

Economic Sustainability



Reducing Vented Gas: A Growing Success in Saskatchewan's Oil Industry



Saskatchewan is showing strong leadership in managing emissions from the oil and gas sector. Methane is a main component of gas produced with oil. Under the [Methane Action Plan](#) and *The Oil and Gas Emissions Management Regulations*, the province committed to lowering emissions from venting and flaring associated with oil production by 40 to 45 per cent by 2025 compared to 2015 levels.

Since these efforts began, emissions from upstream flaring and venting have continued to decline each year. By 2025, emissions from industry reported venting and flaring had dropped by 73 per cent compared to 2015 levels, falling from 10.87 million tonnes to 2.90 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e)¹. This progress is equal to removing about 1.73 million passenger vehicles² from the road for an entire year. Saskatchewan has not only met its target of a 40 to 45 per cent decrease but has exceeded the 2025 milestone. These results continue to demonstrate Saskatchewan's regulatory leadership and the innovation of the upstream oil and gas sector.

A primary contributor to this improvement is the broad adoption of onsite combustion. This process converts methane found in vented gas into carbon dioxide, which has a significantly lower global warming potential than methane (i.e. a single molecule of methane has more than 20 times the warming effect of a single molecule of carbon dioxide).

These reductions position the sector to meet evolving regulatory requirements, improve the emissions intensity of oil and gas products, and enhance Saskatchewan's reputation as a responsible and resilient energy producer.

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¹ [The Oil and Gas Emissions Management Regulations 2025 Annual Emissions Report](#)

² Based on the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) estimates that a typical passenger vehicle emits approximately 4.6 tonnes of CO₂ annually.

Annual Provincial Emissions from Reported Flaring and Venting at Upstream Oil Facilities

Year	Flared Emissions (tonnes CO ₂ e)	Vented Emissions (tonnes CO ₂ e)	Total Emissions (tonnes CO ₂ e)
2015	2,351,414	8,521,717	10,873,131
2016	1,908,692	6,781,460	8,690,151
2017	1,858,593	7,538,394	9,396,986
2018	1,763,475	7,330,210	9,093,685
2019	1,637,222	6,697,650	8,334,872
2020	1,602,603	3,641,254	5,243,858
2021	1,665,998	2,738,447	4,404,444
2022	1,491,428	2,369,719	3,861,148
2023	1,452,912	2,169,733	3,622,646
2024	1,378,150	1,786,016	3,164,165
2025	1,425,959	1,478,421	2,904,380

Source: *The Oil and Gas Emissions Management Regulations Annual Report, 2025*

Why It Matters

Reducing vented gas from oil production supports cleaner air and responsible emissions stewardship. This progress strengthens Saskatchewan's economic resilience by helping the province lower the energy intensity of its energy products in a competitive world market. By improving how gas is managed at well sites and facilities, the oil and gas sector demonstrates practical innovation and accountability. These efforts help position Saskatchewan as a trusted energy producer while supporting healthier communities and a stronger provincial economy.

Link to Related Information

[The Oil and Gas Emissions Management Regulations 2025 Annual Emissions Report](#)

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