

The problem: Increasing stakeholder attention to methane emissions in the oil and gas sector risks undermining the case for an increased role for gas as a lower-carbon fuel. Methane is at least 84 times more potent in the atmosphere than CO₂ over a 20-year time horizon, and some consider the oil and gas industry the largest man-made emitter of methane after agriculture. The International Energy Agency identified minimizing methane emissions from upstream oil and gas production as one of five key global greenhouse gas mitigation opportunities.¹

The solution: The CCAC Oil & Gas Methane Partnership provides companies with a credible mechanism to systematically and responsibly address their methane emissions – and to demonstrate this systematic approach and results to stakeholders.

The CCAC conducted a year-long consultation process with experts from oil and gas companies, IPIECA, NGOs, reporting initiatives and other experts to develop the Partnership. The goal was to create a mechanism that met the accountability requirements of stakeholders and was implementable by companies.

The CCAC Oil & Gas Methane Partnership was officially launched at the UN Secretary General’s Climate Summit in New York in September 2014. Current Partner companies are **BP, Engie E&P, Eni, Pemex, PTT, Repsol, Shell, Southwestern, Statoil** and **Total**. Key technical partners include the Environmental Defense Fund, the U.S. EPA’s Natural Gas Star program, the Global Methane Initiative and the World Bank’s Global Gas Flaring Reduction Initiative.

Three international investor groups representing over \$20 trillion in assets have issued a [joint statement](#) calling on companies to join the CCAC Oil & Gas Methane Partnership.²

The commitment: A company joining the CCAC Oil & Gas Methane Partnership voluntarily commits itself to the following in its participating operations:

- Survey for nine “core” sources that account for much of the methane emissions in typical upstream operations;
- Evaluate existing cost-effective technology options to address uncontrolled sources;
- Report progress on surveys, project evaluations and mitigation projects in a transparent, credible manner that demonstrates results.

¹ IEA (2015) Bridging the Gap, and (2013) World Energy Outlook Special Report: Redrawing the Energy – Climate Map

² Joint investor statement by IIGCC, INCR and IGCC:

<http://www.iigcc.org/publications/publication/joint-investor-statement-on-methane-emissions-in-support-of-ccac>

Partner companies decide the scale of their participation. There is no minimum share of assets for participation, but companies are expected to expand this share over time. The emphasis is on companies learning by doing and achieving continuous improvement over time.

The benefits: The CCAC Oil & Gas Methane Partnership can provide

- credibility and recognition for the company's past and present efforts to reduce methane emissions;
- increased product recoverability leading to increased gas sales volume and revenue;
- operational and safety benefits through enhanced asset integrity;
- harmonisation with other reporting and disclosure standards;
- best practice sharing and support to engage non-OECD JV partners;
- focus on proven, relatively low-cost, scalable, operationally simple activities to reduce emissions;
- development of a reliable industry data set on the climate credentials of natural gas.

The CCAC supports a participating company's efforts, including with technical assistance and by encouraging development of policies and practices that promote and support oil and gas methane emission reduction activities within CCAC member countries and beyond. The Partnership benefits from the political support of key CCAC governments, including France, Nigeria, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States.

There is no fee for participation and no financial penalties.

Next steps: The CCAC Oil & Gas Methane Partnership is creating a global standard in controlling methane emissions in oil and gas systems. Further details of the Partnership may be found in the Partnership Framework document³ and by contacting the Partnership Administrator (philip.swanson.affiliate@unep.org).

³ <http://www.ccacoalition.org/en/resources/ccac-oil-gas-methane-partnership-framework-document>