PERMIAN BASIN PRODUCERS: 
CHARTING A CLEANER ENERGY FUTURE 
METHANE & FLARING INTENSITY FALL OVER TIME, WHILE PRODUCTION RISES

Texas oil and gas producers have been leading the way in both energy production and in reducing emissions. From 2011 to 2020, methane intensity in the Permian Basin has fallen nearly 70 percent, even as production has increased over 320 percent.

DESPITE A GLOBAL PANDEMIC, PERMIAN PRODUCTION CONTINUED TO RISE

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 significantly disrupted, not just our everyday lives, but the entire global supply chain, including oil and gas production. Compared to the growth seen in the Permian Basin from 2018 to 2019 (27%), growth in 2020 slowed down. However, despite the unusual and unprecedented hurdles the global pandemic presented, oil and gas production in the Permian Basin still managed to increase over 2019, rising 5.49 percent – a reflection of the strong global demand for affordable energy even as the economy struggled.

BOTH METHANE & FLARING INTENSITY IN THE PERMIAN BASIN HAVE FALLEN IN RECENT YEARS

Methane intensity and flaring intensity in the Permian Basin have declined significantly over the past decade. Over the past five years alone, methane intensity in the Permian Basin has been nearly cut in half, declining by 44.8 percent. Between 2019 and 2020, there was a roughly one percent uptick in methane intensity. This slight leveling of methane intensity in the Permian Basin is likely a symptom of increased strain on operators during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Flaring intensity in the Permian Basin decreased by 51.44 percent from 2019 to 2020. When comparing the Permian Basin against the broader United States, it’s clear Texas oil and gas producers are leading the energy industry – flaring intensity was 28 percent lower in the Permian than in the U.S. as a whole.
U.S. OIL & GAS PRODUCTION IS FAR CLEANER THAN OTHER GLOBAL PRODUCERS

According to data from the World Bank, the United States has a much lower flaring intensity than other major producers. In 2020, the United States was ranked significantly behind other global energy producers like Russia, Nigeria, Venezuela, Algeria, Oman, and Iraq when measured by flaring intensity. If the Permian Basin were a country on its own, it would barely make the top 20 countries, even while significantly out-producing most of the countries ahead of it.

Both the United States and the Permian Basin stood apart for their prolific production, while remaining well below the flaring intensity of other global producers. In 2020 alone:

- **RUSSIA'S** flaring intensity was **143% higher** than the United States and **239% higher** than the Permian Basin.

- **VENEZUELA'S** flaring intensity was **1,467% higher** than the United States and **2,081% higher** than the Permian Basin.

- **IRAN'S** flaring intensity was **380% higher** than the United States and **568% higher** than the Permian Basin.
TEXAS ENERGY PRODUCERS PURSUE ADDITIONAL INITIATIVES TO REDUCE EMISSIONS

Over the past several years, oil and gas producers have made serious commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and minimize flaring. The industry has presented a robust front, establishing multiple initiatives and programs specifically to address methane emissions and flaring.

- **The Texas Methane & Flaring Coalition**, which includes seven trade associations – including TIPRO – and more than 40 Texas operators, was created in late 2019 and has since established industry best-practices to combat methane emissions.
- **The Environmental Partnership**, which includes over 90 U.S. oil and natural gas companies, created a flare management program. Participants in the program reported a 50 percent reduction in flare volumes from 2019 to 2020.
- **Texas producers**, including EOG Resources, ExxonMobil, Pioneer Natural Resources and Occidental Petroleum, have committed to the World Bank’s Zero Routine Flaring by 2030 program. Apache Corporation announced this year that it had already reached its goal of ending routine flaring in its U.S. onshore operations.
- **The Oil and Gas Climate Initiative** announced its aim to reach net-zero emissions from operations under its control, which spans Scopes 1 and 2 emissions. The Initiative also announced in 2020 that it is developing a real-time mapping and tracking of global gas flaring data, under the umbrella of the Global Gas Flaring Reduction Partnership (GGFR), a World Bank-led organization.

THE WORLD NEEDS TEXAS OIL & GAS NOW MORE THAN EVER

The **Lone Star State** has demonstrated an incredibly successful track record of embracing innovation, not only to meet growing global energy demand, but also to mitigate energy emissions. As the world’s energy needs are only set to increase - natural gas consumption alone is set to grow 31% by 2050, according to the EIA – demand for Texas oil and gas will only grow in the decades to come.