

METHANE, THE OTHER ghg.



FROM YALE'S...

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Good readings for getting up to speed on methane

There's a lot involved in better understanding the climate change implications of methane, a principal component of natural gas.



by [SUEELLEN CAMPBELL](#) OCTOBER 22, 2021



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That methane is a powerful greenhouse gas is not news for many readers of this site. But it is newly prominent, both as a significant contributor to recent warming (causing some 25% of it, even more in this century) and as a target for minimizing future warming.

The main ingredient in natural gas and more than eighty times stronger than carbon dioxide as a heat-trapper, methane stays in the atmosphere for only about a decade. This short life span makes it second fiddle to carbon dioxide as a leading concern. But it also means that significant cuts to methane emissions are by far our best early bet

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for slowing down changes to our climate while the world decarbonizes, and for keeping climate warming below 2 degrees Celsius.

Methane is a complex topic with many aspects. These pieces will bring you up to speed on some of the major ones.

What should we call it?

Methane is the main ingredient in natural gas, long portrayed as a useful “bridge” fuel but now increasingly recognized as a major climate concern in its own right. According to the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication*: the names *methane* and *methane gas* evoke more concern than does *natural gas*.

Why does it matter so much now?

The excellent and thorough answers in these articles and podcast will help make you feel well informed ... and inform the overall discourse on methane.

It's time to freak out about methane emissions, Rebecca Leber, Vox.

Aerial and satellite imagery can find methane leaks. Will EPA bake the tech into new rules? Jeff St. John, Canary Media.

All about methane, David Roberts's podcast Volts, interviewing Sarah Smith of the Clean Air Task Force.

Read the entire article at:

<https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2021/10/good-readings-for-getting-up-to-speed-on-methane/>

This series is curated and written by retired Colorado State University English professor and close climate change watcher SueEllen Campbell of Colorado. To flag works you think warrant attention, send an e-mail to her any time. Let us hear from you.