



Natural Gas STAR Methane Challenge Program Partnership Agreement for ONE Future Emissions Intensity 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 Natural Gas STAR Methane Challenge Program to reduce methane emissions through a ONE Future Emissions Intensity (ONE Future) Commitment. The ONE Future Commitment entails a Partner commitment to segment-specific intensity targets, established through the ONE Future Partnership, which will represent emissions per volume produced or volume of throughput and add up to a 1% or less “leakage rate” along the value chain by 2025.

ONE Future Emissions Intensity Commitment

Segment:		Intensity Target:		Target Year:	
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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 on the Natural Gas STAR Methane Challenge Program website.
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; 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, and other data 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. Engage directly with ONE Future to establish specific company-wide commitment.
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.
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 their company 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. Regarding privacy of the information provided, any contact information for company representatives is used to identify the point of contact for implementation of the Natural Gas STAR Methane Challenge Program. Such information will only be used to communicate and coordinate with Partner companies about their participation in the Natural Gas STAR Methane Challenge Program, such as annual reporting, attending upcoming Program workshops, and progress on their Program commitments. However, some information may be made available to public as required by the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

Signatures and Partner Contact Details

Authorized Company Representative: _____

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 6207A
 1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington DC 20460

Overnight Mail: 1201 Constitution Ave NW, Room Number 4353NN
 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.