



# METHANE REDUCTION PROGRAM

Reducing methane emissions to deliver cleaner air

Methane has more than 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide over the first 20 years after it reaches the atmosphere. Even though CO<sub>2</sub> has a longer-lasting effect, methane sets the pace for warming in the near term and is more destructive to our health. For the second year in a row, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) scientists observed a record annual increase in atmospheric levels of methane, a powerful, heat-trapping greenhouse gas and the second biggest contributor to human-caused global warming after carbon dioxide. NOAA's preliminary analysis showed the annual increase in atmospheric methane during 2021 was 17 parts per billion (ppb) – the largest annual increase recorded since systematic measurements began in 1983. The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that the energy sector accounts for around 40 percent of the emissions from human activity.

In November 2021, the Global Methane Pledge was launched at COP26 to catalyze action to reduce methane emissions. Led by the United States and the European Union, the Pledge now has over 100 countries on board, representing nearly 50 percent of global anthropogenic methane emissions and over two-thirds of global GDP. Participants joining the Pledge agree to take voluntary actions to contribute to a collective effort to reduce global methane emissions by at least 30 percent from 2020 levels by 2030, which could eliminate over 0.2 degrees Celsius warming by 2050.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & CAPACITY BUILDING

In support of the Global Methane Pledge, USAID's AmpUp program can provide technical assistance for – methane monitoring, measurement, and mitigation; technical studies; and regulatory and policy framework support. The program can focus on the full spectrum from upstream oil and gas, coal mine methane, midstream gas gathering, processing, and transportation facilities, to downstream gas distribution. Activities under this workstream contribute to USAID's Climate Strategy, specifically *Intermediate Result 1.1: Catalyze urgent mitigation (emissions reduction and sequestration) from energy.*

AmpUp's Methane Reduction Program engages a range of stakeholders, including governments, financial institutions, project developers, technology providers, and other key decision makers. The program will convene a diverse set of stakeholders to share their expertise and approaches to methane mitigation and reduction. Experienced advisors and practitioners in legal, financial, technical, and strategic planning will build the capabilities and knowledge of government officials and the private sector.

The program will focus on:

- Promoting cost-effective, near-term methane abatement and recovery
- Sharing global best practices for methane monitoring, tracking, and mapping (e.g., sensors, satellites, drones, data analytics platforms, etc.)
- Reducing informational, institutional, and market barriers to project development by providing tools, training, and conducting technology demonstration projects
- Economic analysis and financial modeling to evaluate potential/actual impact
- Conducting pilot measurements and collecting available data related to methane emissions
- Assessing methane mitigation gaps, needs and sharing best management practices
- Conducting feasibility studies and sustainability analyses of methane abatement interventions

## PROJECTED OUTCOMES

- Improved policies and frameworks to support methane reduction
- Increased institutional capacity to mobilize investment in and implementation of projects
- Increased coordination and capacity of relevant institutions across the public and private sectors to develop appropriate policies or frameworks to serve as foundational steps for developing methane mitigation strategies and practices
- Identification of potential project opportunities and increased investment in and implementation of methane mitigation projects

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