# Oil and gas industry overlooks cost-free methane emission cuts, warns IEA



The International Energy Agency (IEA) has released a report highlighting that the oil and gas industry is neglecting significant opportunities to reduce methane emissions, known as fugitive emissions, which could amount to millions of tonnes. Despite the availability of cost-effective methods for abating these emissions, the industry has made little progress in implementing the necessary changes.

In its analysis, the IEA pointed out that the lack of action on methane abatement does not stem from prohibitive costs, as the measures required to mitigate these emissions could be implemented without incurring extra net expenses to operators. Specifically, the agency has identified that the technology required to capture and remediate these emissions is both accessible and affordable.

Additionally, the report draws attention to the emissions emanating from abandoned coal mines, indicating that these sources are also not being adequately addressed. The IEA’s findings suggest a broader reluctance within the energy sector to prioritise emissions reduction strategies that could have substantial environmental benefits.

The implications of these findings are significant, as methane is a potent greenhouse gas, and its mitigation is crucial for achieving climate goals. The report calls for urgent attention towards these two major sources of emissions, underscoring that existing solutions could lead to meaningful reductions if adopted promptly.

As the urgency of climate change continues to mount, the response from the oil, gas, and coal sectors will be closely monitored by various stakeholders, including environmental organisations and policymakers, to assess the industry’s commitment to reducing its environmental footprint.

This analysis reflects ongoing concerns about the industry's environmental practices and the potential for significant improvements through the adoption of already available technologies.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.iea.org/reports/global-methane-tracker-2022> - The IEA's Global Methane Tracker 2022 report corroborates the claim that the oil and gas industry is neglecting opportunities to reduce methane emissions, detailing the significant amounts of emissions that could be mitigated through existing technologies.
2. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959652621007891> - This article discusses the cost-effective methods available for methane abatement, confirming that the necessary changes could be made without incurring extra net expenses.
3. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/methane-emissions-fossil-fuels-rising-despite-cost-effective-solutions-experts-rcna15552> - NBC News highlights the ongoing rise in methane emissions from fossil fuels despite the availability of easy and inexpensive solutions, echoing the IEA’s findings.
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/nov/04/methane-climate-crisis-action-nations> - The Guardian discusses the urgency of addressing methane emissions and the broader environmental implications, supporting the claim about the necessity for more focused efforts in the energy sector.
5. <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fenvs.2022.897246/full> - This research article elaborates on methane emissions from abandoned coal mines, corroborating the IEA's claim that these sources are not adequately addressed in the industry.
6. <https://www.wri.org/blog/2021/02/methane-emissions-climate-change-solutions> - The World Resources Institute outlines the significant environmental benefits of mitigating methane emissions, aligning with the report's emphasis on the urgent need to adopt existing solutions.
7. <https://carbon-pulse.com/394630/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data