



Although carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels is the main cause of global warming, methane has many times of carbon dioxide's warming power. Scientists estimate that 25% of the increase in global temperature comes from methane.

Almost one third of the warming expected in the next few decades can be avoided by reducing emissions of the **odorless** and invisible gas without actually having to invent new technology or cut **consumption**. Oil and gas fields are the most obvious places to start, with **frackers** in the biggest oil fields in the US letting massive amounts of natural gas spill into the atmosphere.

Scientists and activists are trying to find leaks in the oil and gas supply chain. They go around the oil fields with powerful cameras that can see the methane leaking out of pipes and devices, and people finally realize the problem with methane leaks.

Difficult words: **odorless** (without a smell), **consumption** (the amount used), **fracker** (the person gets oil or gas from a rock or the ground by making large cracks in it)

Discussion Questions**Topic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *odorless, fracker and valve*
2. What is considered the main cause of global warming?
3. What is the estimated increase in global temperature that comes from methane?
4. What can be done to avoid almost one third of the warming in global temperature that is expected in the next few decades?
5. What are scientists and activists doing in order for people to realize the problem with methane leaks?

Express Your Thoughts

1. What had you known about methane before reading the article?
2. Did you realize the influence of methane on global temperature?
3. How can we help in the reduction of methane emissions?
4. What may happen to global temperature after a few decades if people don't reduce methane emissions.