of its natural gas resource.

WHY IT WAS NEEDED

To explore opportunities the State can leverage and defend its existing market share and create new markets, including its low-methane intensity natural gas, the increase in the proportion of Differentiated Natural Gas (DNG) by Wyoming producers and the State's leadership, in the areas of carbon capture, use, and storage (CCUS), and hydrogen produced from natural gas.

WHAT THE AUTHORS CONCLUDED

Wyoming is uniquely positioned to thrive in the face of state and federal carbon management policies aimed at significantly reducing or eliminating the development and use of natural gas as a fuel source. Even though the State exports most of its natural gas to states to the west that have adopted energy and environmental policies that disfavor natural gas, Wyoming holds significant advantages to defend the State's existing market share and create new markets through its low-methane intensity natural gas, DNG, CCUS and emerging technologies such as hydrogen production.

