



Natural Gas STAR Methane Challenge Program: Partnership Agreement for Best Management Practice (BMP) Commitment

The Natural Gas STAR Methane Challenge Program is a flexible, voluntary partnership between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and oil and natural gas companies. This voluntary Program allows the EPA to collaborate with Partners to promote and track ambitious, transparent commitments to voluntarily reduce methane emissions beyond regulatory requirements and to recognize Partners for their progress. By signing this agreement, _____ (*company name*) agrees to join the U.S. EPA to reduce methane emissions through a Best Management Practice (BMP) Commitment. The BMP Commitment entails a Partner commitment to company-wide implementation of BMPs to reduce methane emissions from key sources by a future target date. Partners commit to at least one emission source and specify a target year of completion (maximum of five [5] years from commitment start date).

Partner’s Best Management Practice Commitment: Please specify participating sources, start date, and target achievement year in the table below; check all that apply. For companies joining at the corporate level that wish to make separate commitments for each of their subsidiaries/LDCs, please use “Appendix A: Commitment Table” found on the Methane Challenge Program website and submit in conjunction with this Partnership Agreement.

Source		Start Date	Achievement Year
Onshore Production			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pneumatic Controllers		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Equipment Leaks/Fugitive Emissions		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Liquids Unloading		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pneumatic Pumps		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fixed Roof, Atmospheric Pressure Hydrocarbon Liquid Storage Tanks		
Gathering and Boosting			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pneumatic Controllers		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Equipment Leaks/Fugitive Emissions		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pneumatic Pumps		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fixed Roof, Atmospheric Pressure Hydrocarbon Liquid Storage Tanks		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reciprocating Compressors - Rod Packing Vent		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Centrifugal Compressors - Venting		
Natural Gas (NG) Processing			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reciprocating Compressors - Rod Packing Vent		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Centrifugal Compressors - Venting		
NG Transmission & Underground Storage			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reciprocating Compressors - Rod Packing Vent		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Centrifugal Compressors - Venting		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Equipment Leaks/Fugitive Emissions		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transmission Pipeline Blowdowns between Compressor Stations		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pneumatic Controllers		
NG Distribution			
<input type="checkbox"/>	M&R Stations/City Gates		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mains – Cast Iron and Unprotected Steel (<i>Commitment Rate: _____</i>)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Services – Cast Iron and Unprotected Steel		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Distribution Pipeline Blowdowns (<i>Commitment Rate: _____</i>)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Excavation Damages		



EPA's Responsibilities

1. Assign a Methane Challenge Program Representative responsible for assisting the Partner in implementing the Program.
2. Provide relevant Program details, which can be found in the Natural Gas STAR Methane Challenge Program: BMP Framework and Methane Challenge BMP Supplemental Technical Information documents.
3. Assist Partners with Program implementation by:
 - (i) providing relevant technical information;
 - (ii) developing a mechanism for reporting supplemental information;
 - (iii) updating Program information as needed, including updating the list of participating sources and mitigation options covered in the Program; and
 - (iv) answering questions about Program participation.
4. Encourage new and innovative methane emission mitigation technologies, as well as methodologies for monitoring and measuring progress, and incorporate them into the Program.
5. Track Partner progress through provision of a user-friendly reporting system through which Partners can report supplementary data relevant to achieving their Methane Challenge commitments. Supplementary data will be used in conjunction with data that are already collected by Subpart W of the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP) to track Partner progress.
6. Promote the transparency and visibility of the Methane Challenge Program and member commitments and achievements, by publicly releasing non-confidential data that is submitted either through the Methane Challenge Program or through the GHGRP.
7. Acknowledge Program Partners through announcement of commitments, Implementation Plans, progress, and achievement of goals on the EPA's Methane Challenge website.

Natural Gas STAR Methane Challenge Partner's Responsibilities

1. Designate a company representative as the Natural Gas STAR Methane Challenge Program Implementation Manager responsible for serving as the contact point concerning implementation of this voluntary agreement.
2. Submit an Implementation Plan within six (6) months of signing this agreement outlining expected activities and milestones for achieving commitments.
3. Specify commitment start date(s), which will be within six (6) months of joining the Program.
4. Implement BMPs for the selected participating sources across company operations to achieve mitigation commitments by the specified commitment target year, not to exceed five (5) years from the specified commitment start date.
5. Report on an annual basis non-CBI supplementary data relevant to achieving Methane Challenge commitments, as outlined in Program documents. Supplementary data will be used in conjunction with data collected by Subpart W of the GHGRP to demonstrate Partner progress within the Program.
6. Communicate participation to employees.

General Terms

1. This voluntary partnership is intended to promote and recognize voluntary actions taken by oil and gas companies to reduce methane emissions from their operations. It is understood that Partners to this Program may have operations covered by federal, state, and/or other regulatory requirements. It is anticipated that Partners may achieve their Methane Challenge Program commitments through a combination of voluntarily- and regulatorily-driven actions. Participation in this Program does not in any way change legal obligations of Partners to comply with applicable laws regulations.
2. This agreement can be terminated by either party at any time, with no notice or penalties and no further obligation. The EPA agrees not to publicize a Partner's withdrawal from the Program beyond removing the Partner's name from Methane Challenge website. By setting out a target date on this form the Company does not intend to expose itself to regulatory liability if it cannot meet the target date.



3. The Partner agrees that the activities it undertakes connected with this Partnership Agreement are not intended to provide services to the federal government and that the Partner will not seek compensation from a federal agency.
4. The Partner agrees that it will not claim or imply that its participation in the Program constitutes the EPA approval or endorsement of anything other than the commitment to the Program. The Partner cannot use or appropriate the EPA seal or identifier in any way.
5. In order to maintain status as a Partner in the Methane Challenge Program, the Partner agrees to annually report specified supplemental data, per Program reporting specifications.
6. If the Partner is unable to meet a BMP commitment by the target year, and intends to remain in the Program, the Partner company will provide relevant contextual information for the delay and set a new target year. The EPA will note the adjustment to the implementation timeline on the Methane Challenge website.
7. All commitments made by the EPA in this Partnership Agreement are subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Nothing in this Partnership Agreement, in and of itself, obligates the EPA to expend appropriations or to enter into any contract, assistance agreement, interagency agreement, or incur other financial obligations that would be inconsistent with Agency budget priorities. This Partnership Agreement does not exempt the Partner from the EPA policies governing competition for assistance agreements. Any transaction involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the parties to this Partnership Agreement will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures under separate written agreements.
8. Privacy Act Statement: Providing the requested information is voluntary. The purpose of collecting this information is to allow the U.S. EPA to coordinate with key Partner Company representatives on their participation in the EPA's Natural Gas STAR Methane Challenge Program. This information is needed in order to identify the Natural Gas STAR Methane Challenge Program Implementation Manager responsible for serving as the contact point concerning implementation of this voluntary agreement. The EPA Program Managers will use this information in order to communicate and coordinate with Partner companies on the commitments made to achieving voluntarily methane emission activities through the Natural Gas STAR Methane Challenge Program. The information will be used for the purpose set forth above and may be provided to Congress or other Federal, state and local agencies for law enforcement purposes, if determined necessary. Failure to disclose the personal information requested may prohibit the Agency from being able to carry out the commitments and responsibilities outlined in this voluntary Partnership Agreement.

Signatures and Partner Contact Details

Authorized Company Representative: _____ (name)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Authorized U.S. EPA Representative: *Paul M. Gunning, Director, Climate Change Division*

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Partner's Designated Natural Gas STAR Methane Challenge Implementation Manager:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone/Fax: _____ E-mail: _____



Instructions

Please send this form to: Natural Gas STAR Methane Challenge Program

Standard Mail: Mail Code 6207M
 1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington DC 20460

Overnight Mail: 1201 Constitution Ave NW, Room Number 4353 UU
 Washington DC 20004

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 hours per response. Send comments on the Agency's need for this information, the accuracy of the provided burden estimates, and any suggested methods for minimizing respondent burden, including through the use of automated collection techniques to the Director, Collection Strategies Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2822T), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20460. Include the OMB control number in any correspondence. Do not send the completed form to this address.