

Natural Gas Organizing: Lessons Learned



Ohio Environmental Council

unleashing the
power
of **green**



[ACTION FUND]

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Background:

From: Cheshire, Ohio

BA, Berea College

Communication

Peace and Social Justice Studies

MA, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland

International Peace Studies

Organizing the region around:

Public Lands (WAYNE) Methane/
Pipelines, Clean Water, and Energy

Just Transition Expert

Presentation Overview



History/ Wins

Lessons Learned

- Field Team

Powhatan Point

Questions



Ohio Environmental Council

[UNLEASHING THE POWER OF GREEN]



Established 1969

The OEC's mission is to secure healthy air, land, and water for all who call Ohio home

- « Advocacy, non-profit
- « Legislative initiatives
- « Legal action
- « Science and policy
- « Network & partnerships

30 Staff members
26 in Columbus
4 Field- each quadrant of Ohio

Ohio Environmental Council

Operations

- Development

Energy

- Climate
(Methane)

Law Center

Natural Resources

- Public Lands
- Water

Campaigns and Communications Center

- Government Affairs
- Field Team

That's me



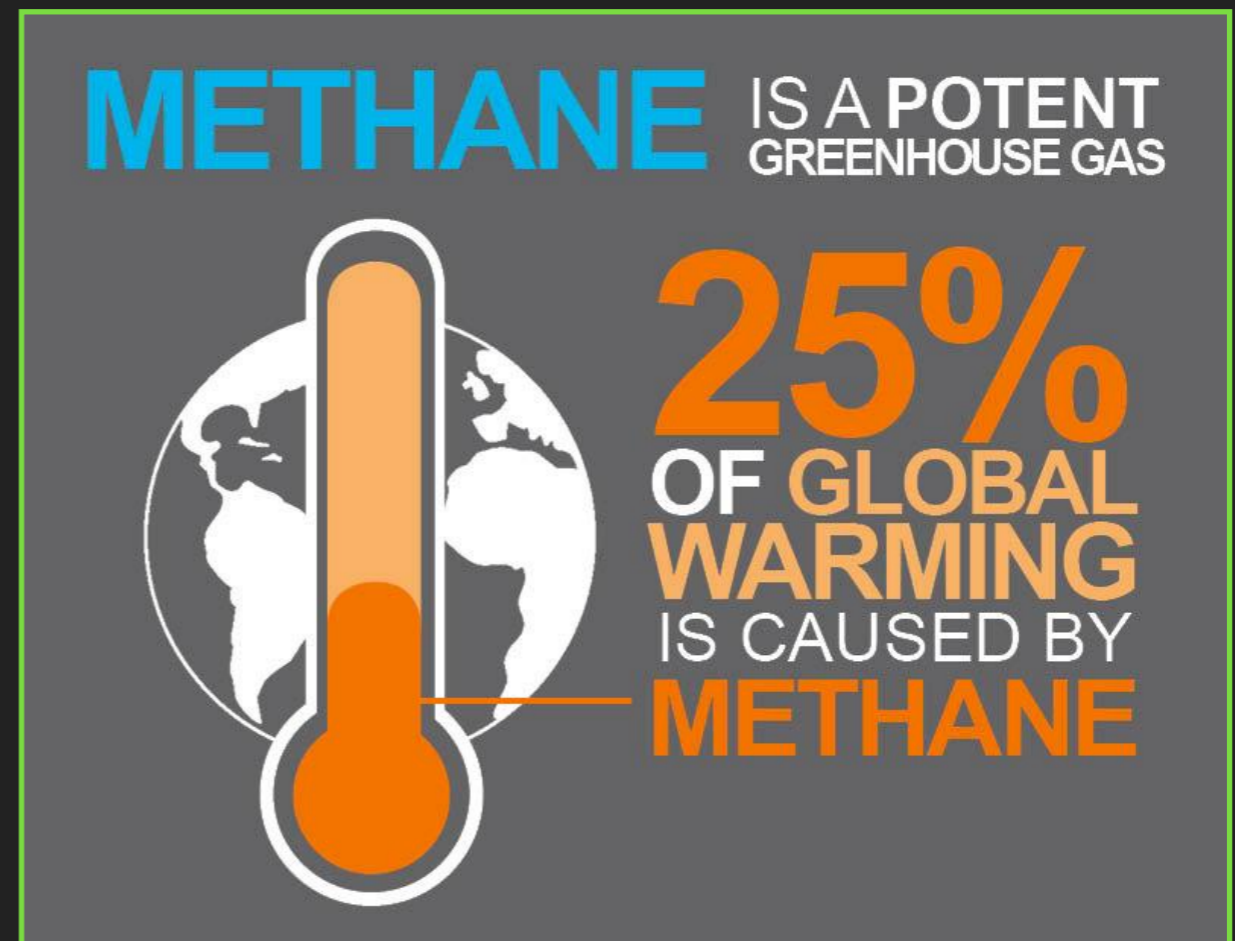
What is Methane?

- (CH₄) is a an organic compound that is the primary component of natural gas.
- It is emitted into the atmosphere from various sources, including decaying landfills, agriculture, and—most relevant here — oil & gas development.



Extent of the leaks

- In 2014, the industry-released methane = to burning almost 225 coal-fired power plants for a year
- In 2014, Ohio oil and gas operations reported releasing 22,000 metric tons of methane worth > \$4 million
- Methane is potent greenhouse gas, drives 1/4 of the climate change we feel today



Sources of Emissions

- General operations: stacks, engines, venting & flaring, pressure releases (blowdowns).
- Leaks from bad seals, pipes, lids, valves, open-air storage.
- Oil & gas production: drilling, fracturing, flowback.
- Compressor, pump, metering, pigging stations.
- Processing plants: split off, create liquids (propane, butane, ethane).

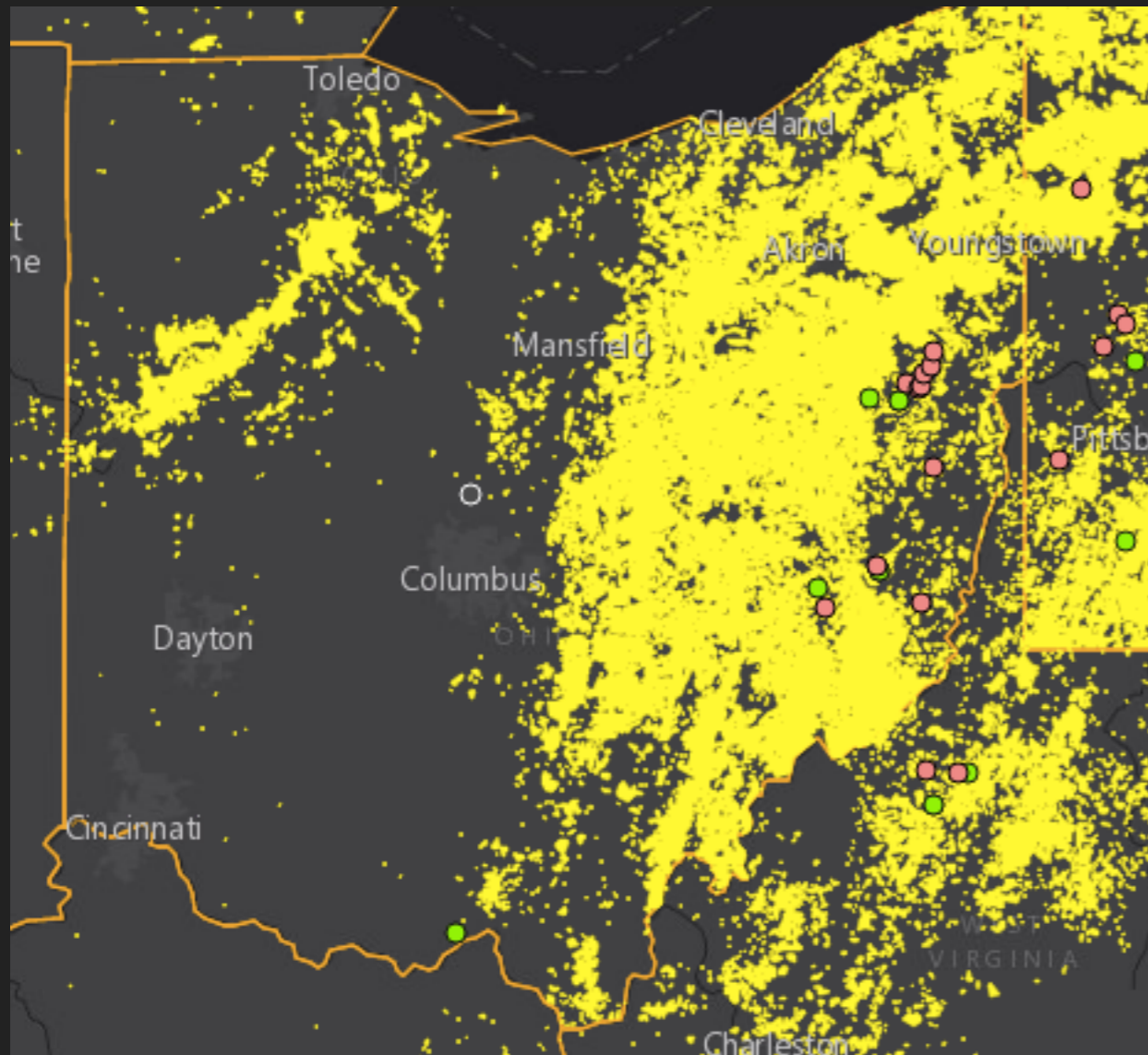


Compressor Stations

- Variable size and horsepower
- Variable emissions
- Placed along pipeline routes (~every 30-50 miles)
- Many contaminants detected in testing:
 - Methane
 - BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene)
 - Formaldehyde



Oil & Gas Threat Map



- This is a tool for citizens to view their home's proximity to active oil and gas facilities operations
- Allows citizens to see populations, schools, and hospitals within a ½ mile radius of those operations.
- In Ohio, more than 3.1 million people live in an area within a half mile of an oil and gas facilities.

In Ohio, there are 2,588 schools and 109 medical facilities within the half mile threat radius putting our most vulnerable at risk for serious negative health issues.

Powhatan Point



Video provided by Dr. Ted Auch
FracTracker Alliance

Massive methane leak from a well blow out in SE Ohio:

- Took over 20 days to cap
- Residents within a mile of well pad were initially evacuated, those within a ½ mile were out of their homes for duration of the release.
- Schools and other public buildings located nearby
- Residents complained of health problems: bloody noses, sore throats, itchy eyes, trouble breathing.

Lessons Learned

OEC & OEC Action
Fund toolbox to affect
change:

- Policy Experts
- Political Clout
- Communication Experts
- Regional/Field Presence

Powhatan Point case study:

- Establishing relationships with local residents & local organizations
- Telephone Town Hall to reach broader region
- Communication campaign to share stories of affected residents
- LTEs, Op Eds, social media to draw more attention to disaster
- Call for policy change at state & federal levels (i.e federal methane standards & rollbacks)

Questions?



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