

Accelerating action on methane

Reducing methane emissions can help to limit temperatures to 1.5 degrees and achieve multiple health benefits

Methane is a greenhouse gas **responsible for about one third of global temperature increases** to date. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has concluded that there is no path to limiting global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees without **large, rapid reductions in methane emissions** in addition to deep reductions in carbon dioxide emissions.

In 2021, SEI researchers contributed to a United Nations Environment Programme and Climate and Clean Air Coalition '**Global Methane Assessment**', which showed that a 45% reduction in methane emissions by 2030 was the most cost-effective pathway to limiting temperatures to 1.5 degrees and achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. The Assessment also showed that achieving this reduction would not only benefit climate change, but would also **benefit human health** through improvements in air quality, and reductions in heat-induced health impacts.

Recognising the opportunity from action on methane presented in the Global Methane Assessment, in the run-up to COP26 in Glasgow, the United States and European Union put forward the '**Global Methane Pledge**' to reduce global methane emissions by 30% by 2030 compared to 2020 levels. To date, 111 countries have signed up to this pledge, and over \$300 million has been mobilised from philanthropies to support its implementation.

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