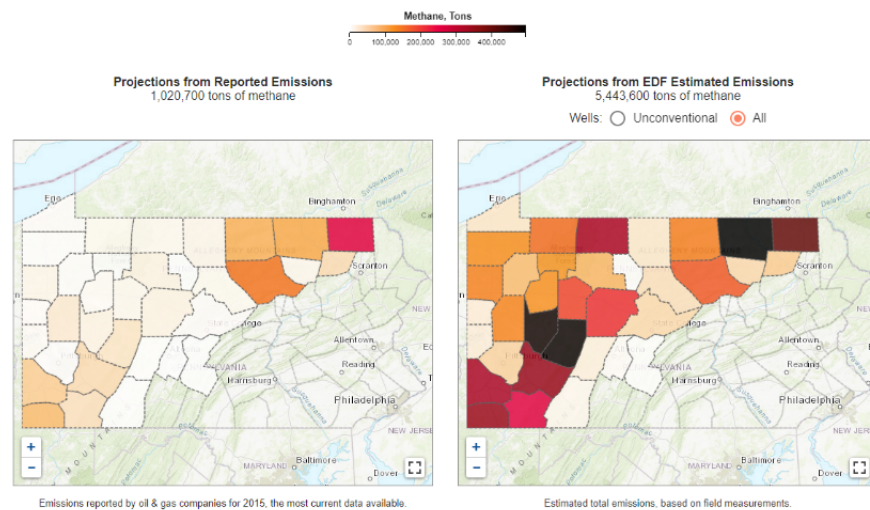


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**Report estimates Pennsylvania oil and gas methane emissions
nearly five times higher than state's figures**

(Feb. 15, 2018) – Methane emissions from Pennsylvania's oil and gas sites may be more than five times higher than what oil and gas companies report to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), according to a new analysis from Environmental Defense Fund.



EDF analysis shows more than five million tons of methane pollution could be emitted by 2025, absent action from the state. Visit edf.org/PennsylvaniaMethane

Methane is both a powerful climate pollutant and the primary ingredient of natural gas. The EDF analysis estimates Pennsylvania's oil and gas operators emit more than 520,000 tons of methane a year, primarily from leaky, outdated and malfunctioning equipment. This wasted gas causes the same near-term climate pollution as 11 coal-fired power plants, and results in nearly \$68 million worth of wasted energy resources.

➤ **WATCH: [Infrared footage reveals pollution leaking from Pennsylvania gas sites.](#)**

The EDF analysis is based on [peer-reviewed scientific research](#) conducted at the state's oil and gas sites in order to estimate the total amount of methane industry emits. The state's published methane inventory, on the other hand, is based on data reported to DEP by operators, which significantly underestimate emissions, as not all facilities are required to report their pollution and operators who do report tend to use outdated methods for estimating emissions.

Pennsylvania's methane history

DEP announced it will finalize methane reduction requirements for new and modified oil and gas facilities by the end of March. The department also committed to regulating emissions from thousands of existing unconventional facilities within the next two months. EDF's analysis finds this could reduce the state's emissions by 25% -- making bold action all the more urgent.

"We are pleased that the Wolf administration continues to promise bold action on methane. Pennsylvanians have known for quite some time that unchecked oil and gas pollution is making air quality and climate change worse, and now we have new insight as to just how severe and urgent this problem is," said Andrew Williams, Director of Regulatory and Legislative Affairs at Environmental Defense Fund. "There is a clear, reasonable and cost-effective path forward for reducing the health, climate and economic risks of oil and gas emissions, and we look forward to working with Governor Wolf to make it happen for Pennsylvania's communities."

The EDF analysis also estimates oil and gas companies emit more than 54,000 tons of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) – nearly nine times more than oil and gas operators report to the state. VOCs contribute to higher ground-level ozone or "smog" levels in the region and can trigger asthma, respiratory illness and other health problems, particularly for people living in close proximity to oil and gas sites.

Continuing state progress

While the Wolf administration has committed to acting on methane pollution from unconventional wells, DEP has not made any proposal to address pollution from older, conventional wells. According to the EDF analysis, conventional wells are responsible for a significant part of the industry's methane emissions, and suggests some level of state intervention will be necessary to significantly reduce this harmful pollution in the long term.

The analysis concludes Pennsylvania can reduce 60% of industry's methane emissions by implementing a series of strategies already required in other oil- and gas-producing states. Without additional regulatory action from the state, more than five million tons of methane pollution could be emitted by the year 2025.

Visualizing data, exploring solutions

The EDF emissions analysis includes an online toolkit developed by [Spherical Analytics](#) that allows users to get a county-by-county view of pollution levels, as well as access information about nearby well sites and the number of schools and medical facilities located near oil and gas operations. Users can also compare the state's reported emissions with EDF's science-based estimates.

The interactive tool includes a feature that allows users to compare and model a variety of different pollution control tactics. They are based on real, cost-effective solutions other states have implemented in order to significantly reduce pollution, including:

- Check equipment for unintentional gas leaks at least once a quarter;
- Replace high-emitting equipment with new technologies that pollute less;
- Apply emission controls to future and existing facilities.

The full report is now available online at edf.org/PennsylvaniaMethane

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Environmental Defense Fund (edf.org), a leading international nonprofit organization, creates transformational solutions to the most serious environmental problems. EDF links science, economics, law and innovative private-sector partnerships. Connect with us on our [Energy Exchange blog](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).