

# [***-Royal Dutch Shell plc - Eight energy companies commit to reduce methane emissions within natural gas industry***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5R1J-9WN1-F0K1-N3X8-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

BP, Eni, ExxonMobil, Repsol, Shell, Statoil, Total and Wintershall today committed to further reduce methane ***emissions*** from the natural gas assets they operate around the world.

The energy companies also agreed to encourage others across the natural gas value chain - from production to the final consumer - to do the same.

The commitment was made as part of wider efforts by the global energy industry to ensure that natural gas continues to play a critical role in helping meet future energy demand while addressing climate change. Since natural gas consists mainly of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, its role in the transition to a low-carbon future will be influenced by the extent to which methane ***emissions*** are reduced.

The eight energy companies today signed a Guiding Principles document, which focuses on: continually reducing methane ***emissions***; advancing strong performance across gas value chains; improving accuracy of methane ***emissions*** data; advocating sound policies and regulations on methane ***emissions*** and increasing transparency.

'Numerous studies have shown the importance of quickly reducing methane ***emissions*** if we're to meet growing energy demand and multiple environmental goals,' said Mark Radka, Head of UN Environment's Energy and Climate Branch. 'The Guiding Principles provide an excellent framework for doing so across the entire natural gas value chain, particularly if they're linked to reporting on the ***emissions*** reductions achieved.'

The Guiding Principles were developed in collaboration with the Environmental Defense Fund, the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Gas Union, the Oil and Gas Climate Initiative Climate Investments, the Rocky Mountain Institute, the Sustainable Gas Institute, The Energy and Resources Institute, and United Nations Environment.

'Our analysis at IEA shows that credible action to minimise methane ***emissions*** is essential to the achievement of global climate goals, and to the outlook for natural gas,' said Tim Gould, Head of Supply Division, World Energy Outlook, IEA. 'The commitment by companies to the Guiding Principles is a very important step; we look forward to seeing the results of their implementation and wider application. The opportunity is considerable - implementing all of the cost-effective methane abatement measures worldwide would have the same effect on long-term climate change as closing all existing coal-fired power plants in China.'

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