

# Solving Pennsylvania's Methane Problem

*Reducing natural gas emissions helps communities, economy, and climate*

Pennsylvania is the second largest producer of natural gas --- and as a result it's also one of the largest producers of methane pollution. These emissions represent a public health hazard, waste of a valuable energy resource, and threaten our climate, but there are ready solutions for reducing emissions. Pennsylvania leaders have an opportunity to move forward with affordable, effective methane standards that can improve community health, strengthen the economy and stabilize the climate.

## Healthier Communities

Reducing emissions from the state's 100,000 active oil and gas facilities will also reduce health risks for the 1.5 million Pennsylvanians who live within ½ a mile of these facilities, as well as the millions of other families across the state. Here's how:

- In addition to methane, oil and gas facilities also emit a long list of **toxic pollutants** like hydrogen sulfide, toluene, xylene, and benzene.
- Oil and gas emissions can also **create more smog**, which puts families across the state at increased risk of experiencing **increased asthma attacks** -- last year, Pennsylvania smog levels caused more than **30,000 childhood asthma attacks**. Smog can also increase risk of developing **lung disease** and other **respiratory problems**.

## Stronger Economy, Better Jobs

Methane is the main component of natural gas, the same fuel source that generates **1/3 of our nation's electricity** and heats the majority of Pennsylvania homes. By requiring companies to reduce methane leakage and deliver more gas to consumers, Pennsylvania leaders can help strengthen the local economy and enhance a developing job market.

- In 2014, oil and gas producers reported leaking more than **100,000 tons of methane** into the atmosphere – that's **\$20 million** worth of gas that could be returned to the local economy every year.
- Proven, **cost-effective** technologies can help reduce **40%** of industry's emissions. Pennsylvania is home to more than **30 technology, service, and manufacturing companies** that specialize in methane mitigation and provide good-paying jobs that are expected to multiply if methane reductions are standardized across the state.

## Stable Climate

Methane is a potent greenhouse gas responsible for roughly **25% of current global warming** – reducing emissions will slow the record-breaking heat we have experienced over the last 3 years.

**“Reducing methane leaks is in the interest of the environment and the industry, and a means of ensuring the continued growth of natural gas as a fuel of choice. The rules should be implemented.”**

**-Scranton Times Tribune**

