

Christian Communities Thank the Environmental Protection Agency for Regulating Methane

Today, the Environmental Protection Agency released standards for the oil and gas industry's new sources of methane pollution. These are the first ever standards of their kind.

Creation Justice Ministries executive director Shantha Ready Alonso said of the new standards, "This is an important sign of progress in the effort to restore the health of all God's people, protect the integrity of God's creation from climate threats, and foster better stewardship of methane, as it is a finite and important gift of God's creation."

Cutting methane pollution is a matter of justice, and our nation's air policy has become a little bit more just today. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, with 25 times the heat-trapping potential of CO₂ over a 100-year period. Also, Oil and gas operations emit smog-forming volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and cancer-causing pollutants like benzene. Climate change and poor air quality disproportionately affect children, older adults, and those who are least responsible for contributing to large-scale pollution: communities of color, people with low incomes, and people from countries with low greenhouse gas emissions. Also, because methane is a gift of the natural world that is a finite resource, it is a matter of justice to steward it responsibly. Time and time again, when gifts of the natural world are mis-managed and they get scarce, low-income communities are forced to go without.

Shantha Ready Alonso added, "Every step of the way, Creation Justice Ministries has been involved in the stakeholder processes that have led to this positive milestone for our communities and for God's creation. We have seen how hard the Administration staff have worked to ensure the democratic process was at work in the crafting of the standards, and we thank the Administration for a job well done."

Creation Justice Ministries represents the creation care policies of 38 Christian communions, including Baptists conventions and fellowships, mainline Protestants, Historically Black Churches, Peace Churches, and Orthodox communions. Learn more at www.creationjustice.org

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