

Global Methane Pledge

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Disclaimer

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Commitment: Signatories to the Global Methane Pledge (GMP) agree to take voluntary actions to contribute to a collective effort to **reduce global methane emissions by at least 30% from 2020 levels by 2030**. They also commit to adopting good practice inventory methodologies, as well as improving the accuracy, transparency, consistency, comparability and completeness of national GHG inventories. Participation is limited to national governments, but other non-state actors can participate as partners and have formulated their own commitments.

Institutional robustness

- Staff & secretariat
- Governance structure
- Budget transparency
- Openness
- Monitoring & reporting
- Engagement & outreach
- Target accountability
- Output effectiveness

Legend: ● High ● Medium ○ Low ● No data

Key moments

2021

Launch at COP26
Initial signatories:
around 100 national
governments

2022

Launch of GMP
Energy Pathway and
later other sectoral
pathways

2023

A group of ‘GMP
Champions’ was
convened

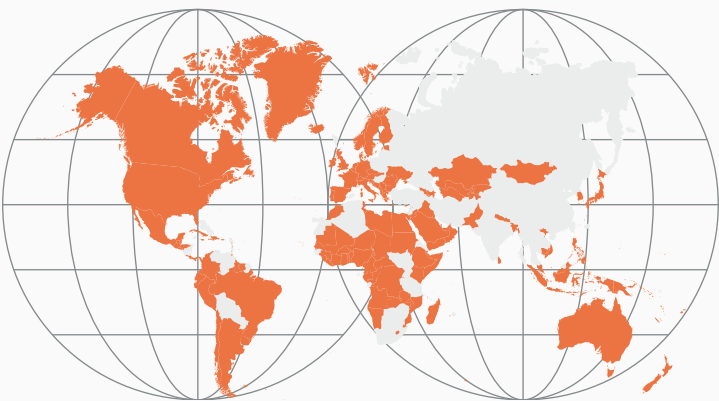
2024

2025

Membership at 159
national governments
and the European
Commission

2026

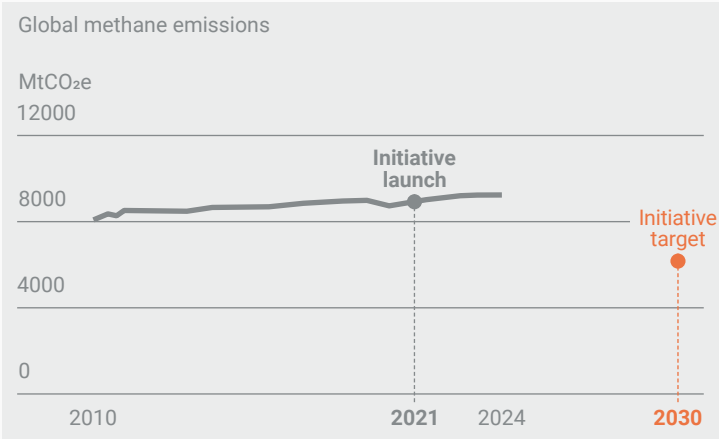
Signatories



159 national governments and the European Commission

Global progress

Takeaway: The world is not on track to meet the 2030 methane reduction target. In fact, methane emissions have increased since 2020, requiring a decisive change of direction.

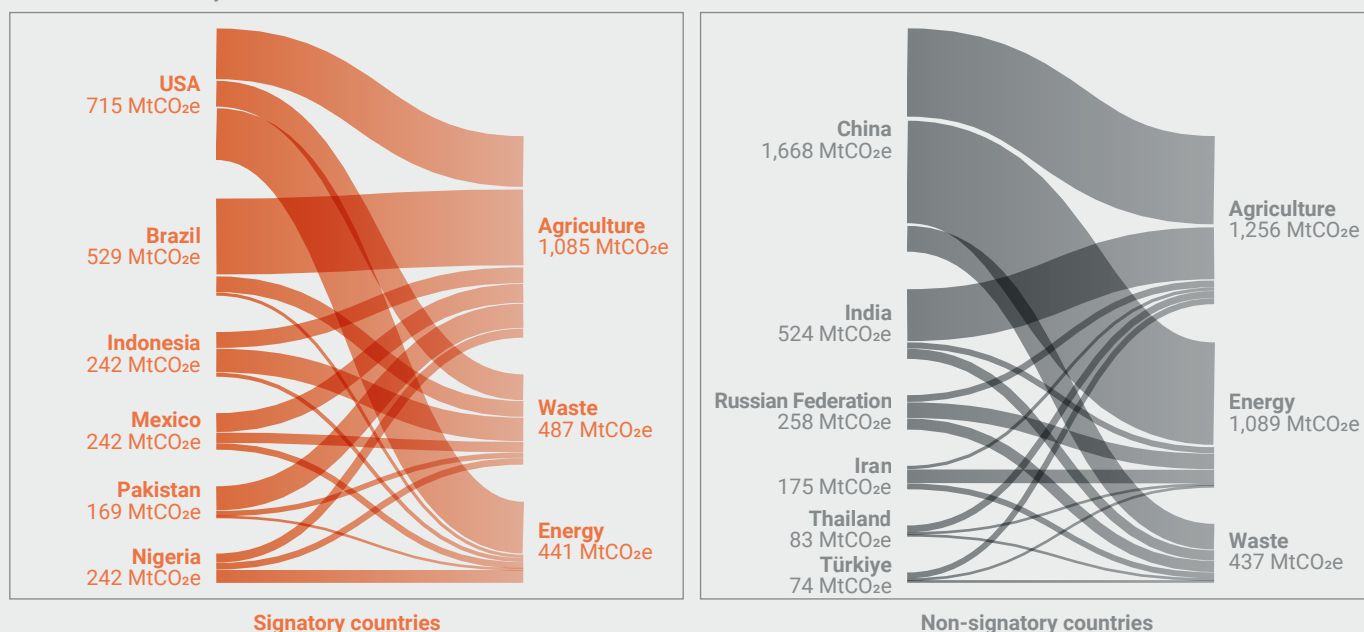


Study	Abatement potential
Roelfsema et al. (2026)	Impact of 'no flaring by 2030' initiative on fugitive / oil production emissions: A reduction of 0.27 GtCO ₂ e/yr below current policies for signatories and of 0.59 GtCO ₂ e/yr (-100%) for global implementation in 2030.
Im et al. (2026)	Emission reductions from current commitments: 10% reduction by 2030 below 2020 levels. The maximum technically feasible reduction pathway can achieve the GMP goal.
Climate Action Tracker (2025)	Emissions reduction from global implementation of the GMP: 111 MtCH ₄ /yr (3.1 GtCO ₂ e/yr) in 2030 below 2020 levels. Reductions below 'pledges & targets' scenario: 2.0 GtCO ₂ e/yr in 2030.
UNEP (2025)	Downward revision of emissions projections since the launch of the GMP due to regulation and economic developments: 14 MtCH ₄ /yr in 2030 below old BAU.
UNEP (2025)	Potential from implementing all technically feasible reductions: 131 MtCH ₄ /yr below current policy projections for 2030 (32% reduction below 2020 levels).
Malley et al. (2023)	Mitigation measures in NDCs could achieve the GMP goal if implemented to their maximum technical potential (31% reduction by 2030 below 2020).
Climate Action Tracker (2021)	Additional reductions compared to 'pledges and targets' scenario: 0.8 GtCO ₂ e/yr (range of 0.6-1.1 GtCO ₂ e/yr) for all signatories (likely impact) and 1.4-2.4 GtCO ₂ e/yr globally (potential impact) in 2030.
Kuramochi et al. (2024)	Impact of aligning the sector with net zero: 0.8 GtCO ₂ e/yr for all signatories and 1.4 GtCO ₂ e/yr globally by 2030 below the NDC scenario.

Ambition

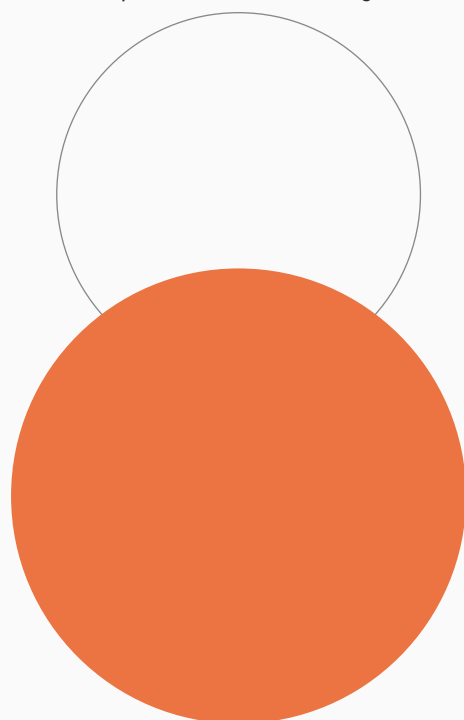
Takeaway: Methane emissions sources vary substantially from country to country. These differences shape not only the technical feasibility of mitigation but also the associated costs (or benefits) and other socio-environmental trade-offs.

Methane emissions by sector for 2021 in MtCO_{2e}



Significance

Takeaway: Signatories of the Global Methane Pledge account for the majority of countries (80%) and the majority of global methane emissions (61%). However, a few of the largest emitters are missing. Methane emissions account for 18% of total GHG emissions, highlighting the critical importance of methane mitigation.



61% Signatories' share of total methane emissions (2024)

Country-specific progress since initiative launch

Takeaway: The majority of the largest methane emitters have not reduced their methane emissions since 2020. There is no evidence to suggest that signatories outperform non-signatories.

Average annual change (% of 2020 level) in methane emissions between 2020 and 2024 in **signatory countries**



Average annual change (% of 2020 level) in methane emissions between 2020 and 2024 in **non-signatory countries**



¹ The required annual reduction describes the average linear decline needed globally to reach the target. Non-signatory countries have no formal targets; the benchmark instead reflects the reduction they would need to achieve to be in line with the pledge. Individual countries may show higher and lower reduction rates.

Case study: Australia

Australia joined the GMP in 2022, one year after its launch at COP26. In a press release, the government emphasised the 'aspirational' and 'non-binding' nature of the commitment, while also announcing that it would not introduce legislation, taxes or levies to reduce livestock emissions. Half of Australia's methane emissions originate from agriculture and a quarter from fossil fuel extraction. Government projections of methane emissions foresee a plateau between 2020 and 2030 (-1.5%), with only a slow decline thereafter.

To date, the country has not set a standalone methane reduction target, and signing the GMP has not triggered the establishment of a comprehensive mitigation strategy. However, there are several sectoral programmes, incentives and instruments. Australia is among the top 10 methane emitters and has been criticised for underreporting its methane emissions from fossil fuels, over half of which stem from its coal mines.

Related initiatives: [Climate and Clean Air Coalition](#); [Oil and Gas Methane Partnership](#); [Global Methane Initiative](#)

Related GST effort area: (Paragraph 28f) Accelerating and substantially reducing non-carbon-dioxide emissions globally, including methane emissions by 2030

Key takeaways

- 01** The Global Methane Pledge sets out a collective goal of reducing global methane emissions by 30% below 2020 levels. This has likely incentivised broad participation. Today, 160 governments have signed the pledge, accounting for over 60% of global methane emissions. Countries subscribe to a global but not a national target.
- 02** Methane emissions are rising globally, both in most large signatory and non-signatory countries. There is no evidence to suggest that signatories are more successful at reducing or limiting the growth of domestic methane emissions.
- 03** The GMP has significant and rapid emission reduction potential. When all technically feasible measures are implemented, the target could almost be reached. Emission reductions from fossil fuel production (roughly half of methane emissions) are profitable but still have not been implemented yet. Reductions from agriculture are often more difficult to achieve.
- 04** Policy coverage is limited. According to a 2023 analysis, only 13% of global methane emissions are covered by mitigation policies. The difficulty of mitigation also depends on respective sector contributions, which vary greatly between countries.
- 05** The effectiveness of the pledge is uncertain and has been called into question by various factors, including the collective nature of the target and the diversity of mitigation approaches across sectors.

Case study: Nigeria

Several mitigation policies were already in place when Nigeria joined the GMP in 2021. The oil-rich country has been a partner of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) since 2012, setting reduction targets for all short-lived pollutants. The 2021 NDC includes a 60% methane reduction target for the oil and gas sector by 2031 and an end to [routine gas flaring](#) by 2030. The GMP appears to have reinforced domestic ambition and accelerated policy implementation; for example, Nigeria introduced methane regulations and became a 'Global Methane Pledge Champion' in 2023.

Government officials have recently stated that a 30% reduction in methane emissions by 2030 is realistic. However, actual emissions are highly uncertain due to data inaccuracies and a lack of reporting transparency, which also prevents the determination of reliable baselines. While fugitive emissions are declining after peaking in the early 2000s, methane emissions from livestock, fossil fuel combustion and waste are on the rise.

Sources:

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- CAT (2025): [Three key near-term actions could bend the warming curve](#).
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