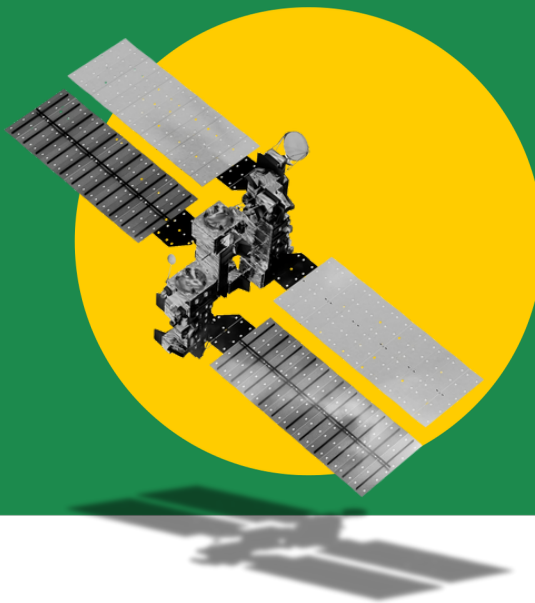


Methane



The UN Climate Change Conference (COP30) will take place in Belém, Brazil, from November 10-21. Key expectations include the presentation of new national climate action plans (NDCs), progress on finance from COP29, and discussions on scaling innovative climate finance mechanisms. The conference will also feature the COP30 Action Agenda, a program to engage businesses, civil society, and various levels of government in practical climate solutions.

Overview

Anthropogenic methane emissions drive roughly 30 per cent of the global warming we experience today. We must reduce methane emissions by about a third to keep the goals of the Paris Agreement within reach.

The IPCC's latest Synthesis Report notes that reducing methane is one of the fastest, most cost-effective ways to immediately slow the current rate of climate change as we decarbonize.

Since 2021, 160 signatories have joined the Global Methane Pledge and committed to collectively reduce global methane emissions at least 30 per cent below 2020 levels by 2030. UNEP's International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO) and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) are core implementing partners of the Pledge.

While action is needed across all emitting sectors, cuts in methane emissions from the fossil fuel sector will need to provide half of the reduction in human-caused methane emissions needed by 2030 to limit warming to 1.5°C, according to the CCAC and International Energy Agency.

Key messages

Cutting methane is our fastest, most cost-effective lever for near-term climate stability. Because it is short-lived, rapid cuts in methane can quickly slow warming as we decarbonize our economies, helping to avert dangerous climate tipping points.

Solutions are available and cost-effective today. Innovation and credible data have made the invisible, visible.

Much of the fossil fuel sector's methane emissions can be eliminated with existing, affordable solutions, while also improving operational efficiency.

The fossil fuel sector has a pivotal role to play. Over half of the required methane cuts must come from fossil fuels by 2030. While the industry has made ambitious commitments, they must be backed by transparency and credible data to deliver reductions.

Markets are demanding cleaner fuels. Strong methane performance is becoming a condition for market access driven by importers like the European Union, Japan, Korea and others.

Agriculture and waste offer additional opportunities. Improved livestock management, innovative feed additives and better waste management can curb emissions while boosting farmer incomes, food security and circular economy gains.

Health, food, energy security and economic co-benefits are immediate. By 2030 targeted methane cuts from fossil fuels, waste and agriculture sectors can prevent up to 180,000 premature deaths and 19 million tonnes of crop losses per year due to reduced ozone exposure, and about 44 billion hours of lost labour due to heat exposure by 2050, providing US\$ 280 billion in direct economic benefits.

What to expect at COP30?

The **Global Methane Pledge Ministerial** will convene high-level representatives across government and civil society to review progress and highlight new national and sectoral commitments.

UNEP and the CCAC will publish the **Global Methane Status Report**, providing an assessment of progress to date reducing emissions towards the Global Methane Pledge target.

Ministers, NGOs, industry and other stakeholders will gather for UNEP's **IMEO Ministerial** to assess how science and transparent data are scaling progress to mitigate emissions.

What's UNEP doing?

UNEP is at the forefront of methane emissions reductions in line with the [Paris Agreement](#) goal of keeping global temperature rise well below 2°C. UNEP's work revolves around two pillars: data and policy.

UNEP helps governments and companies turn methane data into action through the [International Methane Emissions Observatory \(IMEO\)](#) – using its unique, empirically verified global emissions database to target the biggest methane sources and drive strategic, science-based mitigation. IMEO provides open, reliable and actionable data to the people with the agency to reduce methane emissions.

UNEP also fosters high-level commitments through advocacy work and supports countries to implement measures that reduce methane emissions through the [Climate and Clean Air Coalition \(CCAC\)](#), which hosts the secretariat of the Global Methane Pledge.

UNEP's International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO) and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) are core implementing partners of the Pledge.

Further reading

UNEP's International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO)

UNEP An Eye on Methane 2025 report and Eye on Methane data platform

UNEP, CCAC and IEA's The Imperative of Cutting Methane from Fossil Fuels

UNEP and CCAC's Global Methane Assessment: Benefits and Costs of Mitigating Methane Emissions

Fossil Fuel Regulatory Programme

Technology and Economic Assessment Panel

Global Methane Pledge Support

Lowering Organic Waste Methane

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