

## Methane

*Pollution from oil and gas facilities puts health at risk.*

***Cleaning up the oil and gas industry is critical for clean air and a safe climate.***



- Equipment and processes involved in the production of oil and natural gas – from drilling sites to processing facilities to pipelines – can all leak methane into the atmosphere. Methane causes climate change. It is a greenhouse gas 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide in the short term. Climate change already impacts the health of millions of Americans.
- Oil and gas facilities also emit highly reactive pollutants called volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that can cause cancer and other harmful health impacts and interact with other pollutants to form dangerous ozone pollution.
- Infants, children and teenagers; older adults; people with asthma and other lung diseases; people with cardiovascular disease; people with low incomes; people of color; and healthy adults who work or exercise outdoors are at higher risk.

***EPA must strengthen and finalize limits on methane from new and existing oil and gas facilities.***

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed stronger limits on methane for new oil and gas facilities and the first-ever limits on methane for existing oil and gas facilities. The proposal is a good start for protecting health.
- EPA's proposal can and must go further. EPA needs to strengthen it to cut methane pollution from new and existing oil and gas operations by 65% of 2012 levels by 2025, and then quickly finalize it into law.
- [Hundreds of health and medical professionals](#) and [leading national and state health and medical organizations](#) support limits on oil and gas methane pollution.

### ***For more information***

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