



Natural Gas STAR International Partner Challenge

International Partner Challenge Process and Timeframe

The following steps outline the process and anticipated timeframes for a company's International Partner Challenge participation. Timing is flexible and subject to mutual agreement between the Natural Gas STAR International Program and the partner company. The timeline below can be used as a guide:

- Initial U.S. EPA–Partner Meeting**—This service begins with U.S. EPA having an initial meeting with the partner company representative(s) to discuss the International Partner Challenge process, proposed operational boundaries for the analysis, current methane emissions reduction activities, data needs, and overall timing. U.S. EPA will provide International Partner Challenge documents (e.g., data gathering sheets sample report, emissions reduction history) for review prior to this meeting.
- Refine/Agree to Scope and Anticipated Timing (1 to 2 weeks, if needed)**—Partner may take additional time, as needed, beyond initial meeting to determine project boundaries, evaluate data gathering capabilities, agree to participation, etc.
- Data Collection (2 to 3 weeks, as determined by partner)**—Partner completes data gathering sheet and/or indicates where default emission values should be used. U.S. EPA has developed data gathering sheets for the distribution, transmission, gathering and processing, and production sectors. These forms are available on the Natural Gas STAR website at epa.gov/gasstar/tools/partner-challenge.html.
- Data Review (1 week)**—U.S. EPA reviews collected company-specific data and, as needed, conducts follow up with the partner for clarification.
- Analysis and Report Development (2 to 3 weeks)**—U.S. EPA assembles partner data, develops the emissions inventory, and determines recommended projects.
- Present Study Findings**—Following delivery of the report, U.S. EPA will schedule a follow-up meeting with the partner company to discuss outcomes, comments, questions, etc. U.S. EPA will revise the report per partner feedback, if required.
- Follow-up with Partner Company (ongoing)**—In order to understand impacts and benefits of the International Partner Challenge, U.S. EPA will maintain contact with the partner to offer assistance with the next steps and/or learn if any recommended practices or technologies will be implemented.

Alternate Option: Conduct Analysis Based on Publicly-Available Data

As another way to provide emission reduction opportunities and ideas if a partner does not have the resources to devote to providing data, U.S. EPA can conduct the International Partner Challenge analysis and author a findings memorandum upfront, based on a desk top review of publicly-available data. This approach provides a high level estimate of major emission sources and potential emission reduction opportunities for a company of like size. Upon receiving the results, if there is interest, U.S. EPA can then work with the partner to refine estimates based on company-specific data.

For more information about the Natural Gas STAR International Partner Challenge, please visit our website at epa.gov/gasstar/tools/partner-challenge.html.