Duke Energy to reduce methane emissions in its natural gas business to net zero by 2030

Duke Energy is approaching the challenge of methane emissions purposefully and with a focus on creating value for our shareholders. Recognizing our responsibility for meaningful action, we are committing to an industry-leading role in methane reduction, while continuing to provide affordable energy for our customers. This paves the way for responsible growth of our natural gas distribution system and furthers our journey toward a cleaner energy future. We also commit to working with the industry to achieve significant reductions in upstream methane emissions, alleviating concerns about leakage in natural gas production and transportation.

Sasha Weintraub
Senior Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer of Natural Gas
REACHING NET-ZERO METHANE EMISSIONS IN OUR LDCs BY 2030

We own and operate local gas distribution companies, or LDCs, in five states under two separate brands – Piedmont Natural Gas in the Southeast and Duke Energy in our Midwest service area. Our system includes 33,300 miles of transmission and distribution pipelines and 26,600 miles of service pipelines. We have made tremendous progress in modernizing our pipeline system and reducing methane emissions, having invested significant capital since 2000.

Eliminated all cast iron and bare steel pipes in our system, removing a major contributor to methane leakage
- Invested $1 billion over 15 years to replace these pipes with 1,450 miles of plastic or coated steel pipelines
- Building on this success, the following initiatives will drive the LDCs to net-zero methane emissions by 2030

New technologies to improve our measurement and monitoring of methane emissions
- Undertaking a pilot study to analyze the effectiveness of satellite and fixed-wing detection of methane gas
- Analyzing the use of drones and real-time measurement devices on natural gas infrastructure to pinpoint leaks faster

Damage reduction initiatives to reduce the unintended escape of methane when third parties strike our pipelines
- Deploying our expert technicians to oversee high-risk excavations under the Watch and Protect program
- Adopting Gold Shovel Standard operating principles to improve public safety and the integrity of buried infrastructure

Increasing leak survey frequency across our distribution system from five years to three years, to more quickly identify and repair potential leaks
- Continuing to survey our transmission lines quarterly through aerial and on-foot inspections

Net carbon offset techniques for any small, remaining emissions not captured through monitoring and operational improvements
- Achieve net-zero goal by the deployment of renewable natural gas and consider natural climate solutions, such as forestry projects or bioenergy with sequestration

Strides in renewable natural gas (RNG)
As we look to the future, renewable natural gas will play an important role in Duke Energy’s climate leadership. We’ve invested in SustainRNG, a developer of renewable natural gas projects in the agriculture sector, converting a source of methane emissions to a renewable and usable fuel source.

We are also sourcing renewable natural gas for our compressed natural gas (CNG) stations, with a pilot project underway. We will extend RNG to all our publicly accessible fueling stations, further increasing the environmental benefit of CNG.

With this voluntary commitment to zero out methane emissions, Duke Energy is positioned as a leader in America’s clean energy future. Duke Energy’s steps to take aim at responsible shipping, storing and reducing upstream methane emissions, including those of its suppliers, puts them in league with climate-forward companies working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the energy system.

Bob Perciasepe, President of the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES)

REDUCING UPSTREAM METHANE EMISSIONS

ONE Future
To complement the positive results we will achieve within our natural gas business, we plan to work with the industry to address upstream methane emissions. We have joined ONE Future, a nationwide coalition of natural gas companies working together to lower methane emissions intensity to less than 1% across the entire natural gas supply chain by 2025.

Company procurement
We will actively seek to procure natural gas from suppliers that balance low methane emissions with affordable energy for our customers. Purchasing natural gas that is produced and transported responsibly will reduce methane emissions across our own supply chain and that of the industry.