

October 2011



Dear Colleagues,

Climate change is one of the most critical international environmental problems of today. Emissions of methane, a potent and short-lived greenhouse gas, contribute to more than one-third of today's atmospheric warming. Therefore, reducing methane is one of the best strategies for avoiding the near term impacts of climate change. The science on methane is clear. Reducing methane emissions will not only significantly impact the effects of climate change, but also will protect human health and the environment. Proven, cost-effective technologies and practices to reduce methane emissions have resulted in increased energy security, enhanced economic growth, improved air and water quality, and improved industrial safety.

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) is committed to reducing methane emissions and promoting cost-effective solutions to mitigate emissions and use methane as a clean energy source. Since its launch in 2010, GMI continues to build on the success of the former Methane to Markets Partnership. GMI has expanded its role to include additional emission sources, new approaches to methane abatement, a strategic focus on the development of partner action plans, and a renewed effort to ensure that appropriate resources and international attention are dedicated to this effort.

During GMI's inaugural year, the Initiative has grown to include 40 partner governments plus the European Commission, and more than 1,100 private sector and non-governmental organizations. As the only international effort to specifically target methane reductions, GMI is positioned to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By encouraging national methane action plans, Partner Countries are now developing strategies and taking actions to reduce methane emissions. The international cooperation fostered by GMI has enabled Partner Countries to make tangible progress to fight climate change and create new sources of clean energy.

From the beginning, the United States has been a staunch leader of GMI. The United States has pledged to provide at least \$50 million over the next five years to enhance the Initiative's achievements. Through GMI, the United States is now providing technical, financial, or capacity-building support to about 550 projects and activities around the world. These activities have reduced methane emissions by nearly 29 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMT-CO₂E) in 2010 alone, and have reduced emissions by more than 128 MMT-CO₂E cumulatively since 2005.

With renewed international interest in taking action on short-lived climate forcers, the future of GMI has never looked better. The Initiative is growing, making significant strides to expand into other critical methane emissions sectors such as municipal wastewater, and is fostering international cooperation on methane reductions through national methane action plans. As Chair of the Global Methane Initiative Steering Committee and as a representative of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, I look forward to leading the United States engagement in the next phase of international action on methane.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina McCarthy", written in a cursive style.

Gina McCarthy
Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation
U.S. EPA
Steering Committee Chair, Global Methane Initiative