Reducing Emissions in Texas



Industry is Working Hard to Reduce Methane Emissions in Texas

Methane Emissions are Falling

Methane emissions rates – emissions relative to production – were down nearly 70% in five of the largest producing regions in the U.S. between 2011 and 2019, according to data from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Energy Information Administration (EIA). Leveraging smart technologies and new innovations and advancements provide clean, reliable and efficient energy to consumers.

Industry-led Best Practices

The Texas Methane & Flaring Coalition (the Coalition) is working to collectively identify and promote operational and environmental best practices to minimize flaring and methane emissions. Operators advance and pioneer technologies and invest billions of dollars in world-class emissions control systems. Industry-led efforts like The Environmental Partnership and the Oil and Gas Climate Initiative work to develop and implement best practices to reduce and eliminate emissions.

Industry Emissions-Reducing Technology & Innovation

- Industry strives to utilize instrument air rather than natural gas whenever possible to operate pneumatic devices, or systems that use gas pressure to open and close valves.
- Industry utilizes a variety of methods to find and fix fugitive emissions.
- Companies have invested significantly in vapor recovery units (VRUs), which capture vapors from storage tanks and sends them to sales gas pipelines.
- Industry proactively evaluates practices such as flyovers via planes, drones, and helicopters; satellite monitoring; and ground and mobile monitoring cameras to reduce emissions.

Voluntary Best Practices Work

The Environmental Partnership's 2020 Annual Report outlines recent industry efforts and, with more than 184,000 surveys of equipment conducted, the results indicate significant environmental and operational progress:

- More than 3,300 pneumatic controllers replaced, retrofitted, or removed from service;
- More than 10,500 additional gas-driven controllers replaced or removed from service;
- More than 2,800 zero-emission pneumatic controllers installed at new sites; and
- Emissions minimized by monitoring more than 44,000 manual liquids unloading events, or processes to remove liquids that accumulate from the wellbore to improve the performance of the well

Ending Routine Flaring

The Coalition supports industry's continued progress to end routine flaring and shares a goal of ending this practice by 2030. Based on an extensive review of regulatory requirements and operational best practices that include maintaining the accessibility of flaring for safety and environmental protection, the Coalition considers routine flaring to be flaring of natural gas from new and existing wells/facilities during normal production operations when gas gathering, processing, or infrastructure are insufficient or unavailable. This goal will help continue to reduce methane emissions.

Progress: By the Numbers

