



Financial and Technical Assistance from the Methane Emissions Reduction Program

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Overview

The Inflation Reduction Act provides new authorities under the Clean Air Act to provide financial and technical assistance to reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sector through the [Methane Emissions Reduction Program](#). As part of this program, EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) are partnering to leverage the agencies' shared commitment and joint expertise in advancing methane mitigation technologies for the oil and gas sector. [DOE's National Energy Technology Laboratory \(NETL\)](#) [\[external link\]](#) brings additional experience in financial assistance administration and complements EPA's expertise in quantifying and reducing methane emissions. EPA and DOE will provide up to \$1.36 billion in federal funding for activities that will help measure and reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sectors.

EPA and DOE-NETL are providing financial assistance through the following grants:




Recent Activity

- **NEW** December 20, 2024 - [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy Announce \\$850 Million to Reduce](#)

- Formula grants (\$350 million) to states to support industry efforts to voluntarily reduce emissions at low-producing wells, monitor emissions, and conduct environmental restoration at well pads on non-Federal Lands.
- Competitive grants (\$850 million) to reduce, monitor, measure, and quantify methane emissions from the oil and gas sector, including on tribal lands.

- [Methane Pollution from the Oil and Gas Sector](#)
- June 21, 2024 – [EPA and DOE Announce \\$850 Million Available to Reduce Methane Pollution from the Oil and Gas Sector](#)

Financial and technical assistance opportunities under the Methane Emissions Reduction Program will support a number of activities, including preparing and submitting greenhouse gas reports, monitoring methane emissions, and reducing methane and other greenhouse gas emissions from petroleum and natural gas systems by improving and deploying equipment to reduce emissions, supporting innovation, and permanently shutting in and plugging wells. This assistance will also help mitigate health effects in low-income and disadvantaged communities, improve climate resiliency, and support environmental restoration. This assistance will also support activities at low-producing (marginal) conventional wells.

Financial and technical assistance will support President Biden's [Justice40 Initiative](#)  which mandates that 40% of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities.

These financial and technical assistance opportunities complement other efforts to monitor and reduce emissions from the U.S. oil and gas sector. Through the Methane Emissions Reduction Program, EPA is implementing a [Waste Emissions Charge](#) for methane and revised [Subpart W of the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program](#) regulations for the oil and gas sector.

Financial Assistance

Formula Grants for States to Support Methane Mitigation from Marginal Conventional Wells (MCWs)

On December 15, 2023, DOE's NETL awarded 14 states a total of \$350 million to support industry efforts to cut methane emissions from the oil and gas sector. These funds will help oil and gas well owners and/or operators who choose to reduce methane emissions from low-producing conventional wells on nonfederal lands through voluntary, permanent well plugging. States will also be able to use the funding to support environmental restoration of well sites.

Research has shown that MCWs can account for disproportionately high methane emissions relative to production volumes. EPA and DOE will also provide technical assistance to help the states implement cost-effective solutions to measure and reduce methane emissions from these wells. Monitoring and mitigating



methane emissions from the oil and gas sector will benefit energy communities, which often include low-income and communities of color, and deliver long-lasting health and environmental benefits across the country.

For more information about the awards, read the [press release](#) and review the [project summaries](#). [↗](#)

Competitive Grants for Methane Emissions Monitoring and Mitigation

On December 20, 2024, EPA and DOE announced approximately \$850 million for 43 projects selected for negotiation that will help small oil and gas operators, Tribes, and other entities across the country to reduce, monitor, measure, and quantify methane emissions from the oil and gas sector. This competitive opportunity solicited applications from a broad range of eligible U.S. entities, including industry, academia, non-governmental organizations, Tribes, state and local government, and others. These projects will help small oil and natural gas operators reduce methane emissions and transition to available, innovative methane emissions reduction technologies, support partnerships that improve emissions measurement, and provide accurate, transparent data to impacted communities.

Thirty-two organizations were selected for projects across three Areas of Interest:

- Area of Interest 1: Methane Emissions Reduction from Existing Wells and Infrastructure
- Area of Interest 2: Accelerating Deployment of Methane Emissions Reduction Solutions
- Area of Interest 3: Accelerating Deployment of Methane Monitoring Solutions

For more information about these awards, read the [press release](#) and summary of [selected projects](#) [↗](#).

Technical Assistance

Methane Measurement Guidelines for Marginal Conventional Wells

On June 14, 2024, the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) [announced](#) [↗](#) the release of a detailed [report](#) [↗](#) that presents guidelines for measuring methane emissions from low-producing oil and natural gas wells, also known as marginal conventional wells. The guidelines were developed to assist the 14 states that received awards under the ALRD.





The guidelines describe procedures for the grant recipients to adequately measure and monitor methane emissions prior to and following the voluntary plugging of marginal conventional wells. Marginal conventional wells are ones that produce less than 15 barrels of oil and/or less than 90,000 cubic feet of natural gas per day. The guidelines provide information and direction on methane measurement approaches and technologies to help improve the effectiveness and accuracy of methane emissions measurements from marginal conventional wells.

Events

Upcoming Events

Stay tuned for more information about future events!

Past Events

Date	Topic	Event Type	Title
May 2, 2023	Financial & Technical Assistance	Listening Session	Listening Session for General Audiences 
May 3, 2023	Financial & Technical Assistance	Listening Session	Listening Session for State and Local Governments 
May 3, 2023	Financial & Technical Assistance	Listening Session	Listening Session for Non-Governmental Organizations, Community and Environmental Justice Groups 
May 9, 2023	Financial & Technical Assistance	Listening Session	Listening Session for Tribal Governments 
May 9, 2023	Financial & Technical Assistance	Listening Session	Listening Session for Industry, Small Businesses, and Labor Groups 

Contact the Methane Emissions Reduction Program

Send questions to merp@epa.gov.

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Last updated on December 20, 2024

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