



CLEAN AIR
TASK FORCE

EU Methane Emissions Legislation: Coal Mine Methane

March 21, 2022

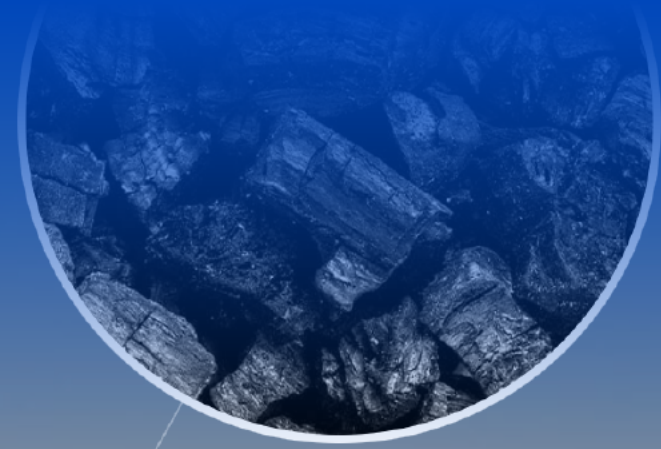
Clean Air Task Force (CATF): Super Pollutants

CATF was the first NGO globally to focus on reducing methane and the other short-lived climate pollutants.

Our team of experts specializes in research, technology, policy development and advocacy, media, and diplomacy. Alongside our internal team, we leverage an extensive network of collaborators in civil society, industry, and government.



1996



1996

Launched Campaign
Against Dirty
Production



2000

Launched Campaign
Against Super Pollutants



2002

Broadened Our

CATF's global strategy for rapidly reducing methane

A coordinated and simultaneous effort on three levels is critical to capitalize on the methane momentum we've helped build:

- Drive global action through **scaled-up policy advocacy** at the regional, national, and subnational levels;
- Develop **cross-cutting capacity to accelerate action**, including funding mechanisms to help developing countries achieve their emissions reduction goals and research capacity to identify promising solutions for large, neglected emissions sources;
- Building toward a more legally binding **international agreement on methane** to help spur emissions reductions at scale.



EU proposed methane legislation

- Methane is the second greatest contributor to climate change and over 80 times more potent than CO₂ for global warming over a period of 20 years.
- Methane mitigation is one of the most cost-efficient methods to slow down climate change and avoid irreversible tipping points.
- In 2021, momentum built on methane emissions and led to the Global Methane Pledge, the EU-U.S. initiative officially launched at COP26, with more than 110 countries committing to reduce their methane emissions by 30% by 2030.
- To continue this global leadership the EU must lead by example and set strong standards to efficiently cut methane emissions both inside the union and emissions from the EU's consumption of imported oil and gas and coal.
- Clean Air Task Force (CATF) welcomes the legislative proposal on methane emissions reduction in the energy sector as a positive step to address one of the key global warming pollutants.

Technologies available to achieve near-term reductions

- Fortunately, affordable (*and often profitable*) methane reduction technologies are available today – both in the coal and oil & gas sectors – and could provide a significant reduction in global warming by the 2040s.
- Global Methane Assessment found that currently available measures could reduce methane emissions across all sectors by 40-45% by 2030, with nearly half coming from the energy sector.
- Oil, gas, and coal sectors can significantly reduce their emissions at very little or negative cost with existing technology.
- The Methane Regulation, as the first of its kind in the EU, needs to set ambitious requirements reflecting best practices and technologies being utilized globally to protect the health of its citizens, slow down global warming, and set standards that could be used by other countries developing methane legislation.

Methane mitigation from active underground coal mines

- **Venting and flaring criteria:** Further clarify criteria to demonstrate to Member States the necessity to opt for venting instead of flaring, or for venting or flaring instead of utilisation or mitigation.
- **Financing:** Encourage work with Member States to ensure that widescale adoption of CMM abatement projects secure access to financial community and corporate commitments.
- **Technology:** Encourage funding for wide-scale adoption of existing technologies to promote adoption of VAM capture/utilisation and to improve pre-mine drainage in underground mines.
- **Met coal:** Role of IMEO in the supplemental regulation that will set restrictions on venting methane from coking coal mines?

Methane mitigation from closed and abandoned coal mines

- **Financing:** Ensure adequate financing for AMM recovery and utilisation focusing on maximizing available resources and improving economics.
- **Mine closures:** Ensure sustainable mine closure practices are implemented to avoid methane release. If released, gas to be drained and used or destroyed.
- **Impact on transitional economies:** Plan for impact on communities when coal mines close; development of repurposed mine lands.
- **Role of IMEO:** Explore expanded role of IMEO to include identification of abandoned mines emitting methane.



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