

Workshop 1 – Methane Management



6 November 2023

10:30– 13:45 (UTC/GMT +6 hours)

BACKGROUND

Central Asia is a region with vast fossil and renewable energy resources. During the Soviet era, the Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan heavily relied on development of fossil fuels, specifically coal and oil and gas, for their energy needs.

Unsurprisingly, global methane data indicate that the countries of Central Asia substantially contribute to global methane emissions. For instance, Kazakhstan is the world's 8th largest coal producer (2020 data) and 11th largest oil producer. Uzbekistan is 18th largest natural gas producer and emits more methane than Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan combined, while Turkmenistan's oil and gas production has been cited having the highest methane intensity (methane emissions per unit of production, IEA, 2022).

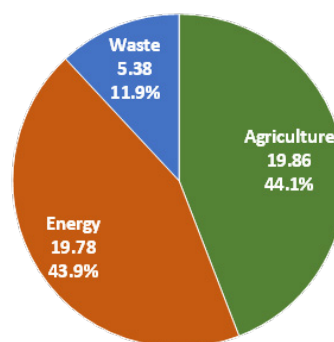


Figure 1. Kazakhstan's Methane Emissions, 2020, MMTCO₂e. EPA Non-CO₂ Greenhouse Gas Data Tool, <https://cfpub.epa.gov/ghgdata/nonco2/>

These trends highlight the need for the region to curb the waste of methane as valuable commodity and to reduce the impact of the fossil sector on climate, while transitioning to cleaner energy sources. The need for such action is urgent, as climate change is projected to have substantial impact on the region, such droughts, desertification, loss of glaciers, reduced agricultural productivity, increased energy demand, and similar.

To enable action at a regional scale in Central Asia, regulators need to develop policies that support methane emission reductions, collaborate across countries and engage in regional dialogue to share experiences, harmonize regulation, and ensure institutional capacity raises to meet the demands of climate mitigation and clean energy systems of the future.

OBJECTIVE AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

In this session regulators and power system stakeholders will be invited to discuss options for methane policies, learn from case studies in other countries, and discuss opportunities for success in the national context.

From the discussions, partners will share existing experiences in the region and potentially identify concrete new options for methane policies.

For more information about the event please visit

<https://unece.org/>

AGENDA

10:30	Opening remarks
10:40	Yelena Arkhangelskaya, Ministry of Energy, Kazakhstan Name TBD, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Embassy in Kazakhstan
10:40	Presentation 1
10:55	Methane Policy Roadmap and Available Resources – Overview by the Global Methane Initiative Denise Mulholland, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
10:55	Q & A
11:00	Presentation 2
11:15	Methane Policy for the Oil and Gas Sector Kenyon Weaver and Eric Camp, U.S. Department of Commerce, Commercial Law Development Program
11:15	Q & A
11:20	Presentation 3
11:35	A Case Study on Coal Mine Methane Policies in Kazakhstan Volha Roshchanka, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
11:35	Q & A
11:40	Presentation 4
11:55	Methane Emissions Abatement as an Enabler for Regional Economic Development Andriy Mitskan and Patrick Meyer, U.S. Agency for International Development
11:55	Q & A
12:00	Coffee Break
12:00	
12:30	

AGENDA

12:30 --	Presentation 5
12:45 --	Mitigation Options and Policy Support for Stranded Associated Gas (Tentative) Name TBD, Carbon Limits
12:45 --	Q & A
12:50 --	
12:50 --	Presentation 6
13:05 --	Industry Perspective on How Policy Can Support Reductions of Methane Emissions in the Fossil Sectors (Tentative) Name TBD, KazEnergy
13:05 --	Q & A
13:10 --	
13:10 --	Discussion
13:35 --	Discussion with the audience: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What kind of policy instruments and programs for methane mitigation exist in your country?• What are your needs and barriers? Moderated by Denise Mulholland and Volha Roshchanka, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
13:35 --	Wrap-up
13:45 --	Michal Drabik, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe