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Environmental and  
Energy Study Institute

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# Congressional Climate Camp: Non-CO<sub>2</sub> Greenhouse Gases

Thursday, February 23, 2023

# About EESI



## **Non-partisan Educational Resources for Policymakers**

A bipartisan Congressional caucus founded EESI in 1984 to provide non-partisan information on environmental, energy, and climate policies



## **Direct Assistance for Equitable and Inclusive Financing Program**

In addition to a full portfolio of federal policy work, EESI provides direct assistance to utilities to develop “on-bill financing” programs



## **Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice**

We recognize that systemic barriers impede fair environmental, energy, and climate policies and limit the full participation of Black, Indigenous, people of color, and legacy and frontline communities in decision-making



## **Sustainable Solutions**

*Our mission is to advance science-based solutions for climate change, energy, and environmental challenges* in order to achieve *our vision of a sustainable, resilient, and equitable world.*

# Polycymaker Education

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Live, in-person and online public briefings, archived webcasts, and written summaries

## Climate Change Solutions



Bi-weekly newsletter with everything policymakers and concerned citizens need to know, including a legislation and hearings tracker

## Fact Sheets and Issue Briefs



Timely, objective coverage of environmental, clean energy, and climate change topics

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Active engagement on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube



Upcoming Briefings in this Series



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# Congressional Climate Camp

4

**Budget and Appropriations | Thursday, January 26, 2-3:30 PM**

**Public Polling on Climate Change | Thursday, February 9, 2-3:30 PM**

**Non-CO2 Greenhouse Gases | Thursday, February 23, 2-3:30 PM**

**Implementing the *Inflation Reduction Act* and *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* | Thursday, March 9, 2-3:30 PM**

**Briefing RSVP here: [eesi.org/2023cc](https://eesi.org/2023cc)**

# Non-CO<sub>2</sub> – Fast Climate Solutions to Slow Warming in the Near Term

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Gabrielle Dreyfus, Chief Scientist  
Institute for Governance &  
Sustainable Development (IGSD)

EESI Congressional Climate Camp  
23 February 2023



# Strategies Targeting Non-CO<sub>2</sub>



Slow warming in the next 20 years

*Cutting SLCPs could avoid 4X more warming in 2050 than decarbonization alone*



Improve health

*Black carbon and ozone (including from methane) are major air pollutants; avoid millions of premature deaths*



Increase food security

*Avoid billions in dollars in crop losses from ozone and heat damage; cut N<sub>2</sub>O with precision agriculture*



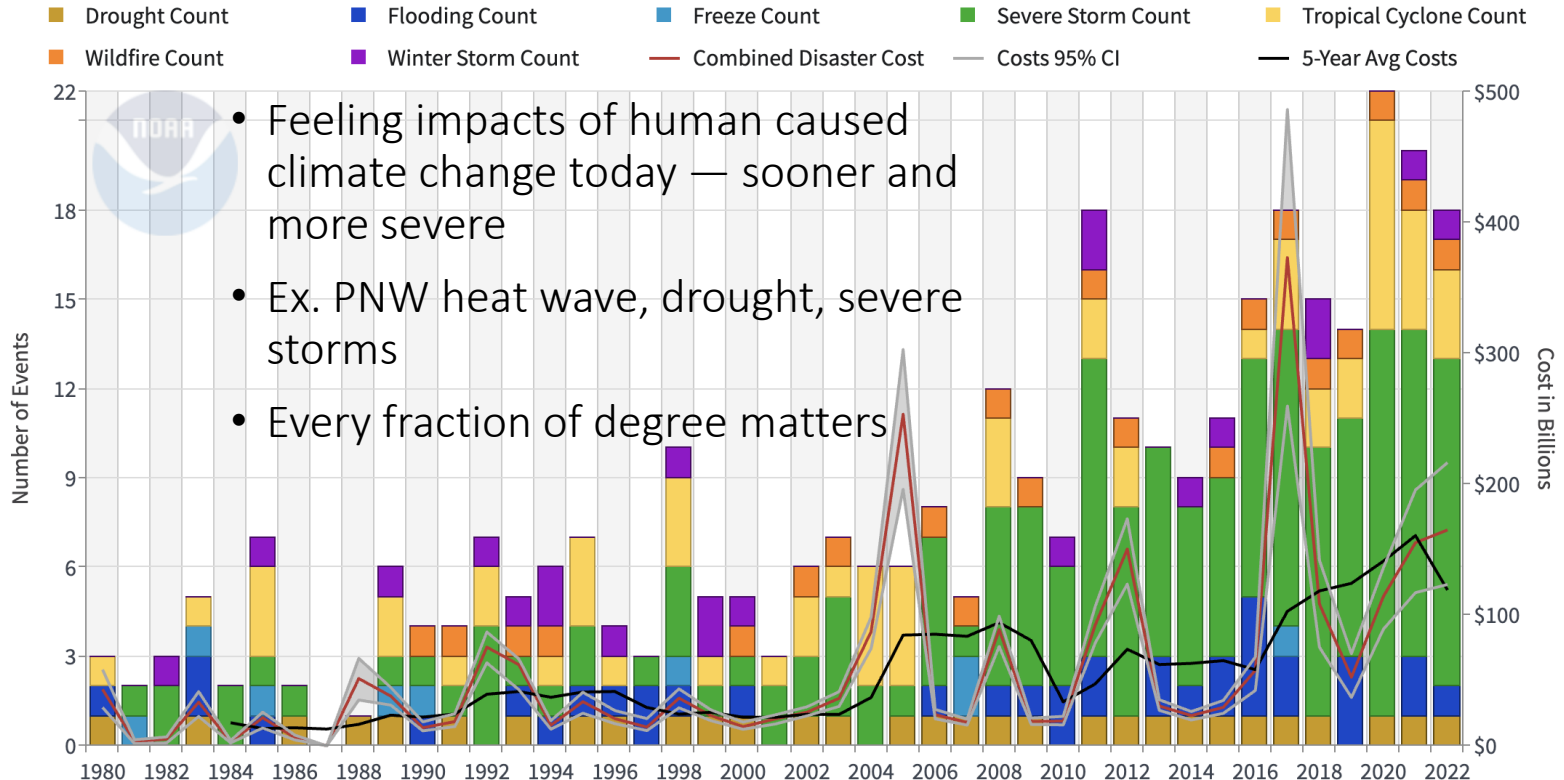
Avoid energy waste

*Fix leaks and capture emissions that waste 110 million metric tons of methane every year*

	Potency over 20 years	Potency over 100 years	Lifetime	Impacts	
Long-lived Greenhouse Gases (GHG)	Carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> )	1	1	100 – 1000s years	Long-term warming Ocean acidification
	Nitrous oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O)	273	273	109 years	Long-term warming Ozone-depleting
Super Climate Pollutants Short-lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP)	Methane (CH <sub>4</sub> )	81	28	11.8 years	Near-term warming Ground-level ozone
	Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)	1 – 12,400	1 – 14,600	15 years (average)	Near-term warming
	Ground-level ozone (O <sub>3</sub> )	<i>Not directly emitted</i>		weeks	Criteria pollutant
	Black carbon	2400*	660*	days	Criteria pollutant (constituent of PM <sub>2.5</sub> )

# Climate Change Impacts Today

**United States Billion-Dollar Disaster Events 1980-2022 (CPI-Adjusted)**



- Feeling impacts of human caused climate change today — sooner and more severe
- Ex. PNW heat wave, drought, severe storms
- Every fraction of degree matters



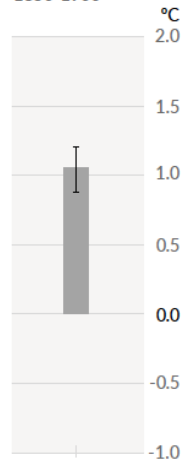
## Observed warming is driven by emissions from human activities, with greenhouse gas warming partly masked by aerosol cooling

Short-lived climate pollutants (methane, HFCs, black carbon, ozone) contribute half of total warming

Cutting SLCPs could avoid 4X more warming in 2050 than decarbonization alone

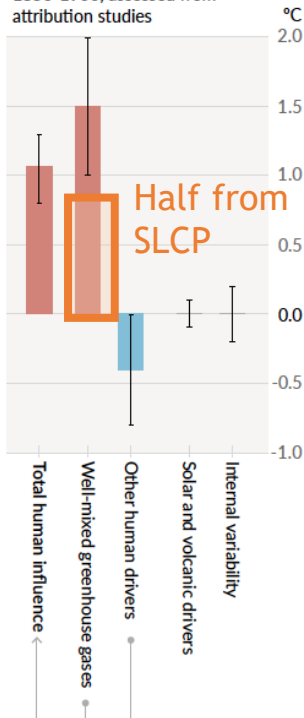
Observed warming

a) Observed warming 2010-2019 relative to 1850-1900

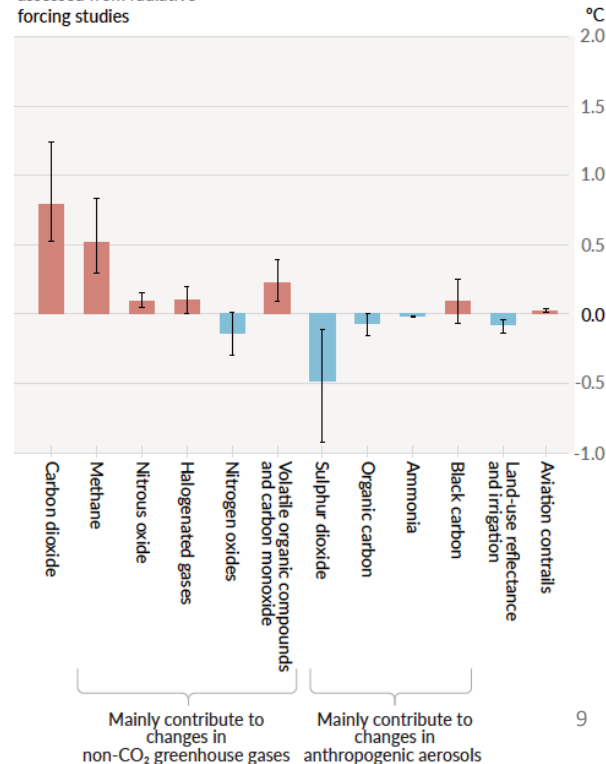


Contributions to warming based on two complementary approaches

b) Aggregated contributions to 2010-2019 warming relative to 1850-1900, assessed from attribution studies



c) Contributions to 2010-2019 warming relative to 1850-1900, assessed from radiative forcing studies



# SLCP Climate Benefits

Avoided global warming

Rapid implementation of SLCP mitigation measures, together with measures to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, would greatly improve the chances of keeping the Earth's temperature increase to less than 2°C relative to pre-industrial levels.

## Dual strategy

combine SLCP *sprint* with CO<sub>2</sub> *marathon*

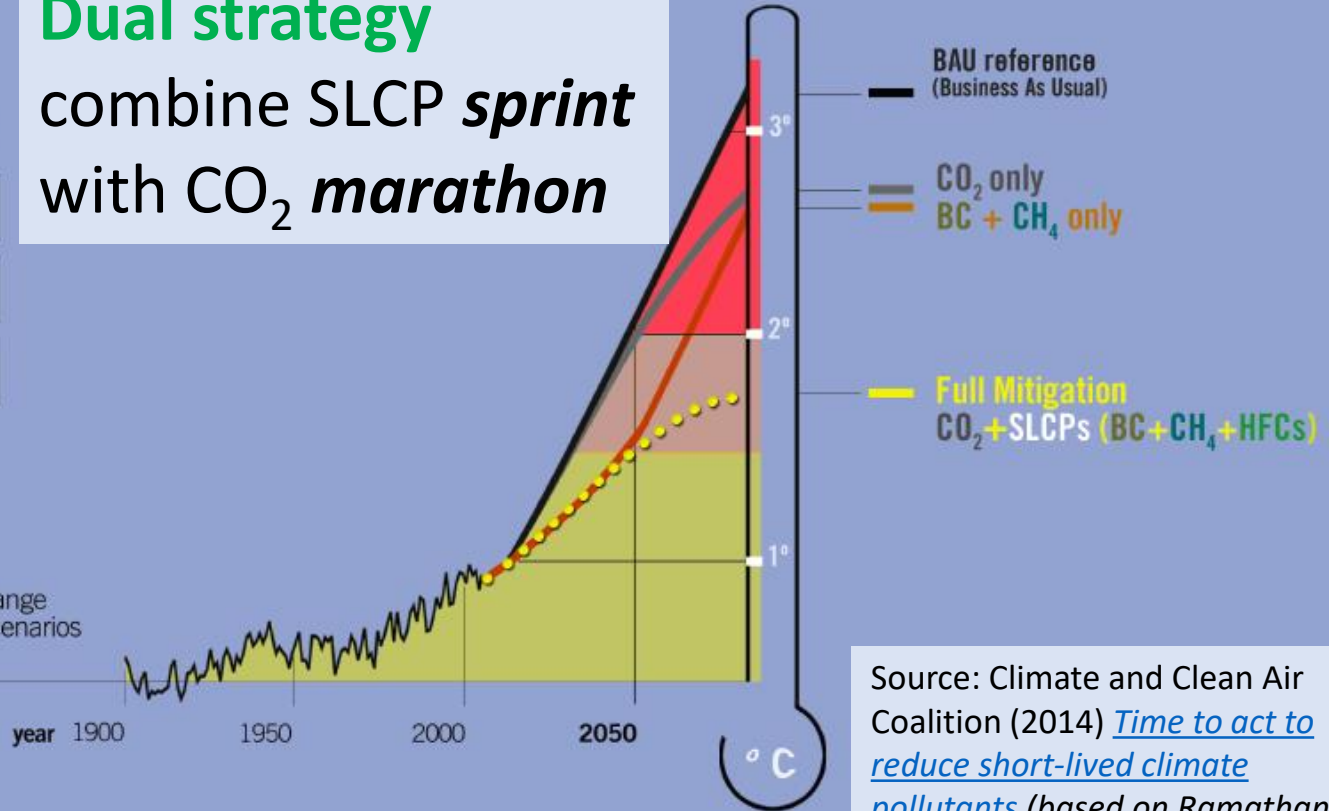
AVOIDED GLOBAL WARMING by 2050

BC + CH<sub>4</sub> 0.5°C

HFCs 0.1°C

SLCPs 0.6°C

Simulated temperature change under various mitigation scenarios  
CO<sub>2</sub>, BC, CH<sub>4</sub>, HFCs



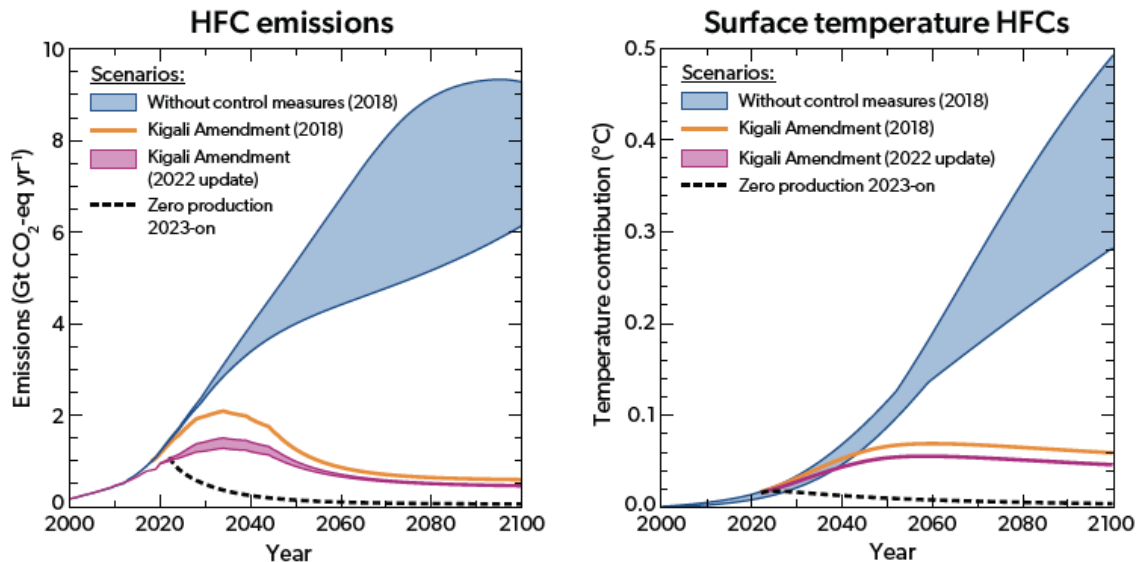
Source: Climate and Clean Air Coalition (2014) [Time to act to reduce short-lived climate pollutants](#) (based on Ramathan)

# Montreal Protocol – Benefits Extend Beyond Fixing the Ozone Hole

- Ozone hole is recovering thanks to compliance with 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and amendments phasing out HCFCs.
- Avoided 0.5–1.0°C of warming by 2050 by stopping build-up of potent CFCs, HCFCs, Halons; protecting terrestrial plants and carbon sink from UV will avoid up to an additional 1.0°C by 2100.
- Avoided hundreds of millions of cases of skin cancer and cataracts.
- 2016 Kigali Amendment phases down production and use of HFCs; ratified by Senate in September 2022; EPA currently implementing American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act of 2020.

Implementing the 2016 Kigali Amendment and aggressively phasing down HFCs will avoid 0.1 °C by 2050

Even more with energy efficiency

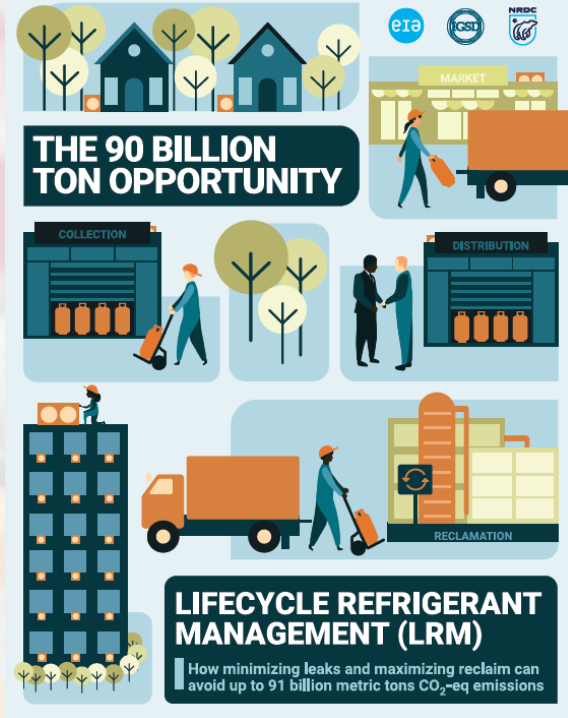


**Figure ES-4. HFC emissions (left) and their impact on global average surface temperature (right).** Shown is a scenario without global HFC control measures (the 'baseline' scenario from the 2018 Assessment, blue area) and the 2018 and 2022 scenarios assuming full compliance with the Kigali Amendment (orange and pink, respectively). Also shown is a scenario assuming that the global production of HFCs ceased in 2020 (black dashed line). For comparison, the total warming from all greenhouse gases is projected to be 1.4 °C to 4.4 °C by the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, relative to 1850–1900, following IPCC (2021) projections. The contribution from HFC-23 emissions is not included here.

# Lifecycle Refrigerant Management

- Roughly 100 billion metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e avoidable emissions this century (*additional* to Kigali Amendment)
- Refrigerant and foam banks will continue to grow under the HFC phase-down
- Most emissions are preventable through reducing leaks and end-of-life release
- ~60% consumption for filling existing equipment

ODS & HFC Refrigerants (GtCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Current	Through 2050	Through 2100
United States	3.6	6.9	9.2
Global	34	61	91



EIA, NRDC, IGSD (2022)

# Strategies Targeting Non-CO<sub>2</sub>



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Avoid energy waste

*Fix leaks and capture emissions that waste 110 million metric tons of methane every year*

# Resources

- Climate and Clean Air Coalition <https://www.ccacoalition.org/en>
- IGSD (2022) [The Need for Fast Near-Term Climate Mitigation to Slow Feedbacks and Tipping Points](#).
- IGSD (2023) [A Primer on Cutting Methane: The Best Strategy for Slowing Warming in the Decade to 2030](#).
- Theodoridi C., Hillbrand A., Starr C., Mahapatra A., & Taddonio K. (2022) [THE 90 BILLION TON OPPORTUNITY: LIFECYCLE REFRIGERANT MANAGEMENT \(LRM\) - HOW MINIMIZING LEAKS AND MAXIMIZING RECLAIM CAN AVOID UP TO 91 BILLION METRIC TONS CO2-EQ EMISSIONS](#), EIA, NRDC, IGSD.
- WMO *et al.* (2022) *Executive Summary*, in [SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT OF OZONE DEPLETION: 2022](#), Geneva, Switzerland.



Thank you!

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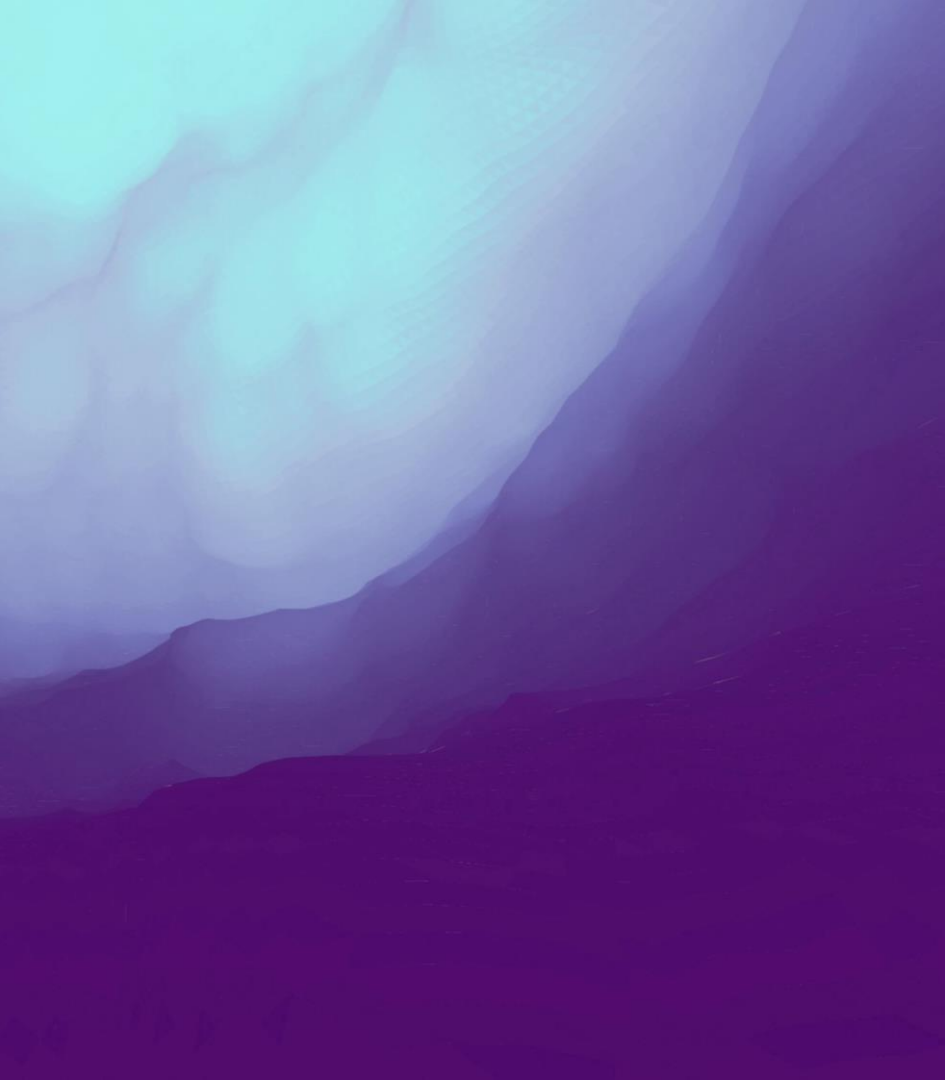


# A Nord Stream Disaster Every Day



*A large disturbance in the sea can be observed off the coast of the Danish island of Bornholm Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2022 following a series of unusual leaks on two natural gas pipelines running from Russia under the Baltic Sea to Germany have triggered concerns about possible sabotage. Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen says she “cannot rule out” sabotage after three leaks were detected on Nord Stream 1 and 2. (Danish Defence Command via AP)*

“The methane gushing out of the damaged Nord Stream pipelines is another type of climate catastrophe. It represents the amount of methane — emitted every single day — on average from oil, gas and coal energy systems, totaling about 110 million metric tons annually. Most of this wasted methane could be avoided or captured at low net cost and often at a net savings.”



# Non-CO<sub>2</sub> Climate Solutions to Slow Warming in the Near Term

Gabrielle Dreyfus, PhD

*Chief Scientist*

Institute for Governance & Sustainable  
Development

EESI Congressional Climate Camp

23 February 2023



# Short-lived climate pollutants: Black carbon and methane

Susan Anenberg, PhD

February 23, 2023

Congressional Climate Camp: Non-CO2 Greenhouse Gases

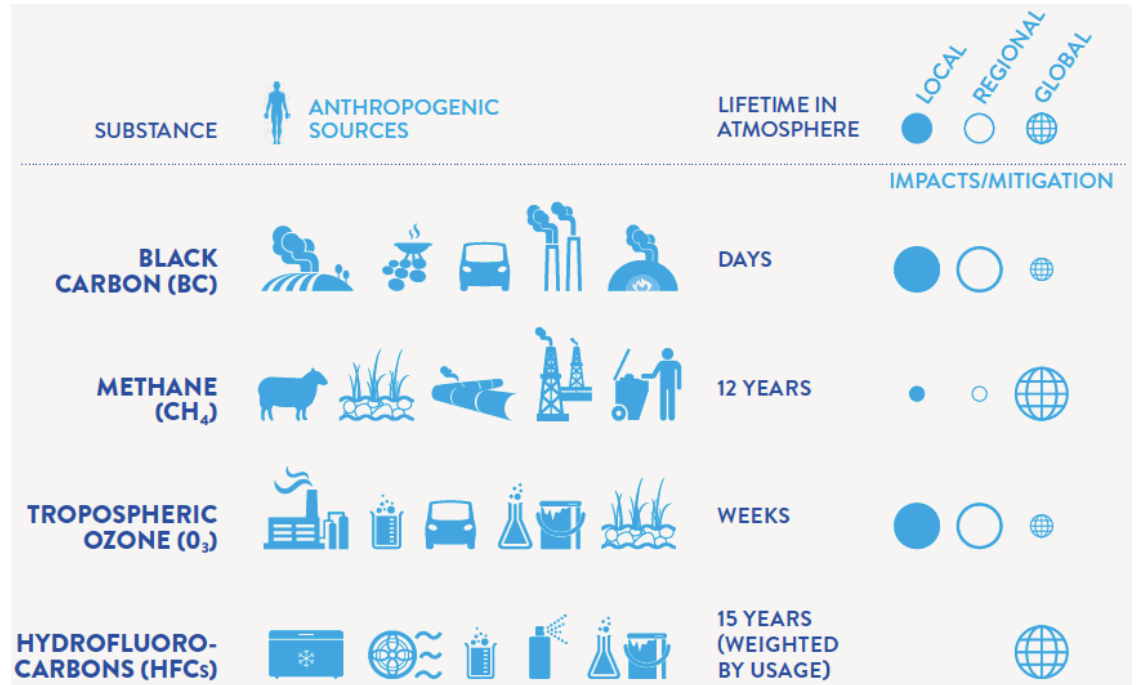
Milken Institute School  
of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



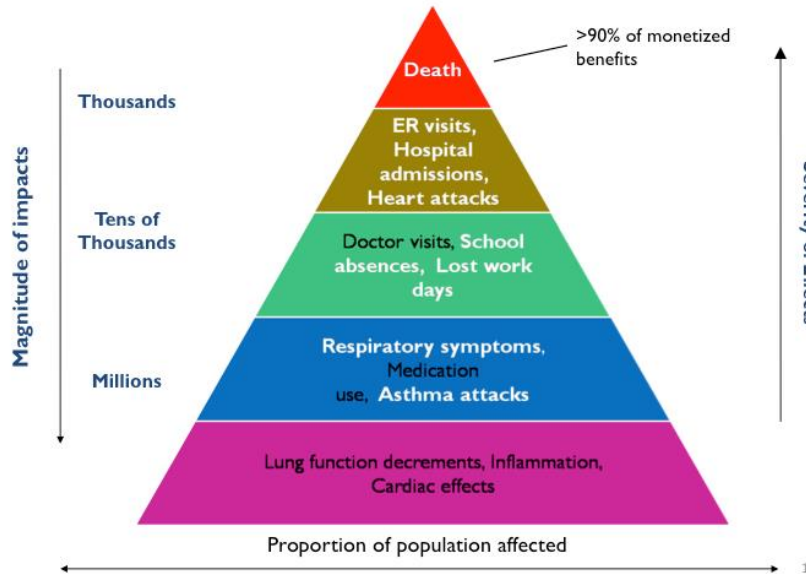
# Short-Lived Climate Pollutants

- Short-lived climate pollutants refer to species that are *both* climate-warming agents and air pollutants.
- I will focus on two of many short-lived climate pollutants: black carbon (a component of PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and methane (a precursor to ozone).



# Health effects of major air pollutants

A “Pyramid of Effects” from Air Pollution

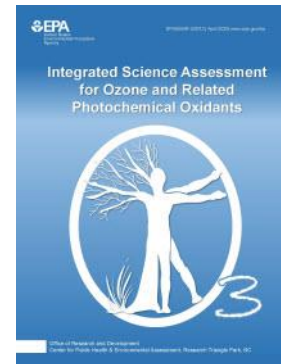


<https://www.epa.gov/benmap/how-benmap-ce-estimates-health-and-economic-effects-air-pollution>



PM<sub>2.5</sub>

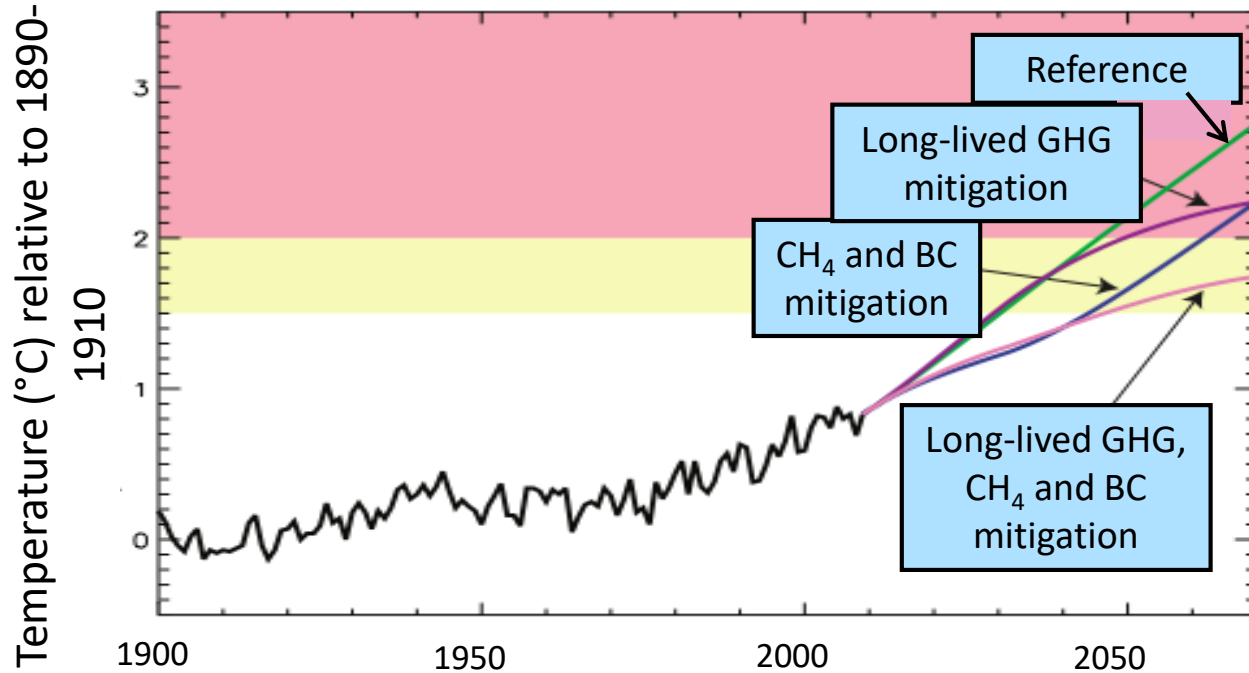
- Cardiovascular effects
- Respiratory effects
- Nervous system effects
- Cancer
- Mortality



Ozone

- Respiratory effects
- Cardiovascular effects
- Mortality

# Which path will we take?

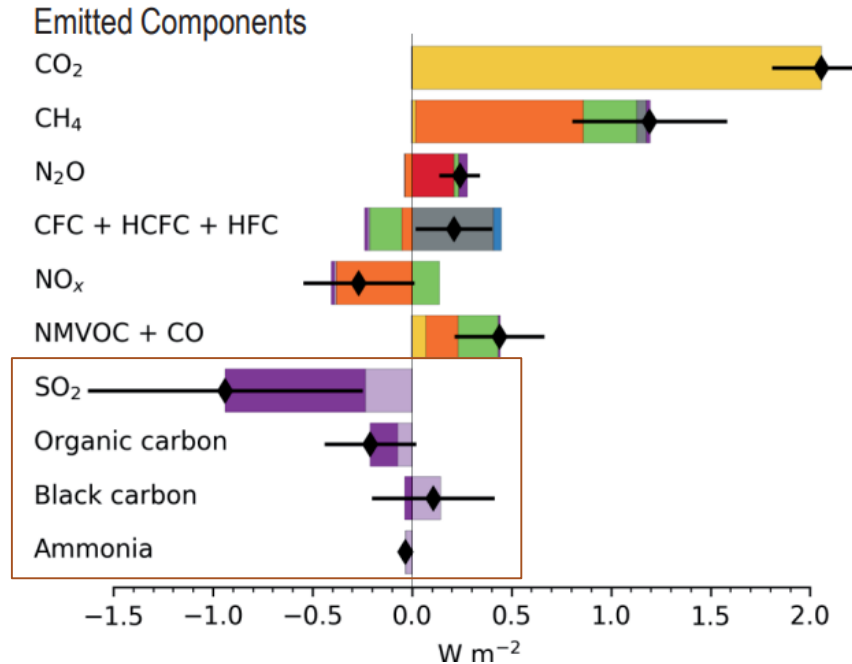


UNEP/WMO Integrated Assessment of BC and Ozone, 2011  
Shindell et al. Science, 2012

# Particulate Matter Impacts on Climate

## (a) Effective radiative forcing

1750 to 2019



# Black Carbon

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*Diesel vehicles emit black carbon (soot) into the atmosphere.*

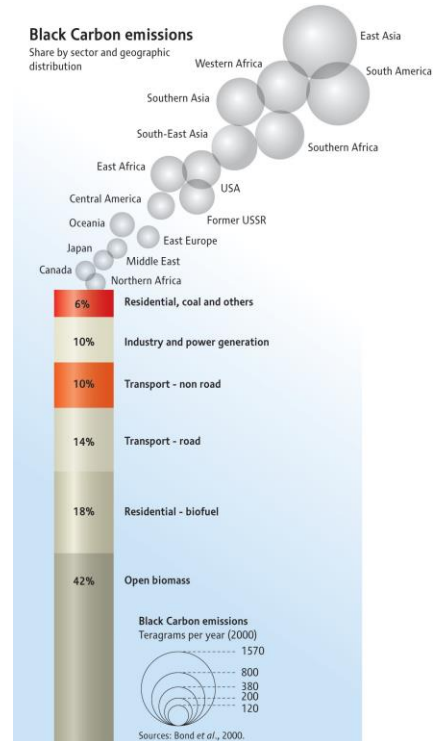
Photo: US Environmental Protection Agency





# Black Carbon Sources

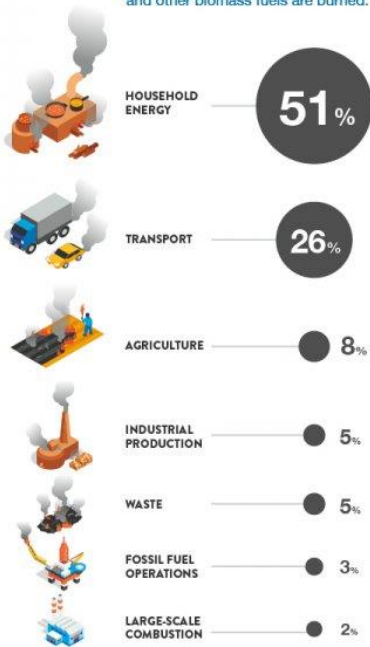
- Black carbon, a component of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, is an important short-lived climate pollutant and is emitted by diesel exhaust, biomass for cookstoves, and the burning of coal and biofuels.
- Developing nations are the highest emitters of black carbon.
- Black carbon particles are strong absorbers of solar radiation, and the global warming potential of black carbon over 100 years ranges between 1,055–2,020 (relative to a global warming potential of 1 for CO<sub>2</sub>).



# BLACK CARBON (BC)

## SOURCES

Black carbon is one of many particles and gases that are emitted when diesel, coal, and other biomass fuels are burned.

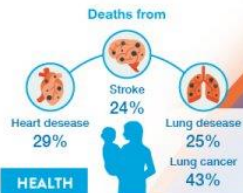


Black carbon, or soot, is part of fine particulate air pollution (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and contributes to climate climate.

## IMPACTS

### CLIMATE

Absorbs sunlight and converts it to heat



### HEALTH

7 million pollution-related deaths every year

## LIFETIME IN ATMOSPHERE: UPTO 2 WEEKS

Since black carbon does not last long in the atmosphere, efforts to reduce it will bring immediate benefits for the climate and human health.

### WEATHER

- Prevents clouds from being formed
- Alters regional weather patterns and rainfall

### SNOW & ICE

Accelerates the melting of snow and ice

### AGRICULTURE & ECOSYSTEMS

- Reduces sunlight
- Affects plant health and productivity

# Black Carbon: Mitigation Options

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## HOUSEHOLD ENERGY

- Replace traditional cooking to clean burning modern fuel cookstoves
- Replace traditional cooking and heating with clean-burning biomass stoves
- Eliminate kerosene lamps
- Replace lump coal with coal briquettes for cooking and heating
- Replace wood stove and burners with pellet stoves and boilers

## INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

- Modernize traditional brick kilns to vertical shaft brick kilns
- Modernize coke ovens to recovery ovens

## TRANSPORT

- Use diesel particulate filters for road and off-road vehicles
- Fast transition to Euro VI/6 vehicles and soot-free buses and trucks
- Eliminate high-emitting diesel vehicles

## AGRICULTURE

- Ban open-field burning of agricultural waste

## FOSSIL FUELS

- Capture and improve oil flaring and gas production

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

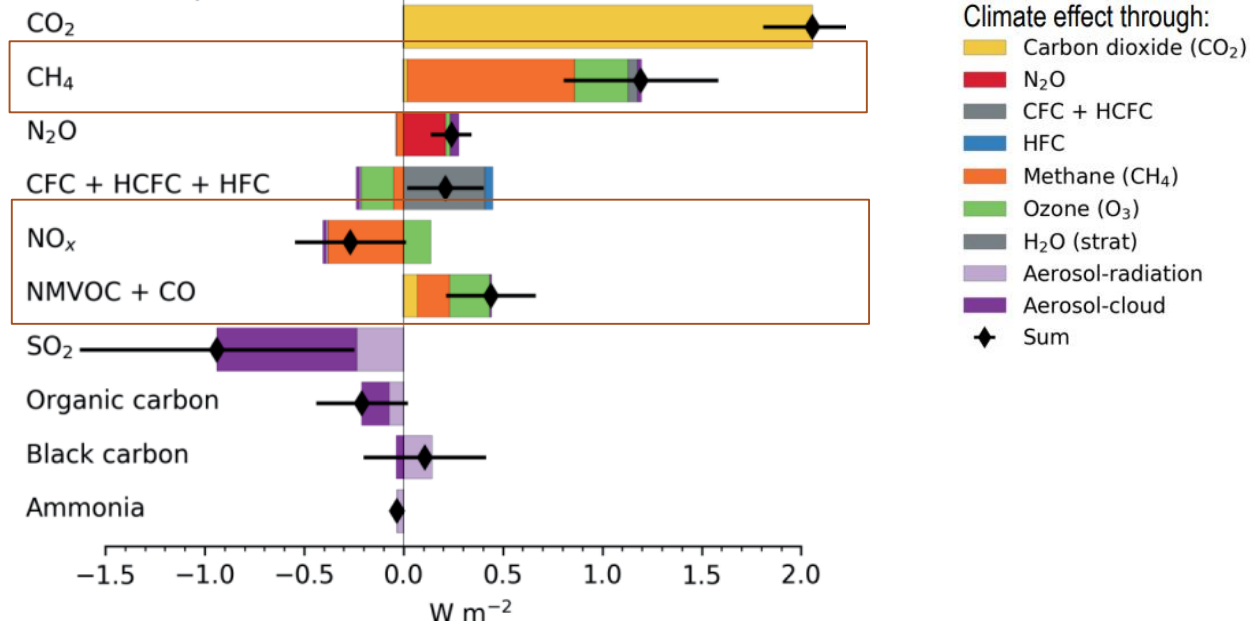
- Ban open burning of municipal waste

# Ozone Precursors and Radiative Forcing

## (a) Effective radiative forcing

1750 to 2019

Emitted Components



# METHANE (CH<sub>4</sub>)

## SOURCES

Methane is one of the fastest growing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Human activity causes 2/3 of emissions.



% = global emissions

Methane emissions caused by human activities are one of the most significant drivers of climate change. Methane is also the main precursor of tropospheric ozone, a powerful greenhouse gas and air pollutant.

## IMPACTS

### CLIMATE

Responsible for 40% of warming since the industrial revolution

86x

times more powerful than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period

### HEALTH

Increasing emissions are driving a rise in tropospheric ozone air pollution, which causes 1+ million premature deaths annually. Methane is responsible for roughly 1/2 of these deaths.



Respiratory diseases  
Heart disease  
Damaged airways and lung tissue

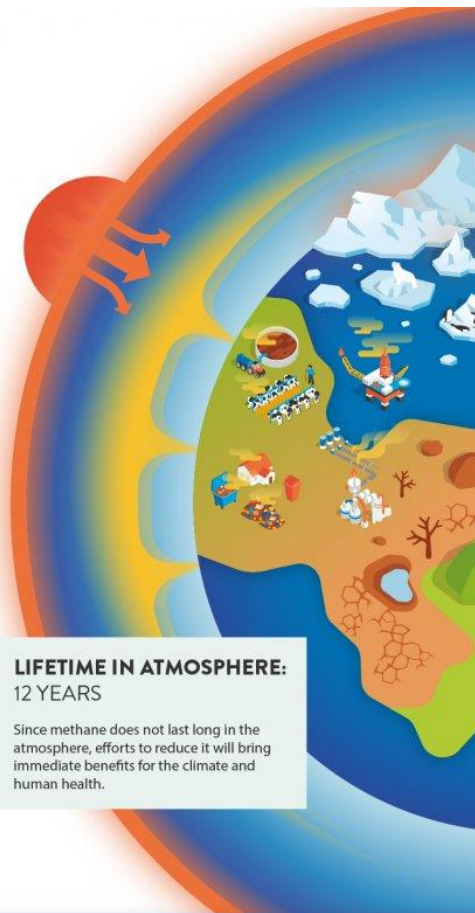
### AGRICULTURE & ECOSYSTEMS



Up to 15% annual yield losses of soy, wheat, rice and maize

## LIFETIME IN ATMOSPHERE: 12 YEARS

Since methane does not last long in the atmosphere, efforts to reduce it will bring immediate benefits for the climate and human health.



# Methane: Mitigation Options

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## AGRICULTURE

- Improve manure management and animal feed quality
- Apply intermittent aeration of continuously flooded rice paddies
- Improve animal health and husbandry by combining herd and health management, nutrition and feeding management strategies
- Introduce selective breeding to reduce emission intensity and increase production
- Promote farm-scale anaerobic digestion to control methane emissions from livestock
- Adopt guidelines on healthy dietary choices

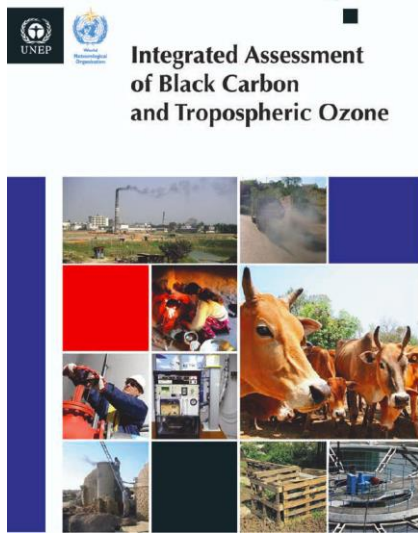
## FOSSIL FUELS

- Carry out pre-mining degasification and recovery and oxidation of methane from ventilation air from coal mines
- Reduce leakage from long-distance gas transmission and distribution pipelines
- Extend recovery and utilization from gas and oil production
- Recover and use gas and fugitive emissions during oil and natural gas production

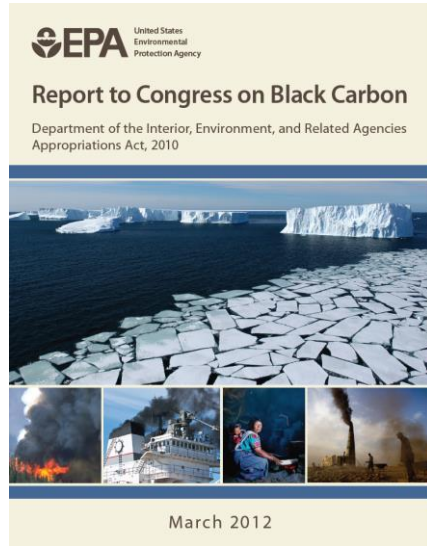
## WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Separate and treat biodegradable municipal waste, and turn it into compost or bioenergy
- Upgrade wastewater treatment with gas recovery and overflow control
- Improve anaerobic digestion of solid and liquid waste by food industry
- Upgrade primary waste water treatment
- Divert organic waste
- Collect, capture and use landfill gas

# Key Resources



2011

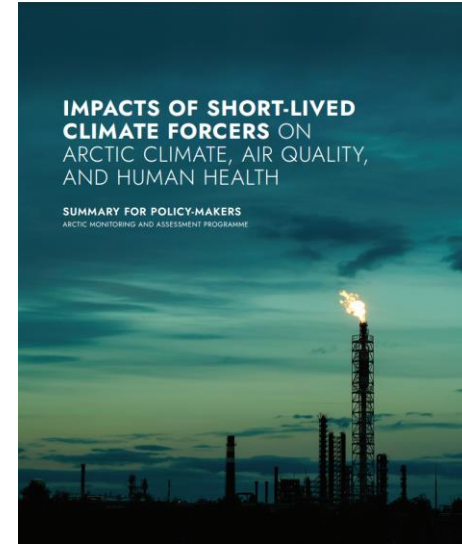


March 2012

2012



2021



2022

# Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants



**CLIMATE &  
CLEAN AIR  
COALITION**

TO REDUCE SHORT-LIVED  
CLIMATE POLLUTANTS

77 countries

78 non-state partners



National Planning Hub

Black carbon Methane  
Tropospheric ozone  
Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)



Cooling Hub

Black carbon  
Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)



Household Energy Hub

Black carbon Tropospheric ozone



Heavy-Duty Vehicles and  
Engines Hub

Black carbon



Agriculture Hub

Black carbon Methane



Fossil Fuels Hub

Black carbon Methane



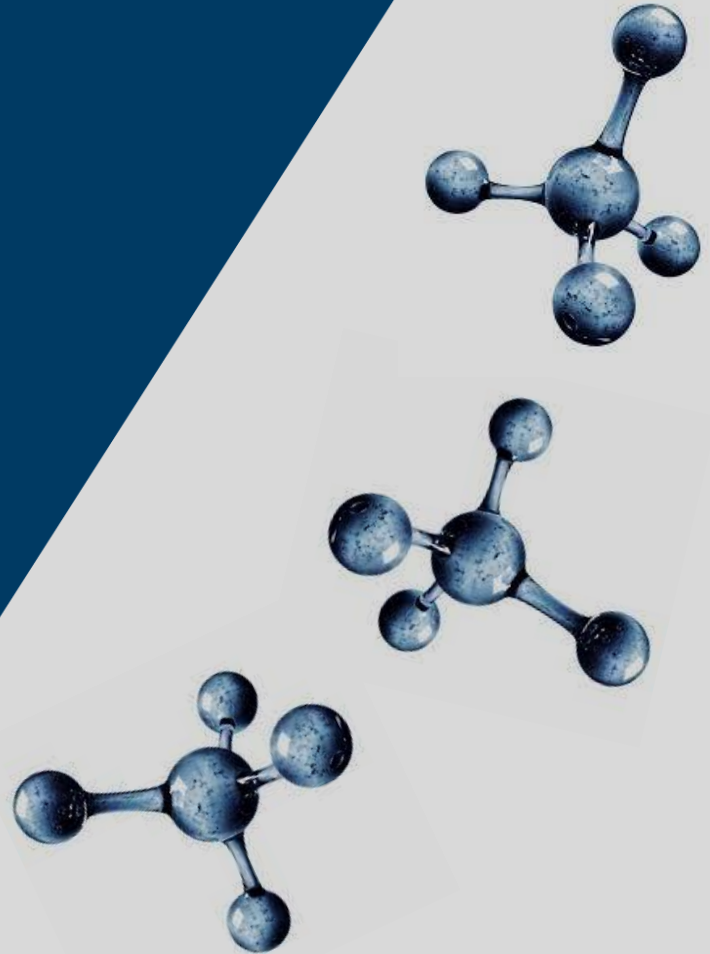




# Methane: Congressional Climate Camp on Non- CO<sub>2</sub> Greenhouse Gases

**Deborah Gordon**  
Senior Principal, Climate Intelligence Program

**EESI Briefing Series**  
**February 23, 2023**





THE  
NORTH STAR.

.....

Average annual greenhouse gas emissions were at their highest levels in human history over the past decade.

We can halve emissions by 2030.

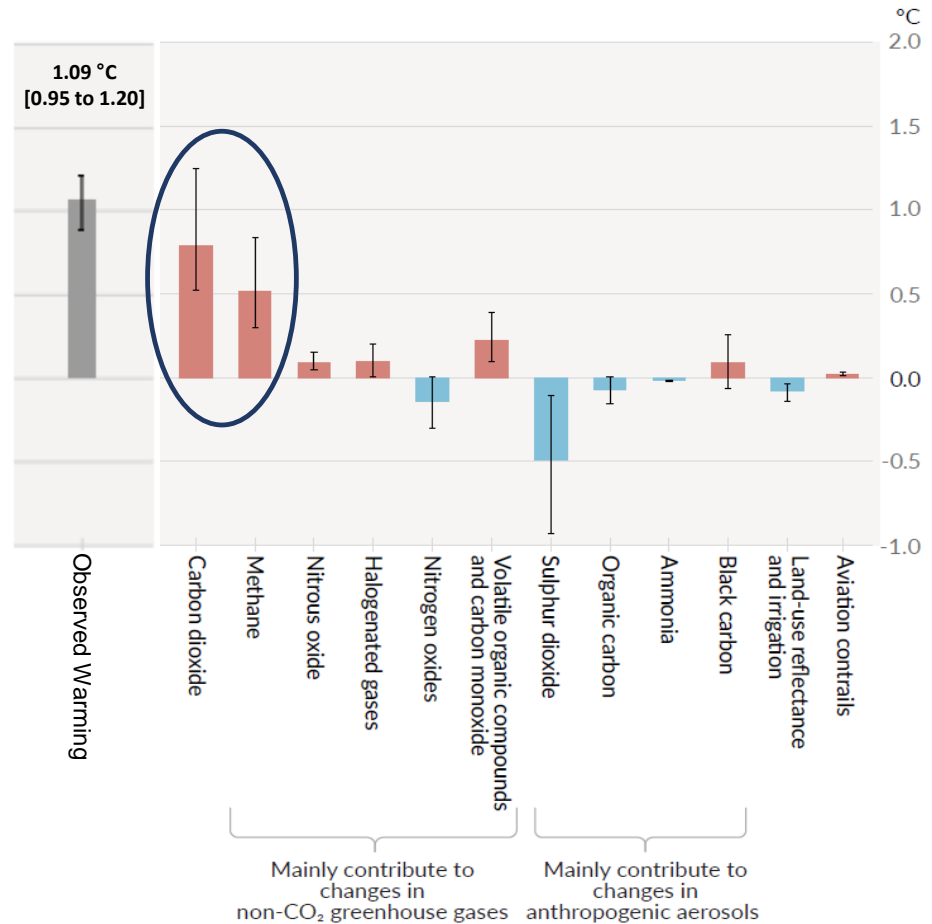
# THE EVIDENCE IS CLEAR: THE TIME FOR ACTION IS NOW.

—Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change



# Methane is playing a major warming role.

- Methane is >80 times more climate forcing than CO<sub>2</sub> using a 20-years global warming potential
- But methane's ~10-year lifetime, it is **>100 times more** climate forcing than CO<sub>2</sub>
- **IPCC finds that climactic warming from methane rivals carbon dioxide, within error.**



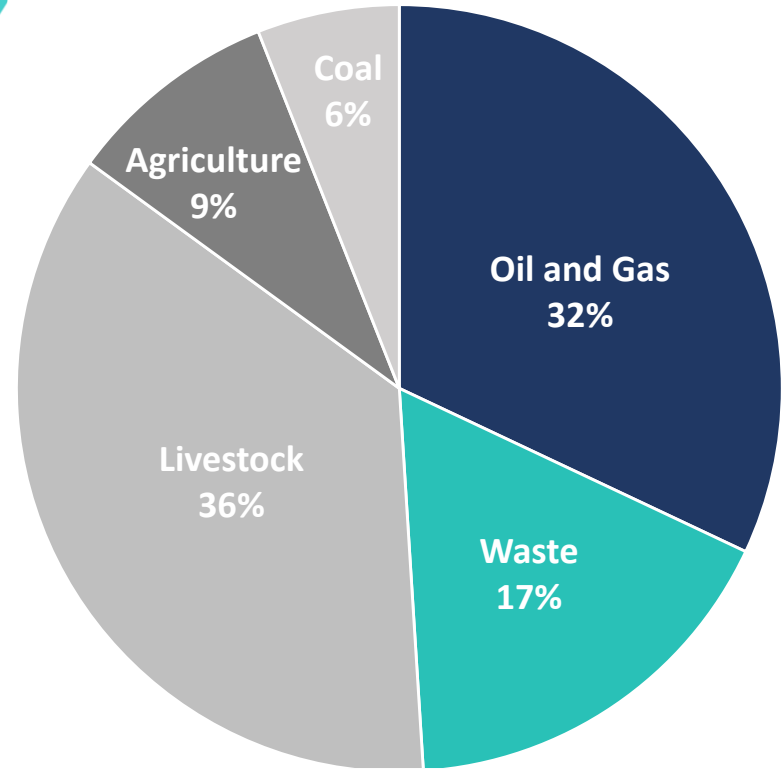
Assessed contributions to observed warming in 2010–2019 relative to 1850–1900. Source: IPCC, AR6, Figure SPM.2, 2021.

# Methane emissions are concentrated in a few sectors.

**28 Mt per year in US**

Estimated\* total human-made methane

*\* Carbon Mapper aerial surveys and satellites are identifying significant methane super-emitters that suggest undercounting in Current national (and global) methane inventories.*



**2020 US Methane Emissions, by source**

Source: US EPA, "Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks, 1990-2020," 2022.



## What is co-emitted with methane?

Natural Gas Main Components	Volume %
Methane	<70 - >90%
Natural Gas Liquids	5-15%
CO <sub>2</sub> & H <sub>2</sub> S	5-40%
Oxygen, nitrogen & other impurities	1-5%

Air Toxins in Gas Study Samples	Concentration (ppm <sub>v</sub> )
Benzene	165
Toluene	161
Ethylbenzene	13
Xylene(s)	75

**HARVARD STUDY RESIDENTIAL\* GAS, 2022**

**\*RESIDENTIAL PIPELINE GAS MAY HAVE FEWER TOXIN CONTENT THAN INDUSTRIAL GAS**

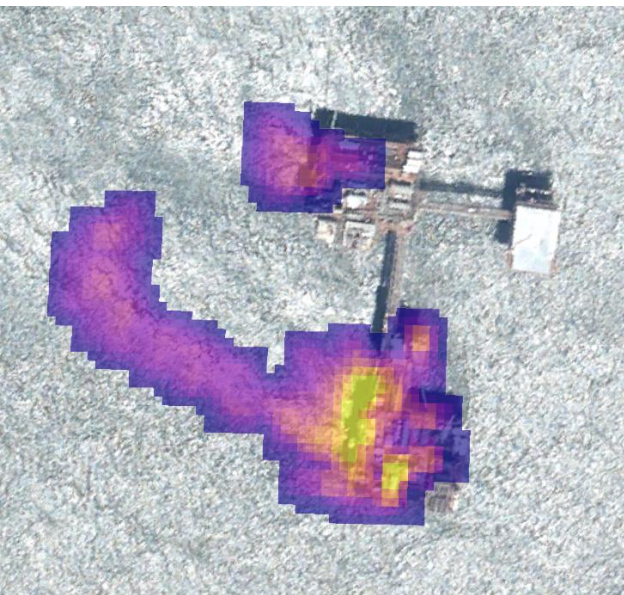


**Methane in  
Oil & Gas  
and  
Waste  
Sectors**

# Making emissions visible

*Targeting the outsized threat and opportunity by preventing super-emitters*

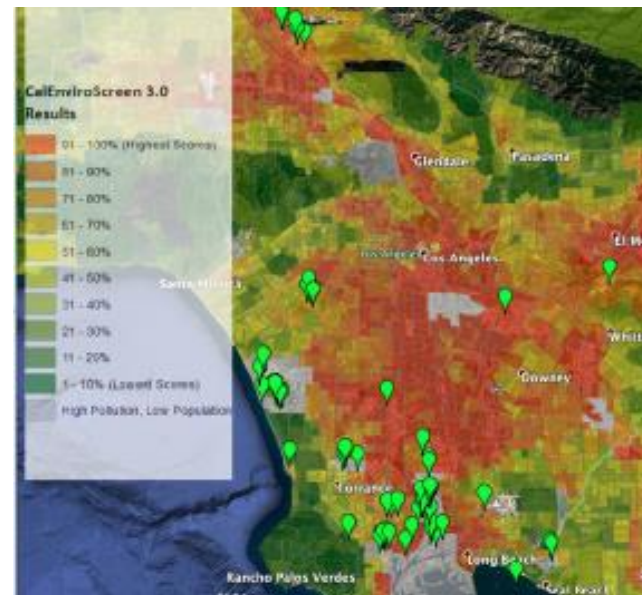
Climate, air quality, public health and environmental justice issues



**GOM Offshore Platform:**  
66% methane leakage rate in state waters



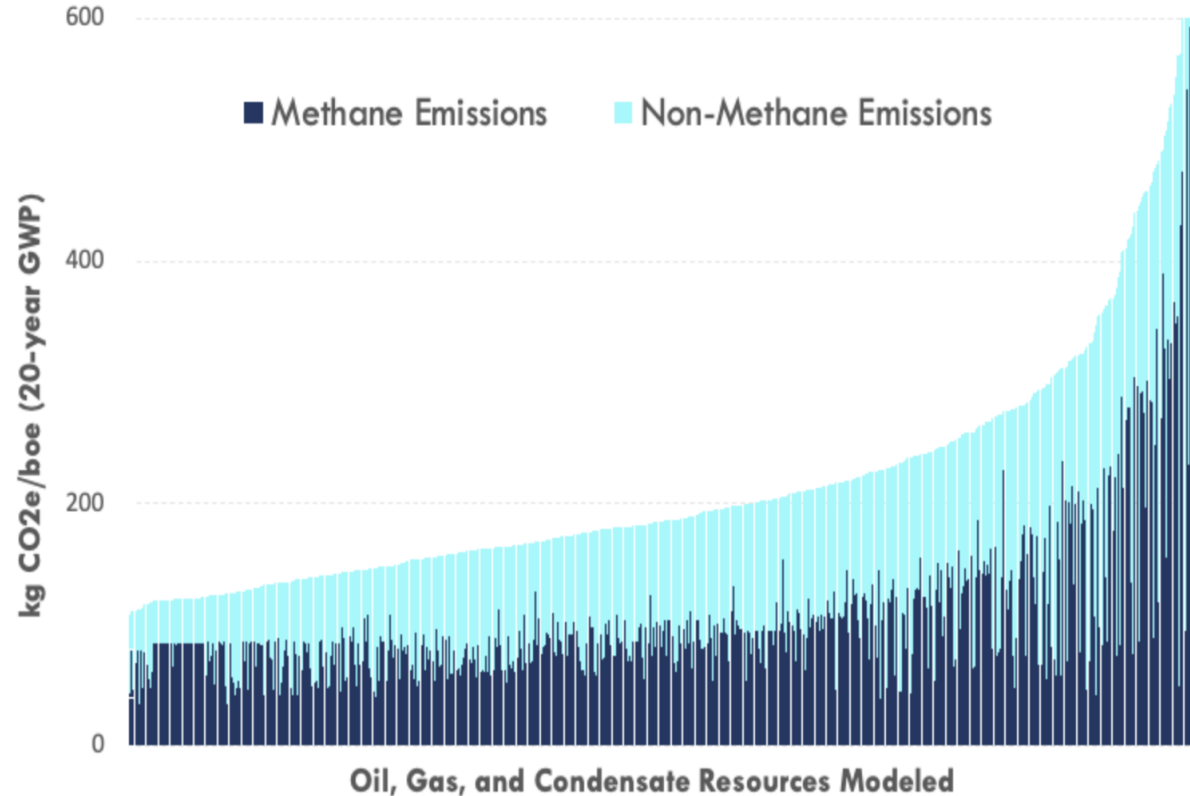
**New Orleans Landfill:**  
2,000 kg methane per hour



**Methane super-emitters in disadvantaged communities**

# Quantify, attribute, and mitigate methane

*Preventing leakage eliminates one-half of the oil and gas industry's climate impact.*




**OCI+** Oil Climate Index plus Gas

[Welcome](#) [Map](#) [Total Emissions](#) [Supply Chain](#) [Analysis](#)

### Assessing Global Oil and Gas Emissions

The OCI+ quantifies and compares greenhouse gas emissions intensities from global oil and gas assets. Use this web tool's interactive features to see where GHGs are emitted and investigate ways to reduce life-cycle emissions intensity from upstream production, midstream refining, and downstream transport and end uses.



Source: RMI, OCI+ Web tool, 2023.  
Modeling ~70% global O&G supplies.



# RMI Oil and Gas Solutions Initiative

*Leverage emissions transparency for decarbonization across supply chains*

Expanded emissions visibility

Will drive decarbonization on several fronts



➔ Emissions-differentiated **market** activation

➔ Climate-aligned **corporate** business models

➔ Better **investor** portfolio allocations

➔ Informed **government** policy and regulation

# We can manage what we can measure

*It's wasteful, harmful, and dangerous to leak gas.*

The oil and gas industry is the **#2** source of human-made methane.

But it's **#1** for reduction potential.

Leaking over **~3%** of produced gas makes it more damaging to the climate than coal.

Publicly track oil and gas asset ownership to ensure consistency between federal and state agencies.

# Waste MAP (Methane Assessment Platform)



# Two-Pronged Approach to Waste Methane Mitigation

## WASTE MAP



### Open-Source Platform

designed to collect and improve availability and robustness of global waste sector data and enable methane emissions transparency



### Decision Support Tools

the platform will include a heat map of methane emissions from waste, strategic playbooks for waste methane mitigation, and case studies



## COUNTRY DEEP DIVES



### On-the-Ground Support

Subnational and national engagement to support a pathway for waste management improvements, improve public health, and reduce environmental impact



### Information Sharing

Creating and Convening a network of waste experts and peer-to-peer exchange to share global waste management practices.

# Prioritized methane in this decisive decade.

## *Increase transparency:*

–Fund public methane monitoring to spot leakage in industry supply chains using satellites, aerial leak detection, and ground-based optical imaging.

## *Track methane:*

–Track, quantify, and attribute emissions through non-proprietary reporting so that responsible parties develop mitigation plans and curtail emissions.

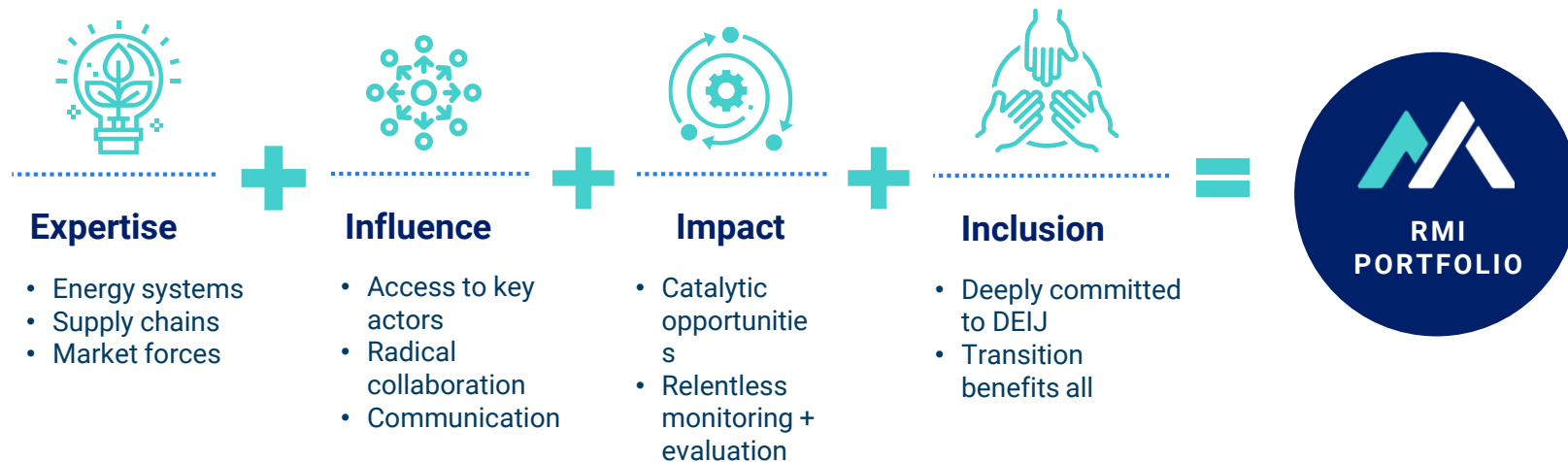
## *Establish methane markets:*

–Use an independent, verifiable certification process to differentiate commodities and price them based on their emissions to incentivize rapid methane reduction.

## *Advance policymaking:*

–Convert voluntary market standards, meet national pledges, adopt mandatory performance standards, extend methane fees, and create financial instruments.

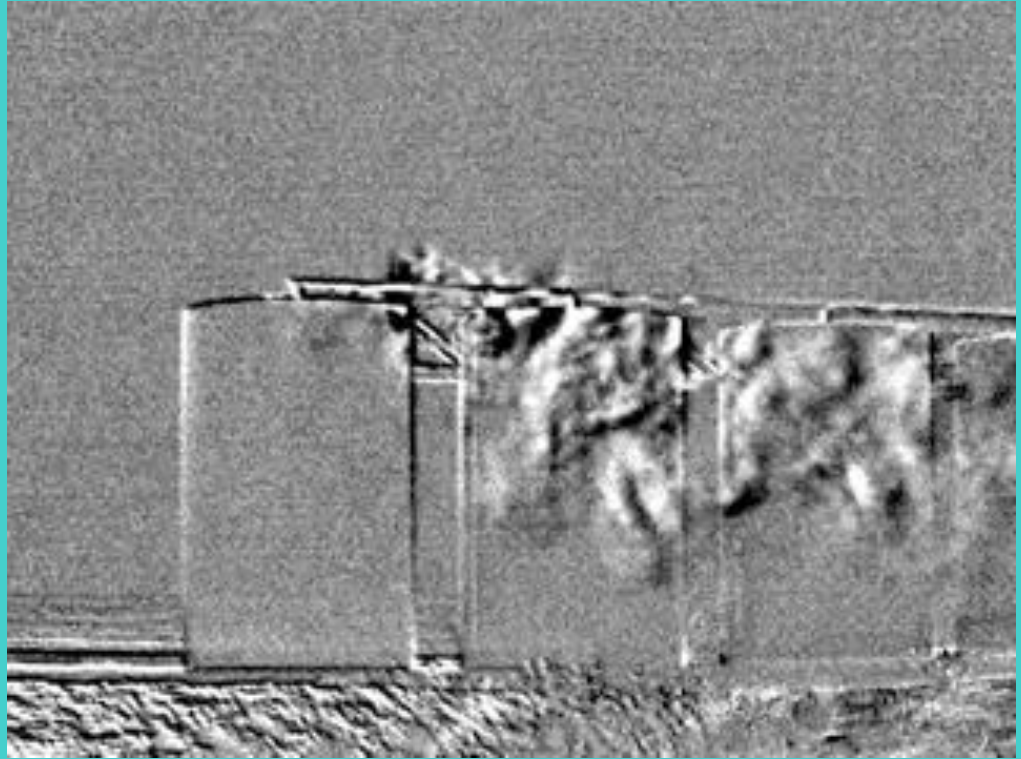
# What we've learned over the past 40 years shapes what we choose to work on



*In addition to preserving natural resources and mitigating climate change...*

*“Cutting methane emissions [is] a critical environmental justice opportunity and a critical way to save hundreds of thousands of lives.”*

— Rick Duke  
Senior director and White House liaison  
for U.S. special climate envoy John Kerry





**Thank you!**

**Deborah Gordon**  
**dgordon@rmi.org**  
**@RMImissions**



# **Agricultural Emissions of Nitrous Oxide and Methane**

**Environmental and Energy Study Institute, Briefing Series: Congressional Climate Camp**

**February 23, 2023**

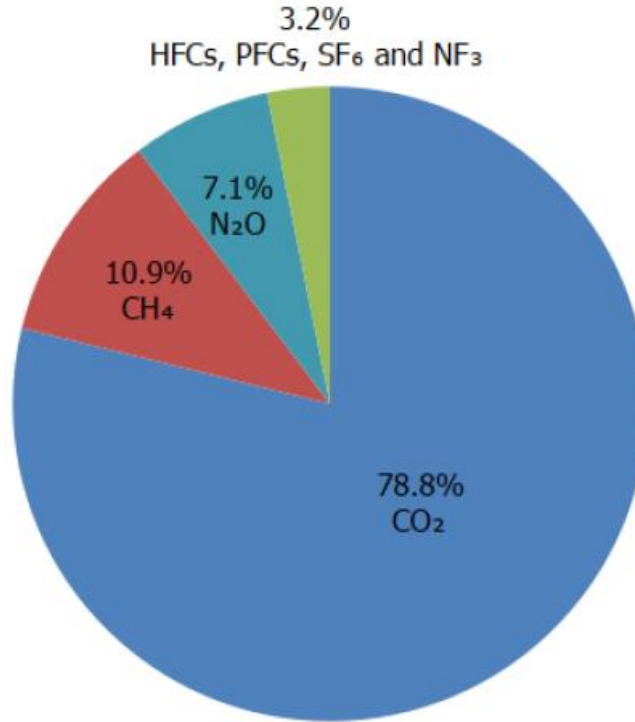
**Eric A. Davidson**

**Professor, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science**

**Principal Scientist, Spark Climate Solutions**



However, when using 20-year GWPs, the calculated contribution of CH<sub>4</sub> increases from 11% to 24% and the total contribution from agriculture increases from 10% to 15%



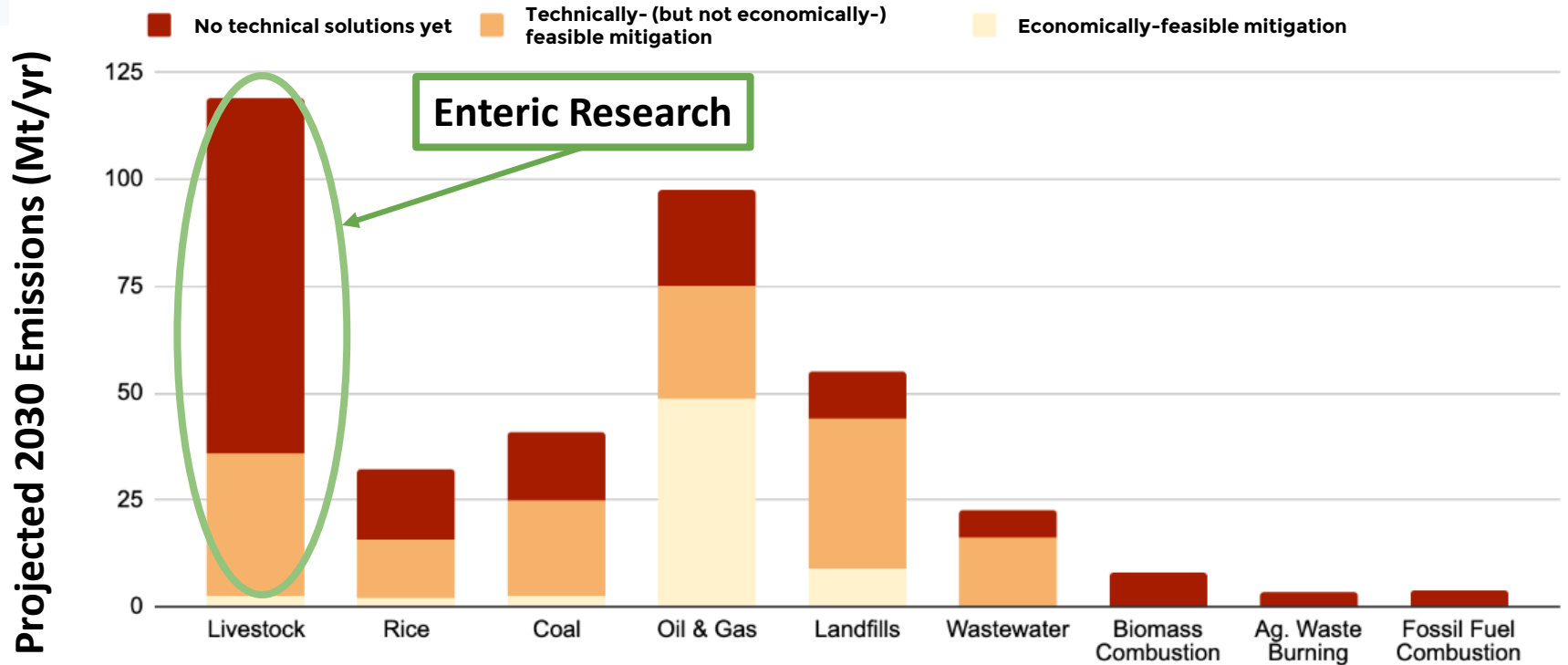
**Agriculture sector contribution:**  
~40% of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions  
~75% of N<sub>2</sub>O emissions  
~10% of total GHG emissions

**N<sub>2</sub>O is not only a potent GHG, but also an important reactant in destruction of the protective layer of stratospheric ozone**

**2020 U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Gas  
(Percentages based on MMT CO<sub>2</sub> Eq. using 100-year Global Warming Potential)  
Source: EPA**

# Livestock emissions are the largest category without the needed suite of solutions yet

Data from Ocko et al. 2021. Environ. Res. Lett. 16 16(5). 054042.



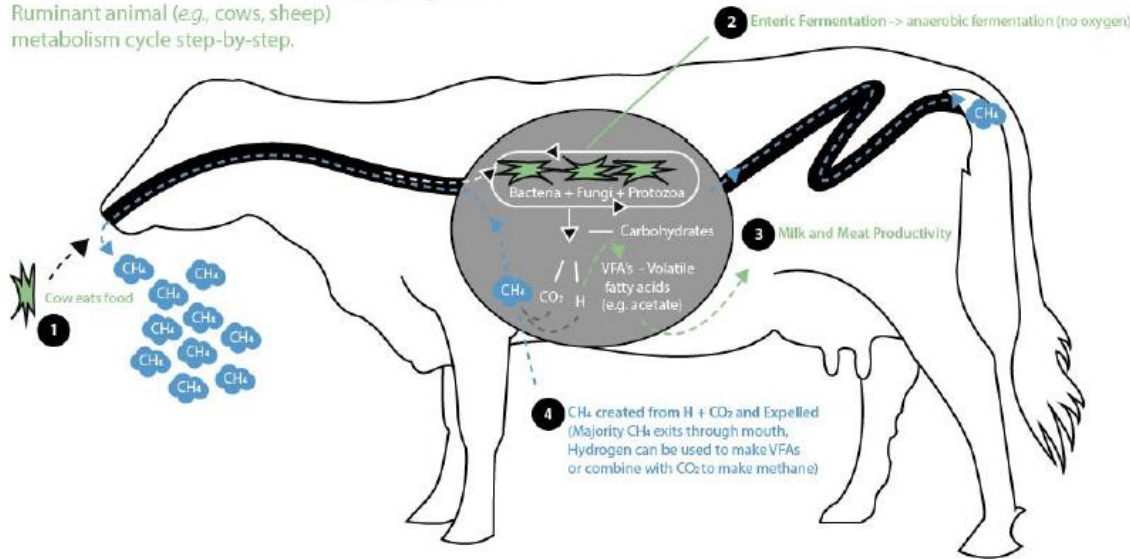
Note: Portion of emissions shown as addressed using methane removal are hypothetical.

# Science and Solution Categories at a glance.



## Enteric Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) Cycle

Ruminant animal (e.g., cows, sheep)  
metabolism cycle step-by-step.



## Cutting Edge Methane Reduction Approaches

### Block methane-forming enzymes

e.g., Bovaer (3-NOP), red seaweed (bromoform)

- + Small amount needed, in use now
- Only 30% reduction, not formulated for grazing

### Re-engineer microbiome

e.g. anti-methanogen vaccine

- + Could scale globally quickly
- Unproven

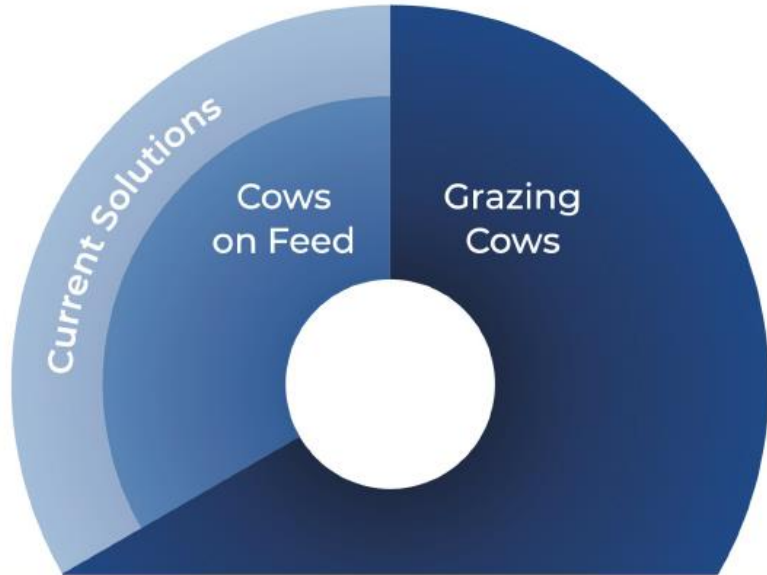
### Feed formulation for low methane

e.g., nitrates

- + Improves meat & milk production
- Not formulated for grazing

The methane produced by a cow is energy wasted; it could be used by the cow to produce more meat or milk, hence increasing profitability for the farmer.

Two-Thirds of US emissions are from grazing cattle, which are much harder to access than housed cattle.



What will happen without action and new technology

- Enteric Emissions projected to increase 30% by 2050
- Enacting proven solutions will reduce those emissions by 30%
- Therefore without innovation we will stand still

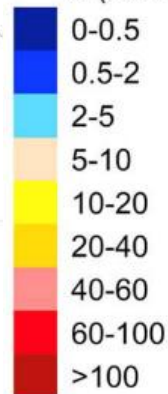
**Commercial solutions can only address <10% of US livestock enteric methane emissions (less globally)**

# Too Much

# Too Little

Nfer kg/ha

0 (No Cropland)

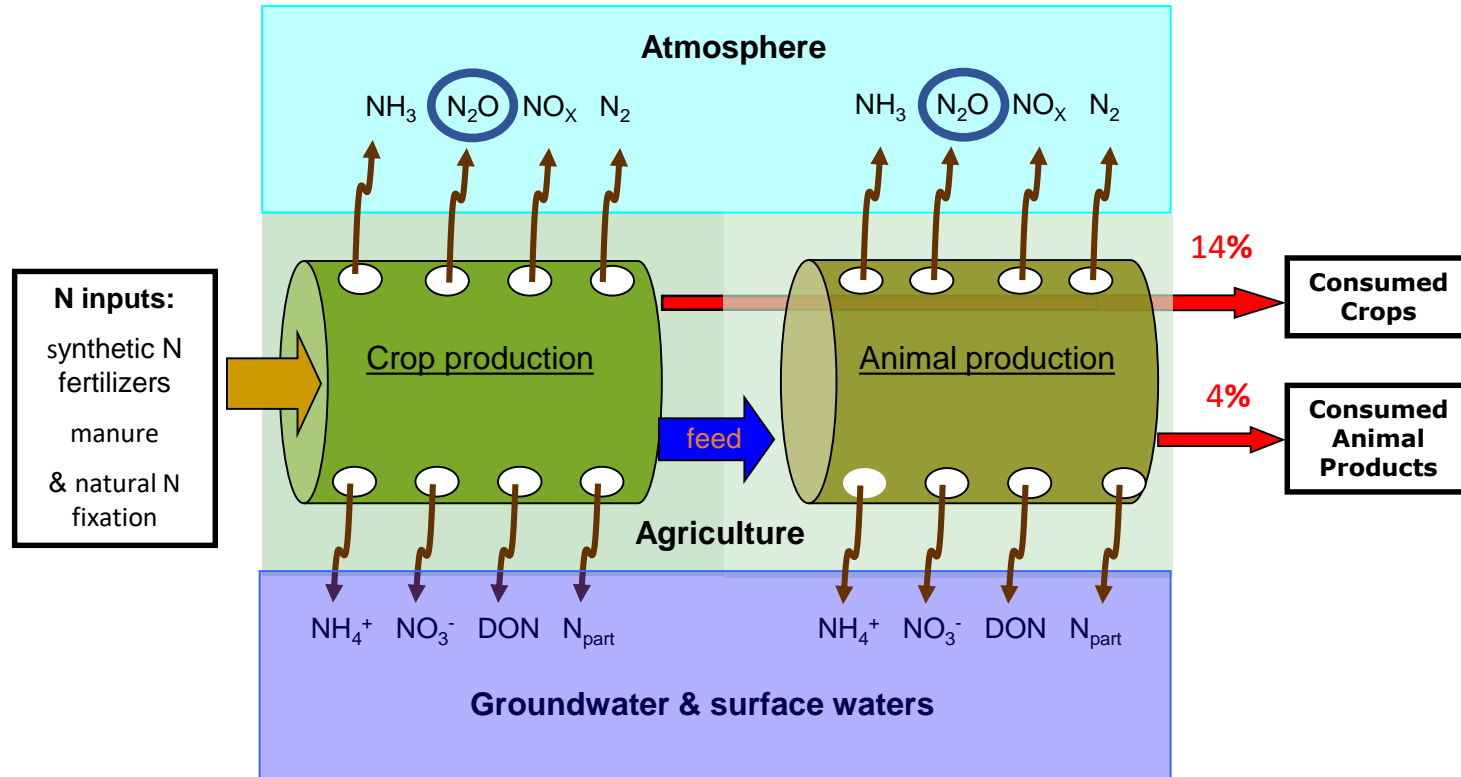


## Global nitrogen fertilizer input for 2015

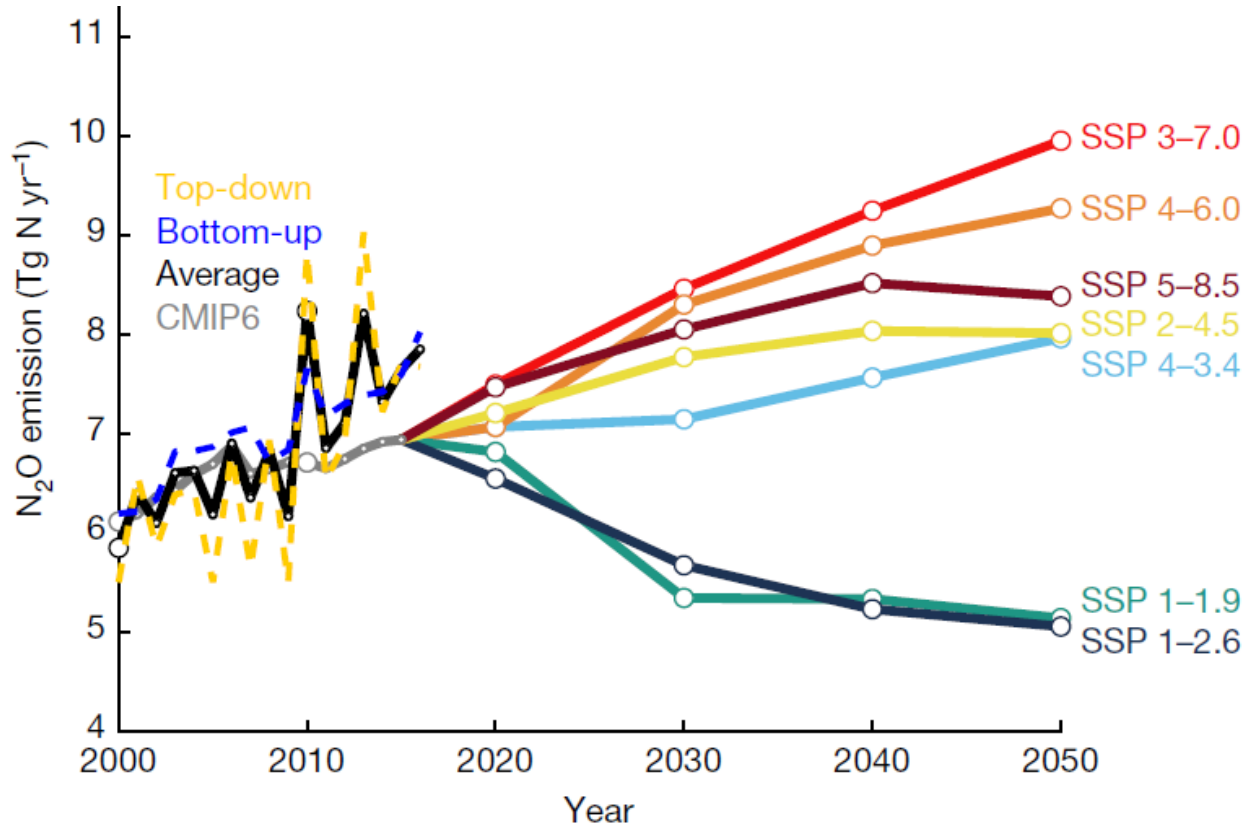
(Mueller *et al.*, 2017, Global Biogeochemical Cycles)

(produced by Zhang lab; Houlton *et al.*, 2020, *Earth's Future*)

# Nitrogen: A Very Leaky Element



Oenema et al. 2009. Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment, 133, 280-288.



Historic and projected N<sub>2</sub>O emissions under the Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSPs) in the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6 (CMIP6) for the sixth assessment (AR6) of the IPCC. Tian et al. 2021. Nature



The **4Rs** for incrementally improving nitrogen use efficiency in croplands:

1. **Right Source**: slow release fertilizers, balanced nutrients
2. **Right Rate**: soil testing, crop sensors, on-line tools, professional crop advisors and extension agents
3. **Right Time**: spring vs. fall; more frequent but smaller doses aligned with crop growth needs
4. **Right Place**: broadcasting vs. injection into the soil

**Agronomic practices and technologies to improve nitrogen use efficiency:**

- **Cover crops**
- **Nitrification inhibitors**
- **Conservation tillage**
- **Increased crop diversity**
- **Re-integration of crop and livestock production**
- **Livestock feed management and manure management**
- **Precision agriculture**
- **Regenerative agriculture/climate smart agriculture**

## **Non-technological needs for improving nitrogen use efficiency**

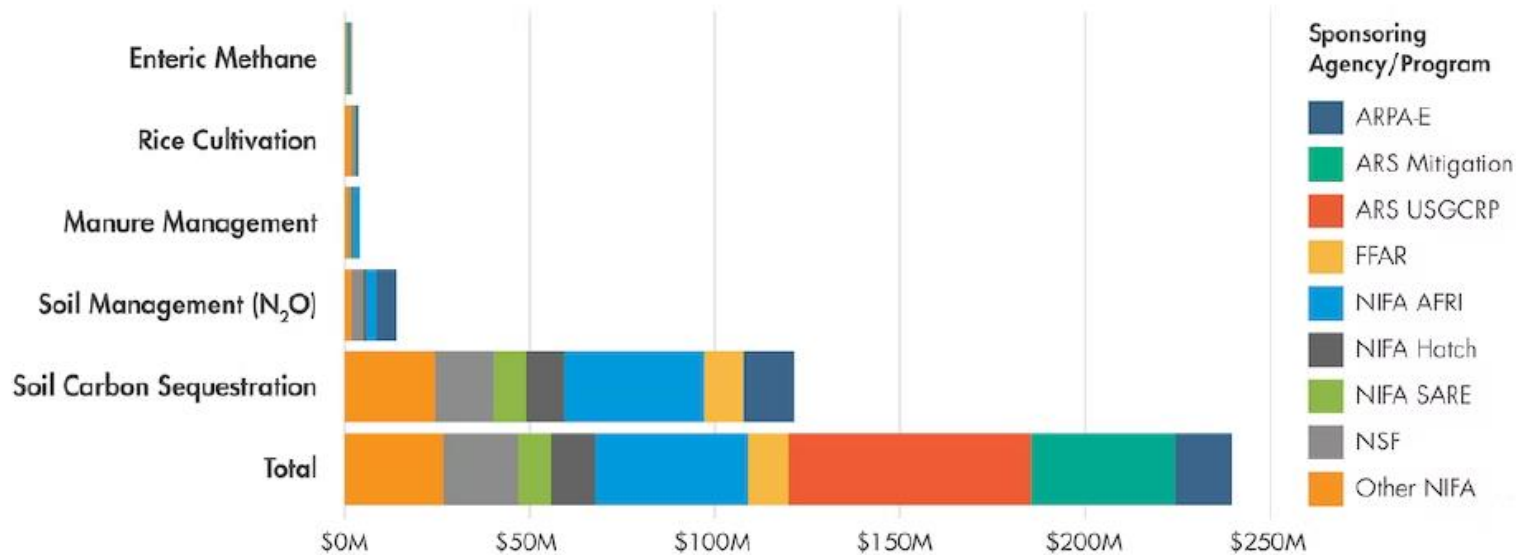
- **Social science investigations of farmer decision making and technology adoption**
- **Farmer engagement in on-farm research**

## **Longer-term, more transformational strategies needing R&D:**

- **N fertilizer synthesized with renewable energy or through new catalytic pathways and possibly at the farm scale**
- **Crop breeding to extend growing seasons, reduced grain N, and retain N in roots**
- **Feeding livestock synthetic amino acids in lieu of N-rich crops**

**These transformative advances would begin to uncouple N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from food production**

Figure ES-1: Agricultural R&D Spending on Climate Mitigation (2017–2021 Average)



# The Next Decade is Critical



**MINIMIZING  
PEAK  
TEMPERATURES  
REQUIRES  
LIVESTOCK  
ENTERIC  
METHANE  
RESEARCH  
TODAY**





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Thursday, February 23, 2023