

## PARTNERSHIP FACT SHEET

### OBJECTIVE

The Methane to Markets Partnership is an action-oriented initiative that will reduce global methane emissions to enhance economic growth, promote energy security, improve the environment, and reduce greenhouse gases. The initiative will focus on cost-effective, near-term methane recovery and use as a clean energy source. It will be done internationally through collaboration between developed countries, developing countries, and countries with economies in transition – together with strong participation from the private sector. The Methane to Markets Partnership targets three major methane sources: landfills, underground coal mines, and natural gas and oil systems. Cooperative research into methane science issues and cost-effective activities to reduce agricultural emissions over the longer-term will also be undertaken. Other benefits include improving mine safety, reducing waste, and improving local air quality.

### BACKGROUND

Methane, the primary component of natural gas, accounts for 16% of all greenhouse gas emissions resulting from human activities. Because methane is both a powerful greenhouse gas and short-lived compared to carbon dioxide, achieving significant reductions would have a rapid and significant effect on atmospheric warming potential. The Methane to Markets Partnership is a major new addition to the series of international technology partnerships advanced by the Bush Administration on hydrogen, carbon sequestration, fusion and advanced nuclear power technologies. These initiatives will help develop and deploy the transformational energy technologies that will significantly cut projected emissions and the greenhouse gas intensity of the global economy in the context of sustained economic growth.

### EXPECTED ENERGY, ENVIRONMENTAL AND GREENHOUSE GAS RESULTS

The Partnership has the potential to deliver by 2015 annual reductions in methane emissions of up to 50 million metric tons of carbon equivalent or recovery of 500 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas. These measurable results, if achieved, could lead to stabilized or even declining levels of global atmospheric concentrations of methane. To give a sense of scale, this would be equivalent to:

- Removing 33 million cars from the roadways for one year, planting 55 million acres of trees, or eliminating emissions from fifty 500 MW coal-fired power plants; or
- Providing enough energy to heat approximately 7.2 million households for one year.

### MEMBER COUNTRY ACTIONS

We envision that participating countries will develop a charter that outlines the purpose, organization and action plan for the Partnership. The principal national commitments for partners could include:

- Building on existing, reliable inventory systems to identify and monitor methane emissions;
- Identifying cost-effective opportunities for capturing methane emissions for energy production and undertaking collaborative projects aimed at these specific opportunities;
- Supporting the development of voluntary consensus standards;
- Identifying barriers and improving the legal, regulatory, financial, and institutional conditions to create effective energy markets that will attract private sector investment in methane recovery and utilization projects; and

## **METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP**

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- Developing an action plan for reducing methane emissions and a process for evaluating its implementation.

In addition, developed country partners would assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in expanding methane recovery projects through cooperative technical assistance, technology deployment, and market conditioning.

### **PARTICIPATION AND MINISTERIAL LAUNCH**

The Partnership will be launched by developed and developing countries with large methane emission sources or special expertise. The United States has offered to host the first meeting of the Partnership at a ministerial conference on November 15–17, 2004 in Washington, D.C. Active involvement by private sector entities, financial institutions, and other non-governmental organizations is considered essential to build capacity, transfer technology, and promote private direct investment that will ensure the Partnership's success.

### **US GOVERNMENT AGENCIES INVOLVED**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will play a lead role in the Partnership by building on the success of the Agency's voluntary domestic methane partnership programs. Other Departments will also play a central role in the Partnership. These include the Department of State, which leads on international climate change policy and activities; the Department of Energy, which has valuable expertise in natural gas and coal mine methane technologies; and the U.S. Agency for International Development, which provides important technical expertise in the economic reform of energy sectors to create markets that support private sector projects in developing countries and those with economies in transition.