

## Why Target Methane?

Methane is the second most abundant greenhouse gas in the atmosphere, accounting for about 20 percent of global anthropogenic methane emissions. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, with a global warming potential (GWP) 25 times greater than carbon dioxide over a 100-year time horizon. Methane is also a precursor to ground-level ozone and smog, and contributes to climate change and air quality issues.



Leading methane action since 2004

A new, up-to-date fact sheet is under development.

## Global Methane Emissions by Sector

Global anthropogenic methane emissions by 2020 are estimated to be 28,000 metric tons of methane equivalent (MTCO<sub>2</sub>E). Approximately 70 percent of these emissions will be targeted by the Global Methane Initiative (GMI): agriculture (manure management), coal mines, MSW, oil and natural gas systems, and wastewater (see Figure 1).

GMI Partner Countries (see [www.globalmethane.org](http://www.globalmethane.org) for complete list) represent approximately 70 percent of the world's estimated anthropogenic methane emissions. Partner countries' major methane emission sources vary greatly, and thus the opportunities for methane capture and use in each country also vary.

## Global Emissions Projections

Global anthropogenic methane emissions are projected to increase by nearly 9 percent over anticipated 2020 levels to 10,220 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>E by 2030 (see Figure 2).

From 2020 to 2030, the relative proportions of the agriculture (manure management), coal mines, and wastewater sectors are projected to

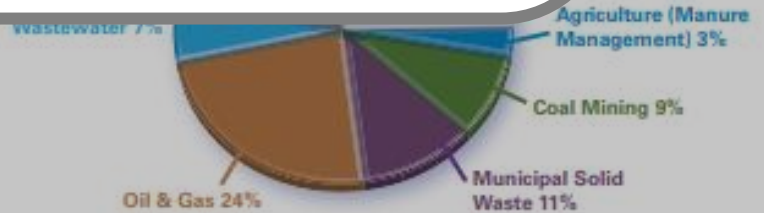
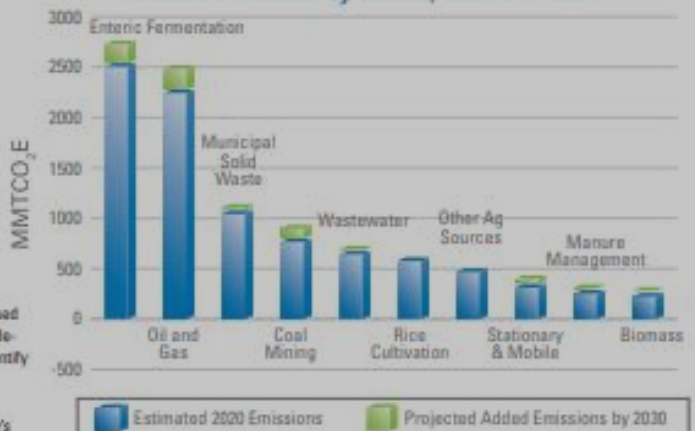


Figure 2: Estimated and Projected Global Anthropogenic Methane Emissions by Source, 2020 and 2030



<sup>1</sup> The fifth report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), released in 2013, included methane GWP values of 28 to 34. The United States and other developed countries are currently using the fourth report's GWP value of 25 to quantify the climate impact of U.S.-government-supported methane reduction projects.

<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all data are from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA's) *Global Anthropogenic Emissions of Non-CO<sub>2</sub> Greenhouse Gases: 1990-2030 report*. [www.epa.gov/climatechange/Downloads/EPAactivities/EPA\\_Global\\_NonCO2\\_Projections\\_Dec2012.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/Downloads/EPAactivities/EPA_Global_NonCO2_Projections_Dec2012.pdf).