The Methane Challenge Program

The Natural Gas STAR Methane Challenge Program is a voluntary program founded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in collaboration with oil and natural gas companies. The program recognizes companies that make specific and transparent commitments to reduce methane emissions. More than 60 companies from all segments of the industry — production, gathering and boosting, transmission and storage, and distribution — are now program partners.

About the Program

The Methane Challenge Program publicly recognizes U.S. companies in the oil and gas sector that commit to reduce methane emissions. Reducing methane emissions lowers operational risk, increases efficiency, and improves air quality. By participating in the program, partners demonstrate their commitment and concern for the environment. Companies may join either one or both of the commitment options:

- The **BMP Commitment Option** focuses on implementing demonstrated, commercially available emissions-reducing technologies and best management practices (BMPs) across the partners' operations within five years. Under this commitment option, partners select one or more of the EPA-recommended BMPs to implement. The BMPs cover 9 emission sources from activities across the oil and natural gas value chain.

- The **ONE Future Emissions Intensity Commitment Option** is an industry-led partnership, which provides the flexibility to determine the most cost-effective pathway to reduce their calculated company's segment emission rate to 1% or less of oil or gas throughput by 2025. Companies agree to show progress according to specific reporting protocols.

epa.gov/gasstar/methane-challenge-program

Program Benefits

Partners enjoy the following benefits:

Information Sharing and Technology Transfer Workshops to help partners learn about new and innovative technologies and practices to reduce methane emissions.

Peer Networking at workshops and other activities to build strong networks with industry peers and keep up on industry trends, initiatives, and the latest technologies.

Voluntary Record of Accomplishments and feedback from EPA to partners through individual, detailed summary reports.

Public Recognition from EPA by highlighting partner achievements in articles, industry journals, technical studies, and fact sheets. EPA helps partners communicate achievements to shareholders, customers, and the public.

Natural Gas Supply Chain
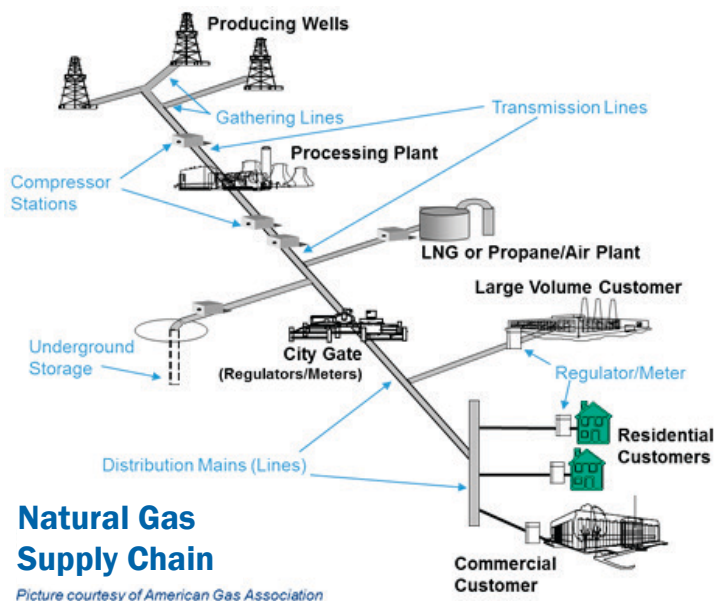
Picture courtesy of American Gas Association

Continuous Improvement

EPA is committed to continuously improving the Methane Challenge Program to maximize emission reductions. EPA encourages partners to expand their program commitments at any time and to propose additional emissions sources for inclusion in the program. To facilitate innovation, EPA will work with partners to identify new BMPs and assess their suitability for adoption in the program even before they become widely commercially available.

How It Works

To participate in the Methane Challenge Program, companies:

• Sign a Partnership Agreement with EPA to document their commitments under the Methane Challenge Program.

• Develop an implementation plan that outlines key milestones for adopting best practices to limit methane emissions from key sources and/or to reduce segment emission rate to 1% or less of oil or gas throughput.

• Implement the plan and evaluate adoption of new commitments.

• Collect and submit annual data on methane emission reductions and/or progress towards source-specific commitments, after the first full calendar year since joining the program.

Take the Challenge!

The Program is accepting new partners at any time. For information on how to join, please visit: https://www.epa.gov/gasstar/join-methane-challenge-program.

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To learn about the ONE Future Coalition, visit: http://www.onefuture.us.
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