



Methane is an **invisible** gas which has no smell. Scientists discovered that methane had much more warming power than carbon dioxide, another gas. Methane caused about 25% of the increase in the global temperature.

People can **avoid** about 30% of the warming, which scientists expect in the next decades, but they won't need to make any big changes. The reason is that oil and gas fields spill methane into the air, and sometimes they do not even know about it.

Scientists and so-called methane hunters go around the oil fields, and they find gas **leaks**. They use a special camera that can see the methane leaking out of pipes and tools which control the flow in the pipes. This is very important because people finally started to see methane as a problem, and they can do something about it.

**Difficult words:** **invisible** (something that people cannot see), **avoid** (to keep away from something), **leak** (when something comes out through a hole or crack).

**Discussion Questions****Topic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *invisible*, *avoid* and *leak*
2. Which gas causes about a quarter of the increase in the global temperature?
3. Although about 30% of the warning can be avoided in the next few decades, why won't this make any big changes?
4. What are scientists and methane hunters doing to help reduce global temperature ?
5. Why do people need to see methane as a problem?

**Express Your Thoughts**

1. Should people know and understand the effects of methane to the environment?  
Why?
2. What may happen to global temperature after a few decades if people don't reduce methane emissions.
3. What can people do to help reduce methane emissions?