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EPA releases updated rule to cut climate-damaging methane emissions

“President Biden and the EPA have taken a strong and important step towards addressing the climate crisis and protecting the health and safety of communities across the country. The revised draft methane rule includes critical provisions such as inspections at small wells with leak-prone equipment. While the rule has made progress toward addressing flaring, the administration should follow the example of Colorado and New Mexico by strengthening those provisions to phase out pollution from routine flaring. Strong methane rules will protect the health of western communities and ensure a fair return to taxpayers and local governments.”

– Gwen Lachelt, Executive Director

Background

Today, the Environmental Protection Agency released an [updated rule](#) to reduce methane and other emissions from the oil and gas sector nationwide, which is essential to protecting frontline communities from health-hazardous pollution and addressing the climate crisis.

With 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide over the first 20 years after it reaches the atmosphere, methane is a leading contributor to climate change, which disproportionately impacts BIPOC, rural and low-income communities.

The EPA’s updated proposal strengthens and builds upon the agency’s [draft rule](#) released in 2021.