

Topic Introduction



Summarize your understanding of each paragraph.

Alkanes are any of the series of saturated hydrocarbons including methane, ethane, propane, and higher members. Scan the list of the first ten alkanes found on a page in this topic.

Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas. Methane is also the main ingredient in natural gas. Because methane can be captured from landfills, it can be burned to produce electricity, heat buildings, or power garbage trucks.

Ethane has many uses. It is abundant in natural gas commonly used in many homes. It is used to produce a chemical called ethylene, which is a chemical needed in manufacturing products like plastic, automotive antifreeze, and detergent.

Propane is used as fuel in furnaces for heat, in cooking, as an energy source for water heaters, laundry dryers, barbecues, portable stoves, and motor vehicles. NOTE THAT ... Commercially available "propane" fuel, or LPG, is not pure