



European
Commission

Joint
Research
Centre

Science to Action Programme

31 March (Day 2)

1 April 2026 (Day 3)

Methane Action for People & Planet: From Discovery to Solutions

Science to Action

Hybrid Conference

JRC Ispra

31 March – 1 April 2026



Tuesday, March 31, 2026

Time	Event	Details
08:00-09:00 (60 min)	Welcome / Security / Registration / Coffee	
09:00-09:10 (10 min)	Opening Plenary	Welcome (10 mins): Alessandra Zampieri (EU JRC) (5 mins) Ben Poulter (Spark Climate Solutions)

Session 1: The First Decade of Methane Science to Action

Chair: Frank Dentener, **Co-Chair:** Greet Janssens-Maenhout

Session Description: The conference takes place with just four years until 2030, which marks the year the Global Methane Pledge established to reduce methane emissions by 30% of 2020 levels. This opening keynote and panel reflects on the first decade of methane science-to-action efforts and the progress made in elevating methane as a global climate priority. Speakers will examine how advances in methane measurement, monitoring systems, and scientific understanding have shaped international policy discussions and informed mitigation strategies across major emission sectors.

The session will also explore how policy frameworks, financial mechanisms, and sectoral initiatives—from fossil fuels and waste to agriculture and public health—are translating methane science into practical implementation. Through keynote perspectives and a multi-sector dialogue, participants will assess what has been achieved so far, where critical gaps remain, and what lessons can inform the next phase of methane action.

By taking stock of progress and challenges in the first decade of coordinated methane efforts, this session sets the stage for the subsequent sessions on methane science, implementation, and future pathways explored throughout the conference.

Session Objectives:

- Review the progress made in methane science, monitoring, and policy over the past decade and their role in elevating methane as a global climate priority.
- Assess how advances in methane measurement and observational systems are informing mitigation strategies and international policy frameworks.
- Identify successes, remaining gaps, and implementation challenges across major methane-emitting sectors.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frame key scientific, policy, and implementation questions that will guide the subsequent sessions on methane science, action, and future pathways. 		
09:10-09:20 (10 min)	Keynote	<p>Topic: Four Years to 2030: Delivering on the Global Methane Pledge</p> <p>Virtual Speaker: Tibor Stelbaczky (Principal Adviser on Energy Diplomacy, EEAS)</p>
09:20-09:30 (10 min)	Keynote	<p>Topic: Implementing the Global Methane Pledge</p> <p>Recorded Speaker: Rick Duke (Former Deputy Special Envoy for Climate, US State Department)</p>
09:30-10:30 (60 min)	Panel	<p>Topic: Perspectives on methane action from science to data to policy</p> <p>Moderator: Nathan Borgford-Parnell (CCAC)</p> <p>Panelists: Martina Otto (CCAC), Steve Hamburg (EDF/IMEO), Gabby Dreyfus (IGSD), Ben Poulter (Spark Climate Solutions), Ruth Zugman Do Coutto (UNEP/IMEO), Marielle Saunois (GCP)</p>
10:30-11:00 (30 min)	Coffee Break	With posters and booths
11:00-11:20 (20 min)	Presentation	<p>Presentation 1: Methane Science & Policy Landscape - Drew Shindell (Duke University)</p> <p>Presentation 2: Delivering Methane Action at Scale - Helen Spence Jackson (EDF Europe)</p>

<p>11:20-12:15 (55 min)</p>	<p>Panel</p>	<p>Topic: Sectoral perspectives on implementation of the Global Methane Pledge and follow ups to COP30 Moderator: Izzy Fenwick (NZCF) Panelists: Brendan Devlin (EC DG ENER), Adalberto Maluf (Brazil Govt.), Seth Shonkoff (PSE), Sion Chiew (FAO), Pedro De Aragao Fernandes (CPI)</p>
<p>12:15-14:00 (105 min)</p>	<p>Catered lunch</p>	

Session 2: Methane Science: Past, Present, and Future

Chair: Ben Poulter, **Co-Chair:** Sparkle Malone

Session Description: Volta’s discovery of the ‘inflammable gas’ along the shorelines of Lago Maggiore set in motion 250 years of science to understand the sources and chemistry of methane. This session explores the evolution of methane science, tracing the path from the molecule’s discovery to where we are today—with a deeper understanding of methane’s role in climate, methane sources and sinks, the growing global methane observing system—to the scientific frontiers that need further exploration. By examining the fundamental chemistry and biology of methane, the session establishes a baseline for how natural sources and sinks have historically balanced the global budget.

The session will then transition into the “perturbed” methane cycle, focusing on the dramatic shifts caused by anthropogenic activity. Speakers will discuss the latest findings in fossil fuel attribution, agricultural impacts, and the feedback loops created by a warming climate. Talks will examine the growing global methane observing system, highlighting how new data streams—from satellite inversions to ground-based monitoring—are narrowing the gap between reported emissions and atmospheric observations.

Finally, the session concludes with a high-level panel on “refining the budget.” This dialogue will bridge the gap between scientific uncertainty and policy application, specifically addressing how Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) frameworks can better inform international climate commitments.

We will also take a moment to celebrate the community's progress through the Methane Lifetime Achievement and Rising Star awards.

Session Objectives:

- Trace the historical trajectory of methane science to informing modern research and climate policy priorities.
- Distinguish between natural methane variability and anthropogenic perturbations across all methane emission and removal sectors.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the current global methane observing system in reducing budget uncertainties.
- Identify critical information flows required to refine the methane budget by translating scientific data into actionable policy and MRV frameworks.

<p>14:00-14:20 (20 min)</p>	<p>Keynote</p>	<p>Topic: Methane Science: Past, Present, Future Speaker: Daniel Jacob (Harvard)</p>
<p>14:20-15:35 (75 min)</p>	<p>Presentations</p>	<p>Short Science Talks on 'Natural Methane' Cycle: - Perspectives on Methane's rise. Gas, coal and oil industry leaks Agricultural emissions Climate change feedbacks. Euan Nisbet (University of Cambridge) - Methane and Microorganisms: Lisa Stein (University of Alberta) - Wetland Methane: 250 Years Later: Shushi Peng (Peking University) - Improved constraints on global methane budget from long-term methane measurements: Xin (Lindsay) Lan (CIRES) - That's so FETCH₄: new observational and modeling constraints on methane and OH: Alex Turner (University of Washington)</p>

15:35-16:00 (25 min)	Coffee Break	With posters/booths
16:00-17:00 (60 min)	Presentations	Short Science Talks on the Perturbed Methane Cycle: - What do we learn about the global methane budget by using methane isotope measurements in a global inverse model? - Lori Bruhwiler - Fossil Fuels: Stefan Schwietzke (IMEO) - Agriculture and Methane: Understanding and Managing a Complex System: Claudia Arndt - Wetland feedbacks: Zhen Zhang (CAS)
17:00-17:30 (30 min)	Panel	Topic: How methane scientific information flows to policy Moderator: Kevin Bowman (JPL) Panelists: Marielle Saunois (LSCE, global budget), Roxana Petrescu (CMCC, inventories), Thomas Röckmann (Utrecht University, inventories).
17:30-17:45 (15 min)	Announcements	Methane awards (5 mins) Climate Curve Prize, Mikella Tyler XPRIZE, David Babson
17:45-18:45 (45 min)	Break	

18:45-22:00	Conference Dinner - Sponsored by Spark Climate Solutions	
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Wednesday, April 1, 2026

Time	Event	Details
	<p>Session 3: Methane Action: From Solutions to Scaling</p> <p>Chair: Gabby Dreyfus, Co-Chair: Giselle Munno Dithurbide</p> <p>Session Description: Advances in methane science, monitoring technologies, and policy frameworks have created a growing set of tools to support methane mitigation across sectors. However, incorporating methane action into local and national policies, including nationally determined contributions, requires continued investments in capacity building, technology, and science, as well as coordination with complementary efforts addressing air quality and public health.</p> <p>This session focuses on the transition from knowledge to action. It begins with a keynote exploring how scientific insights and emerging tools can unlock pathways for methane mitigation through policy and implementation. A moderated panel will then examine how governments, financial institutions, and international initiatives are advancing methane action and where opportunities exist to accelerate policy adoption and implementation across sectors and regions.</p> <p>The second half of the session shifts to the role of data in enabling methane action. Presentations and a panel discussion will explore the growing ecosystem of methane datasets, observational platforms, and analytical tools—from satellites to ground-based monitoring systems—that are enabling more transparent measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV). Speakers will discuss how improved data access, standards, and integration can help governments, companies, and institutions prioritize mitigation opportunities and strengthen accountability.</p> <p>By connecting advances in science, policy, and data systems, this session aims to explore lessons learned so far and identify what is needed to accelerate methane mitigation at scale in the years ahead.</p> <p>Session Objectives:</p>	

- Examine successes, challenges, and opportunities for translating methane science and technology into effective mitigation policies.
- Identify the policy principles, sectoral approaches, partnerships, and institutions enabling methane action.
- Assess how emerging methane monitoring systems, datasets, and near-real-time platforms support transparent measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV).
- Explore how improved data access, timeliness, workflows, and standards can strengthen global methane monitoring and scale mitigation action.

08:00-09:00 (60 min)	Welcome / Security / Registration / Coffee	
09:00-09:05 (5 min)	Recap	Summary from previous day and plan for the day - Danie Potocek (Spark Climate Solutions).
09:10-09:30 (20 min)	Keynote	Topic: Unlocking Science and Policy Solutions for Methane Action Speaker: Denise Mulholland (UNECE)
09:30-10:30 (60 min)	Panel	Topic: Unlocking Policy Action (Moderated discussion) Moderator: Juliana Salle Almeida (IDB) Panelists: David Lyon (EDF), Jonathan Banks (CATF), David Meo Zilio (CREA), Chris Konek (GMH)
10:30-11:00 (30 min)	Coffee Break	With posters/booths
11:00-11:20 (20 min)	Presentations	Presentation 1 (10 mins): Recent changes in global and regional CH ₄ budgets: How to reduce uncertainties on emissions blind-spots?:

		Philippe Ciais (LSCE) Presentation 2 (10 mins): Eyes on Methane - Andreea Calcan (IMEO)
11:20-12:15 (55 min)	Panel	Topic: Unlocking Methane Data for Action Moderator: Jean François Lamarque (Three Cairns) Panelists: Kenzie Huffman (Carbon Mapper), Ritesh Gautam (MethaneSAT), Nina Lothian (GHGSat), Braam Maasakers (SRON), Annmarie Eldering (Data Foundation)
12:15-13:30 (75 min)	Catered Lunch	

Session 4: The Future of Methane Science to Action

Chair: Giulia Zazzeri, **Co-Chair:** Rodrigo Vargas

Session Description: Future methane action requires re-evaluating policies, rethinking technologies to address hard to abate emissions and re-imagining new methane monitoring observatories under climate overshoot scenarios and active mitigation activities. This session discusses key issues for post-2030 methane policy, mitigation and monitoring needs that remain to be addressed.

The session is divided into two thematic pillars. First, speakers will examine future methane action and the innovation landscape, focusing on how advancements in measurement techniques and global observational networks (such as Copernicus and WMO-GAW) can provide the high-resolution data necessary for accountability. Second, the dialogue will shift to the structural drivers of change: policy, capacity building, and financing. This segment explores how international coordination and global financial institutions can de-risk methane investments and accelerate the deployment of proven technologies.

The session will culminate in the presentation of the **Angera Declaration on Methane Action**, a collective statement from the scientific and methane expert community outlining a roadmap for continuing and enhancing methane science-to-policy integration in the coming decade and beyond.

Session Objectives:

- Define the technical and policy requirements for methane monitoring and mitigation in a post-2030/climate overshoot context.
- Assess the role of emerging measurement technologies in creating a transparent, global accountability framework.
- Identify mechanisms for scaling finance and international cooperation to support methane reduction in developing economies.
- Formalize a unified scientific and policy stance through the adoption of the Angara Declaration.

13:30-13:50 (20 min)	Keynote	Future Methane Action - Steve Hamburg (EDF)
13:50-14:20 (30 Min)	Panel - part I (observing networks)	Panel: Future Methane Action: The Role of Science and Innovation Moderator: JP O'Brien (HSF) Panelists: Jenny Watts (Woodwell, GMOS), Oksana Tarasova (WMO-GAW), Ernest Koffi (ECMWF, Copernicus)
14:20-14:50 (30 Min)	Panel - part II (technological innovation)	Panel: Future Methane Action: The Role of Science and Innovation Moderator: JP O'Brien (HSF) Panelists: Pete Roos (Bridger Photonics), Ilissa Ocko (Spark Climate Solutions), Stefanie Lumnitz (DG RTD)
14:50-15:30 (40 min)	Coffee Break	With posters

<p>15:30-16:00 (30 min)</p>	<p>Short talks</p> <p>For People and the Planet: Forward looking perspective on methane action</p>	<p>Topic: Future Methane Action: The Need for Enabling Frameworks Speakers: - Veronica Aneris (EDF Europe), <i>Future Methane Action: Framework and Influences for the Oil and Gas Sector</i> - Deborah Gordon (RMI) - Jack McQuibban (Methane Matters Coalition): How to make low-methane waste systems the reality by 2035</p>
<p>16:00-16:45 (45 min)</p>	<p>Panel</p>	<p>Topic: Future Methane Action: The Roles of Policy, Capacity, Finance Moderator: Jonathan Banks (CCAC) Panelists: Gabby Dreyfus (IGSD), Martina Otto (CCAC), Delphine Eyraud (Special Adviser methane French G7 Presidency), Stefania Abakerli (World Bank)</p>
<p>16:45-17:15 (30 min)</p>	<p>Presentation and discussion with participants</p>	<p>Topic: Angera Declaration on Methane Closing of Conference</p>
<p>17:15-19:00</p>	<p>Break</p>	
<p>19:00</p>	<p>Dinner on own</p>	

Thursday, April 2, 2026

Time	Event	Details
<p>Field Visit</p> <p>Lead: Giulia Zazzeri (RSE SpA), Sign up in advance to go to Angera marsh! Transport provided by JRC, a historian and scientist from ICOS will provide context on the wetlands and demonstrate methane measurements.</p> <p>Timeslots:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 08:30-09:302. 09:30-10:303. 10:30-11:30		

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