United States

Cate Hight, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Natural Gas STAR & Methane Challenge
Program Overview

- Natural Gas STAR program established in 1993 to increase awareness of oil and gas methane emission sources and share innovative ways to reduce emissions
  - Significant innovation and capacity building achieved over 25 years

- Methane Challenge, created in 2016, expands opportunities for companies
  - Specific, ambitious commitments
  - Transparent reporting
  - Company-level recognition of commitments and progress

- Both programs offer technology transfer workshops, webinars and other resources to help Partners learn about new and innovative technologies and practices
Natural Gas STAR Highlights

- Since 1993, NG STAR Partners have eliminated nearly 1.5 Tcf (approx. 720 MMTCO₂e) of methane emissions.

- 96.8 Bcf (approx. 46.7 MMTCO₂e) voluntary methane emissions reductions reported by Partners in 2017.

- Partners who submit an annual report receive a comprehensive summary report that highlights trends and the voluntary cumulative methane emissions reductions achieved by the Partner since they joined the program.

2017 Partner-Reported Voluntary Methane Emission Reductions by Segment = 96.8 Bcf

- Production: 89%
- Transmission: 9%
- Distribution: 1%
- Gathering & Processing: 1%
Methane Challenge Highlights

- Two commitment options for enhanced flexibility:
  - Best Management Practice (BMP) Commitment
  - ONE Future Emissions Intensity Commitment

- Sector coverage:
  - Onshore oil production
  - Entire natural gas value chain from onshore production through distribution

- First round of reporting by Methane Challenge Partners is underway; data publication is anticipated later in 2019
Program Benefits

- Opportunity for partner companies to demonstrate their commitment to improved efficiency and sustainability.
- Cost-efficient best management practices and technologies reduce product loss and increase operational efficiency and safety.
- Recognition for innovative approaches to reducing methane emissions.
- Establishment of a permanent record of volunteer accomplishments in reducing methane emissions.

Learn more about what the U.S. EPA is doing at https://www.epa.gov/natural-gas-star-program