

New Methods for Identifying and Implementing Gas Saving Technologies

Starting this summer, the Natural Gas STAR Program will develop individual company-specific emissions reduction opportunity reports for every Gas STAR partner. Every report will outline additional cost-effective technologies that each partner company could implement and the potential economic benefit and emissions reduction. The goal of these reports is to encourage consideration of additional proven methane reduction technologies that partners are not currently implementing.

Partners report innovative methane reduction technologies and techniques to the Natural Gas STAR Program each year. Since 1993, partners have achieved cumulative emissions reductions worth over \$450 million through the implementation of these Partner Reported Opportunities (PROs). PROs account for over 80 percent of all Natural Gas STAR methane reductions — proof of their great importance and effectiveness. Many of the PROs have a one-year or less return on investment and yield improved operating efficiencies.

Some of the most widely implemented PROs include:

Distribution Sector

- Redesign blowdown systems and alter emergency shutdown (ESD) practices;
- Install excess flow valves;
- Replace gas starters with air;

Welcome New Partner!

Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) is a new Gas STAR partner. Northern Natural Gas is based in Omaha, Nebraska, and operates an interstate natural gas pipeline extending from the Permian Basin in Texas to the Upper Midwest.

- Test gate station pressure relief valves with nitrogen;
- Insert gas main flexible liners; and
- Inject blowdown gas into low pressure mains.

Processing Sector

- New Gas STAR Sector – Reported PROs still under analysis.

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Production Sector

- Install vapor recovery units;
- Install flares;
- Install plunger lift systems in gas wells;
- Use electric pumps in place of gas assisted pumps; and
- Use instrument air systems in place of gas operated pneumatics.

Transmission Sector

- Use fixed/portable compressors for pipeline pumpdown;
- Replace wet gas seals with dry seals;
- Install vapor recovery systems;
- Use Clock Spring® repair; and
- Redesign blowdown systems and alter emergency shutdown practices.

In addition to outlining promising, additional PROs, each company-specific report will contain an emissions reduction comparison between your company and aggregated data of overall peer-company emissions reduction accomplishments. This comparison will demonstrate which practices are most commonly used and their level of success. All comparison data will be at the aggregated level, protecting the confidentiality of individual corporate activities.

One example of a company that has chosen to share their information publicly and has found great potential in PROs is the 2001 Transmission Partner of the Year, Duke Energy Gas Transmission

(DEGT). DEGT reported over 535 million cubic feet (Mmcf) of methane emission reductions in 2001 alone through implementation of five PROs.

In addition to the company-specific PRO opportunity reports, Gas STAR will develop many new PRO fact sheets this year and will improve the organization of the PRO and BMP portion of our Web site to make accessing and analyzing this data easier. Currently there are over 50 PRO fact sheets available to Gas STAR partners. To access an index of PRO fact sheets, partners may visit <http://www.epa.gov/gasstar/pro/index.htm>.

Technology Transfer Workshops

Processors

June 17 – Amarillo, TX

The Gas Processors Association (GPA), Pioneer Natural Resources and EPA will sponsor a processors workshop on June 17th in Amarillo, TX.

Both workshops will have presentations and round-table discussions covering successful and cost-effective methods for reducing methane emissions. These workshops are open to both Gas STAR partners and non-partners.

technologies in the oil and gas industries. Attendees at the processors workshop will have the opportunity to travel off-site to visit a Pioneer gas plant and see many of these technologies in practice.

Producers

June 19 – New Orleans, LA

Murphy Exploration & Production Company, the Gulf Coast Environmental Affairs Group, the American Petroleum Institute and EPA will sponsor a producers workshop on June 19th in New Orleans, LA.

Among the numerous activities conducted during the full-day workshops are technical presentations on company reported best practices, cost-effective solutions for methane emission reduction, new online economic analysis and data collection software, and emerging

For additional information about attending these workshops, please contact Roger Fernandez at fernandez.roger@epa.gov or (202) 564-5235.

Save the Date

Annual Workshop October 28-30 – Houston, TX

Save the date for the 10th Annual Natural Gas STAR Implementation Workshop in Houston, TX from

October 28-30, 2003. The conference will allow partners and other interested parties to obtain information about the most current, cost-effective emission reduction technologies and practices, exchange

ideas with other STAR partners, and learn about new Gas STAR Program activities and initiatives. Sponsorship opportunities are available — call Lauren Lariviere at (781) 674-7250 for more information.

Announcement

The 3rd International Methane and Nitrous Oxide Mitigation Conference Has Been Postponed

The 3rd International Methane & Nitrous Oxide Mitigation Conference, originally scheduled for September 14-19, 2003, has been postponed to November 17-21, 2003, due to uncertainty over the SARS virus. The conference location will remain in Beijing.

The conference will offer a very unique opportunity for natural gas experts from around the world to:

- Share experiences in developing innovative, project-oriented solutions to the problem of methane and nitrous oxide emissions;
- Network with high-level government and corporate gas officials from China, the former Soviet Union and many other countries; and

- Learn about earning and transferring greenhouse gas emissions credits to help developed countries meet emissions reduction targets.

For more details, see http://www.ergweb.com/methane_china/index.htm

Natural Gas STAR Recognizes Partner Achievements

In 2001, the Natural Gas STAR Program enjoyed its best year to date with reported methane emissions reductions of more than 43 billion cubic feet (Bcf), saving partners nearly \$130 million. To recognize partners for their emissions reduction accomplishments the Natural Gas STAR Program recently provided all reporting partners with a letter and certificate of achievement.

EPA received an overwhelming response from Natural Gas STAR partners as a result of this recognition.

Numerous partners publicized their participation and success in the Program on company Web sites, through press releases, and by displaying the recognition certificates prominently in their offices. Others asked for additional certificates — one for each operating unit that participates in Natural Gas STAR. In addition, several partners said that EPA's acknowledgment resulted in upper management's recognition of their company's methane emissions reduction efforts and also sparked interest among subsidiary companies in joining Gas STAR.

If you are interested in receiving additional copies of your company's recognition certificate, please contact EPA or your STAR Service Representative. For more ideas on how to publicize your company's Natural Gas STAR achievements, visit the online Communications Toolkit available at <http://www.epa.gov/gasstar/toolkit.htm>.

Keep up the great work!

2003 Reporting Season Reminder

If you have sent in your Natural Gas STAR 2002 Annual Report already, thank you! If you have not yet taken the time to do so, please submit your report as soon as possible. Reporting is essential because it:

- Creates a permanent record of your company's voluntary reductions;
- Demonstrates to company management the financial and environmental benefits of participating in Natural Gas STAR;
- Drives the technology transfer process; and
- Proves that voluntary programs can be effective at reaching environmental goals.

If you have never used our online reporting system, we strongly encourage you to take advantage of this quick and easy tool. To access the online reporting forms, go to the

Natural Gas STAR Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/gasstar> and click on "Online Tools" → "Online Reporting." Your company password was sent to you in an e-mail message; contact your Service Representative or an EPA Program Manager if you would like a reminder.

The 2002 reporting forms are also available as downloadable Microsoft Word files or Adobe PDF files that may be completed offline and submitted via e-mail, fax, or standard mail. These forms are located on the Natural Gas STAR Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/gasstar/forms.htm>.

Remember that reporting also makes your company eligible for recognition at the Natural Gas STAR Annual Implementation Workshop and Awards Ceremony!

This reporting season EPA hopes to surpass the significant level of methane emissions reductions achieved by partners in 2001. Following the 2002 reporting season, EPA will recognize partners by sending a company-specific emissions reduction opportunity report to each reporting partner. The report will provide a historical perspective of each partner's accomplishments in reducing methane emissions, outline additional technologies for consideration and will enable partners to compare their progress with other Natural Gas STAR companies in their industry sector.

Tell Us What You Think!

The Natural Gas STAR Program would like to hear what you think about the Partner Updates. Contact EPA's Gas STAR Program to comment on the article topics, timeliness, format of the Updates, and to request any additional information. We appreciate your feedback. Thank you!

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