

Key Messages

The fifth edition of UNEP's International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO) publication, **An Eye on Methane**, takes stock of progress on harnessing a methane data revolution that can accelerate methane reductions at a global scale. Methane is responsible for roughly a third of the planet's current warming.

UNEP's IMEO provides open, reliable and actionable data to governments and companies who can use it to reduce emissions. The latest report presents progress in many areas. Oil and gas companies are increasing transparency through the Oil and Gas Methane Partnership 2.0, while responses to alerts from IMEO's Methane Alert and Response System have grown twelve-fold. IMEO has also increased efforts on sharing data, training key actors and expanding its work into significant methane-emitting sectors like steel, agriculture and waste.

Progress must accelerate rapidly, however, to meet the the Global Methane Pledge target – a 30 per cent reduction in global methane emissions by 2030. IMEO is a core implementing partner to the Global Methane Pledge, supporting the 160 signatories with data and tools that empower them to reduce emissions, meet Paris Agreement targets and buy time for wider decarbonization.

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY TRANSPARENCY ON METHANE IS MAKING BIG STRIDES, BUT WIDER ADOPTION MUST FOLLOW

- ▶ The Oil and Gas Methane Partnership 2.0 (OGMP 2.0) is the global standard for methane emissions measurement and reporting in the oil and gas sector – driving emission reductions through transparency and empirical data.
- ▶ OGMP 2.0 forms the basis of methane regulations in the world's largest buying market, the European Union, while shaping regulations and transparency initiatives in other key markets.
- ▶ Over the past five years, membership has more than doubled to 153 companies in 90 countries, covering 42 per cent of global oil and gas production.
- ▶ In 2025, OGMP 2.0 members reported total emissions of 2.5 million tons of methane, up from 2 million tons reported in 2024, revealing previously undetected or poorly quantified emissions.
- ▶ As members measure emissions and uncover new sources, many are also mitigating those emissions in real time.



- ▶ Of the companies that reported emissions data, 65 companies, representing 17 per cent of global oil and gas production, achieved Gold Standard, the highest level of OGMP 2.0 reporting. Some 50 companies representing a further 15 per cent achieved Gold Standard Pathway. Another 22 companies reported emissions data but did not meet Gold Standard requirements.
- ▶ In total, 32 per cent of global oil and gas production is at Gold Standard or on track to be Gold Standard in 1-2 years, positioning a large chunk of the global industry to effectively mitigate emissions.
- ▶ By the end of 2025, six additional studies will be initiated, including two baseline studies in Nigeria and Colombia, as well as an agricultural study in Colombia.
- ▶ IMEO is already advancing research on waste sector emissions at a major landfill in Spain, alongside partners including the European Space Agency.
- ▶ IMEO is also developing estimates for country-level agricultural methane emissions from rice and livestock through measurement-based, multi-sector baseline studies.

GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY RESPONSES TO METHANE ALERTS ARE RISING, BUT NOT FAST ENOUGH

- ▶ Through the Methane Alert and Response System (MARS), UNEP has sent over 3,500 alerts about major emission events to 33 countries.
- ▶ IMEO has documented 25 mitigation actions in ten countries since MARS was launched, including six new countries during the past year.
- ▶ Last year, only one per cent of MARS alerts – which are based on satellite monitoring and artificial intelligence-supported analysis – received a response. Now that figure has risen to 12 per cent.
- ▶ However, 90 per cent of MARS alerts still go unaddressed. Governments and companies must increase their engagement and deliver action.
- ▶ New system capabilities will target coal mines and waste sites – sectors where measurement is scarce, but targeted mitigation opportunities exist.

IMEO IS BUILDING THE SCIENCE FOUNDATION FOR TARGETED MITIGATION

- ▶ To date, IMEO has supported 46 methane science studies across six continents. In 2025, five studies began and seven were completed. These studies have filled knowledge gaps by testing new technologies for measuring emissions from oil and gas facilities and quantifying emissions from coal-producing regions.
- ▶ The work is expanding to agriculture and waste – sectors responsible for 60 per cent of human-caused methane emissions – to fill data gaps and guide targeted action.

PROVIDING DATA AND TRAINING TO INCREASE ACTION

- ▶ The [Eye on Methane data platform](#) provides open access to validated methane data from multiple sources. Since COP29, the platform has drawn over 75,000 views and thousands of downloads.
- ▶ UNEP, through IMEO, builds knowledge and networks to turn data into action through its Methane Training Series, which has trained nearly 2,000 engineers, asset managers, regulators and policymakers across almost 40 countries – including 300 in 2025.
- ▶ These sessions – complemented by technical guidance and targeted national engagement – ensure stakeholders can interpret data, apply best practices and overcome institutional barriers to deliver methane progress.

ENABLING RAPID MITIGATION ACROSS THE STEEL SUPPLY CHAIN

- ▶ IMEO's Steel Methane Programme (SMP) targets emissions from metallurgical (met) coal, which adds on average a quarter to steel's climate footprint. Mining met coal produces around 12 million tons of methane emissions each year.
- ▶ These emissions can be mitigated at just one per cent of the cost of steel. Despite the availability of low-cost solutions – like ventilation air methane oxidation and drainage systems – met coal methane remains largely overlooked in steel decarbonisation efforts.
- ▶ The SMP will bring new transparency to the sector through a Steel Methane Transparency Database of mine-level emissions that combines empirical studies, satellite data and industry partnerships.