

An International Framework to Advance the Recovery and Use of Methane as a Clean Energy Source

SME Luncheon Meeting October 11, 2005 Paul M. Gunning US EPA





Overview

- Why Methane?
- Methane Recovery and Use Opportunities
- M2M International Partnership Goals
- EPA / USG Involvement
- Conclusions



Why focus on Methane?

✓ A potent GHG (100-year GWP of 23; atmospheric lifetime of ~12 years)

✓ The 2nd most important GHG accounting for ~18% of total climate forcing

✓ A primary constituent of natural gas and a valuable, clean-burning energy source



Global Anthropogenic CH₄ Budget by Source - 2000

Total CH4 emissions in 2000 = 1618.4 MtC



Source: EPA compilation 2002



Cost-Effective Projects Recover and Use Methane

Coal Mines





Landfills

Oil and Gas Systems





Livestock Waste

Reducing Emissions from Oil and Gas Systems



- CH₄ from leaks, system upsets, and process venting.
- Reduce fugitives through enhanced inspection and maintenance, capture/prevent vented emissions.
- Key emission reduction technologies/options
 - Technology Upgrades instrument air systems, replacing high-bleed pneumatic devices, dry seal systems for compressors, flash tank separators
 - Operational Improvements directed inspection and maintenance programs, reduce system pressure, pipeline pumpdowns

Reducing Landfill Methane

- CH₄ from waste decomposition
- Collect & combust gas; electricity generation or direct utilization of the gas
- Key emission reduction technologies/options
 - Electricity Generation reciprocating engines, gas turbines, micro-turbines, fuel cells
 - Direct Gas Use medium-high BTU fuel (boilers), vehicle fuel



Reducing Coal Mine Methane

- CH₄ contained in coal, emitted during mining
- Drain gas before mining; Use ventilation air
- Key emission reduction technologies/options
 - Degasification pipeline injection, power generation, and fuel for thermal coal drying
 - Catalytic Oxidation ventilation air is oxidized



Benefits of Methane Recovery and Use Projects

- Important local energy source
- Improved industrial safety and productivity
- Improved air quality and reduced odors
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- Progress toward sustainable development goals
- Economic growth and energy security
- Reduced waste of a valuable fuel



Barriers to Methane Recovery

- Lack of awareness of emission levels and value of lost fuel
- Lack of information on and training in new technologies and practices
- Traditional industry practices
- Regulatory and legal issues
- Limited methane markets and infrastructure
- Uncertain investment climate

EPA Voluntary Actions Produce Results

Natural Gas STAR

- over 100 companies (65% of industry) in program
- part of API's Climate VISION commitment
- Coalbed Methane Outreach Program
 - 90% of mine degasification CH₄ is used (up from 25% in 1993)
 - industry effort to demonstrate use for ventilation air methane
- Landfill Methane Outreach Program
 - Over 360 US landfill projects -- tripled since 1994
 - Strong corporate interest in use of landfill gas
- AgSTAR
 - strong state and Farm Bill support for methane digesters

Changes in US Methane Emissions and Economic Growth 1990 - 2002





How Does M2M Fit USG Climate Policy?

- M2M is an important component of the US Climate Change Strategy
 - Near-term
 - Voluntary
 - Public-private
 - Multiple benefits (energy, economic, environmental)
- Compliments long-term R&D climate initiatives



M2M Purpose and Goals

- International Framework -- to advance the recovery and use of methane as a valuable clean energy source
- Cost-effective and Near-term Focus on facilitating methane recovery and use projects in developing countries and countries with economies in transition
- **Private Sector Involvement** involve private companies, multilateral development banks and other relevant organizations in M2M implementation and activities through the project network
- Key Methane Sources -- natural gas & oil; coal mines; landfills; (agriculture under consideration)



Partner Countries

- Argentina
- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada*
- China
- Colombia
- India
- Italy
- Japan
- Mexico
- Nigeria
- Russia
- South Korea*
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom
- United States



Signing Ceremony, November 16, 2004

* Partners who joined after the launch





Methane to Markets Activities

- Action oriented focus on project development
- Participating countries and Project Network members work collaboratively to:
 - Build on inventory systems to quantify methane emissions
 - Identify cost-effective opportunities for capturing methane emissions for energy production
 - Conduct training, technical exchange, and demonstrations to support project development
 - Identify and remove legal, regulatory, financial, and other barriers to the profitable capture and use of methane
 - Develop sector-specific action plans and a process for evaluating their implementation
- Developed countries commit to assist developing countries and countries in transition in undertaking these activities



Project Network is a Key to Success

- Approximately 150 organizations have joined the Project Network since the November Ministerial Meeting
- Project Network members include leading private sector (project developers, equipment manufactures, oil/gas and coal producers, etc.), financing, and other organizations in the US and abroad
 - US Trade Associations: American Petroleum Institute, Solid Waste Association of North America, National Mining Association
 - Oil and Gas: BP, Devon Energy, etc.
 - Coal: UK Coal, Anglo Coal Australia, International Energy Agency Clean Coal Centre, Japan Coal Energy Center
 - Landfills: SCS Engineers, CES-Landtec
 - Equipment Manufacturers: Caterpillar, Inc., Solar Turbines
 - Other: United Nations Commission for Economic Development, World Bank, Russian Academy of the Sciences



M2M Progress is Measurable

- By 2015 potential reductions of up to 50 MMTCE annually (~500 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas)
 - Equivalent to eliminating emissions from fifty 500 MW coalfired power plants
 - Assumes significant global participation (65% of global CH4 emissions – current partner base represents 57%)
 - Does not include US reduction opportunities
- Emissions reductions and energy generation can be easily measured and quantified



US Government Commitment

- White House committed up to \$53 million over the next 5 years
- Resources will
 - Facilitate USG leadership and participation in Partnership
 - Support development and implementation of methane projects in Partner Countries
 - Assist EPA in exporting and implementing key components of our successful domestic voluntary methane programs
 - Support key functions of the Partnership as administered by the Administrative Support Group (ASG)



USG Coordination on M2M

- US participation in the Partnership is led by EPA through ongoing inter-agency coordination with other government actors
 - CEQ, USAID, State, DOE, USDA, TDA
- EPA has two broad areas of responsibility
 - Serve as the Administrative Support Group (ASG) and maintain the core administrative, coordination, and communication functions
 - Policy Neutral secretariat function
 - Other partners may take on this function after 2 years
 - Advance project development
 - Export US Voluntary Programs (Gas STAR, LMOP, CMOP)
 - Conduct feasibility assessments, technology transfer workshops and technology demonstrations, which would lead directly to greater use of US technologies and methane reductions



Conclusions

- Methane to Markets supports multiple international and sustainable development goals (i.e., climate change, solid waste management, air quality, mine safety, clean energy)
- Successful ministerial meeting held Nov. 2004 has established a strong foundation for the Partnership
- US is initiating follow up actions for FY 05 and FY 06
 - Developing the M2M infrastructure through the ASG
 - Supporting work of the Partnership committees
 - Implementing methane recovery and use activities
- The Partnership will deliver measurable, near-term climate protection through cost-effective, voluntary action