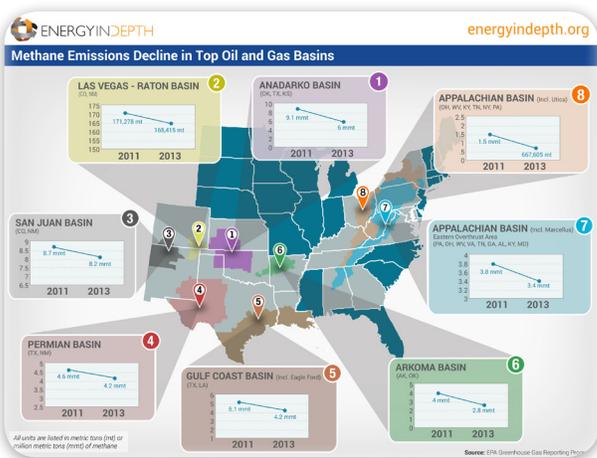
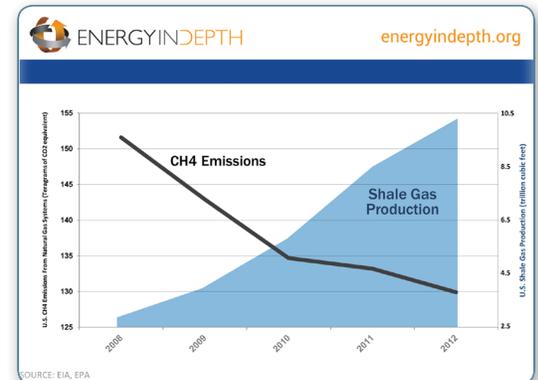


Methane Emissions and Hydraulic Fracturing: Top Five Facts

With the White House's announcement today on new methane regulations, here are the top five facts you may not know:

1 Methane emissions have fallen dramatically as natural gas production has skyrocketed. As the Wall Street Journal [recently explained](#), President Obama's plan to impose new regulations on U.S. oil and natural gas production is "willfully ignoring the plunge in U.S. methane." The WSJ also noted this decrease happened in the "same years when the U.S. became the world's natural-gas leader, with production increasing by nearly fourfold since 2008."

2 EPA consistently finds methane emissions are declining. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released its [Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program](#) data, which [showed](#) that methane emissions from hydraulic fracturing fell by an amazing 73 percent. A few months earlier, EPA also published its [Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#), which [showed](#) that methane emissions from natural gas systems fell 16.9 percent since 1990, with field production emissions falling more than 40 percent since 2006. As U.S. Energy Department Secretary Ernest Moniz [said](#), "More than half I believe now of the current frack jobs are so-called green completions, where the methane is captured and is for economic benefit."



3 Methane emissions are declining in major oil and gas basins across the U.S. EPA data [show](#) that methane emissions from oil and natural gas development have significantly declined in many of the top producing basins across the country, even as oil and gas production has skyrocketed.

4 Research shows climate benefits of natural gas are not erased by emissions. A study [published](#) late last year by researchers at the University of Texas and the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) [finds](#) that methane emissions from the upstream portion of the supply chain are only 0.38 percent of production. That's about 10 percent lower than what the same research team found in a [study released in September 2013](#). Studies by the [National Renewable Energy Laboratory](#), [U.N. IPCC](#), [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#), and many others have also found that methane emissions are low and natural gas has clear climate benefits. As EPA administrator Gina McCarthy [recently said](#), "Responsible development of natural gas is an important part of our work to curb climate change."

5 Industry's 'voluntary reductions' led to dramatic decline in methane emissions. As the EPA [explains](#): "The decrease in production emissions is due to increased voluntary reductions, from activities such as replacing high bleed pneumatic devices, regulatory reductions, and the increased use of plunger lifts for liquids unloading." In its press release today announcing the regulations, the White House also [pointed out](#) that "Voluntary efforts to reduce emissions in a comprehensive and transparent manner hold the potential to realize significant reductions in a quick, flexible, cost-effective way. Achieving significant methane reductions from these voluntary industry programs and state actions could reduce the need for future regulations. The Administration stands ready to collaborate with these and other voluntary efforts, including in the development of a regime for monitoring, reporting and verification."