

# API METHANE ACTION PLAN: THE MAP

The United States is a global leader in energy production and emissions reductions. Voluntary and regulatory efforts to reduce methane emissions from new and existing sources in the natural gas and oil industry are critical components of meaningful climate action. Thanks to innovation and concerted industry action, **average methane emissions intensity declined by nearly 66 percent across all seven major producing regions from 2011 to 2021.**

## API Strategic Approach to Methane Management and Emissions Reduction

U.S. natural gas and oil companies are working diligently to reduce methane emissions through innovative facility design, improvements in operational practices and procedures, advancements in detecting and measuring emissions, and improved accuracy in emissions reporting data. By strategically focusing efforts on these four critical areas, our industry is establishing a blueprint to continuously drive methane emissions reductions.

### Industry Action Through The Environmental Partnership

[The Environmental Partnership](#), whose members make up nearly 70% of the U.S. onshore natural gas and oil industry, is helping to drive industry collaboration and accelerating progress on methane emissions reductions.

### 6 actions industry is taking to tackle methane emissions through The Environmental Partnership's programs:

- 1 Reducing Flaring through facility design, takeaway capacity planning and alternative beneficial use.**  
In 2022, there was a 14% reduction in total flare volumes and a 2.4% reduction in flare intensity from the previous year.
- 2 Replacing, Removing or Retrofitting High-bleed Pneumatic Controllers with low- or zero-emitting devices.**  
Since the program started in 2017, more than 14,100 zero-emissions controllers have been installed and more than 114,000 gas-driven controllers have been replaced.
- 3 Monitoring Manual Liquids Unloading to minimize emissions by ensuring all wellhead vents are closed to atmosphere.**  
In 2022, participants monitored more than 23,100 liquid unloading events.
- 4 Minimizing Compressor Emissions by implementing design and operation changes.**  
In 2022, participants facilitated rod packing changes on more than 10,000 reciprocating compressors.
- 5 Detecting and Repairing Leaks through regular component inspections.**  
In 2022, companies implemented detection and monitoring plans that resulted in a 0.07% leak occurrence rate (or less) across more than 202 million components at 157,000 sites.
- 6 Minimizing Pipeline Blowdown Emissions through operational changes prioritizing alternative beneficial use of gas that would otherwise be vented.**  
In 2022, emission reduction practices were implemented during 3,600 pipeline blowdowns.

# API METHANE ACTION PLAN: THE POLICY MAP

API supports cost-effective policies and direct regulation of methane for new and existing sources across the supply chain. We are committed to working with regulators to establish policies that promote innovation and advance the progress made in reducing emissions. Technological innovation and effective regulation both have an important role to play in reducing methane emissions while enabling the United States to continue producing the energy our economy and our allies rely on.

## Effective regulation of methane should:

- Incorporate cost-effective policies that achieve methane emission reductions across the supply chain,
- Recognize and reflect industry's commitment to continue making progress through voluntary industry initiatives, like The Environmental Partnership, that promote improved performance during the multi-year development and implementation of regulations addressing existing sources,
- Recognize and promote the significant development and deployment of new technologies and practices to better understand, detect, and mitigate emissions,
- Avoid creating duplicative or overlapping regulatory regimes at the federal and state levels,
- Encourage adherence and compliance with provisions of Clean Air Act (CAA)

## EPA Methane Rule (0000b & EG 0000c)

Commonsense changes to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed rule, *Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review* are critical to ensure that the final rule is cost-effective, technically feasible, and legally durable.

## API is advocating for a final rule that:

1. Fully leverages the capabilities of advanced detection technologies,
2. Positions EPA to actively manage the Super-Emitter Response Program,
3. Allows the responsible use of flaring where necessary due to infeasibility of alternatives,
4. Adopts a flexible approach to pneumatic controllers and pumps,
5. Establishes reasonable compliance timelines based on the applicability date of EPA's 2022 Supplemental Proposal,
6. Maintains a definition of "legally and practically enforceable limits" consistent with the principles of cooperative federalism, and
7. Applies work practice standards to applicable sources while streamlining requirements for record-keeping and reporting.