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Transparency is coming: Tackling the issue of under-reported methane emissions

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The Global Methane Pledge agreed at the COP26 climate talks in Glasgow last November brought worldwide attention to the need to reduce emissions of methane, the second largest contributor to global warming after carbon dioxide. But quantifying the problem has been complicated by a lack of reliable, transparent data.

This year has brought revelations, based largely on measurements by new methane-sensing satellites, that emissions are much worse than data from governments suggests. Given that methane emissions are widely considered to be low-hanging fruit when it comes to mitigating climate change, especially at prevailing natural gas prices, what should policymakers be doing to ensure reduction targets for 2030 are met?







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