



Programme
30 March (day 1)

Methane Action for People & Planet: From Discovery to Solutions

*Science-Policy Dialogue with High
Level Celebration of “Methane
turns 250”*

Hybrid Conference

Buildings ESE and 36 (rooms 161, 162, 163) /JRC Ispra, 30 March 2026

Overall summary of the Science–Policy Dialogue

This Science–Policy Dialogue (SPD) convenes senior leaders and experts from science, policy, finance, and implementation communities to take stock of methane science and policy and to shape priorities for action through 2030 and beyond. Methane is both a powerful climate pollutant and a key precursor to tropospheric ozone, placing methane mitigation at the centre of efforts to manage near-term climate risk, improve air quality, and deliver public health benefits.

The dialogue aims to foster strategic reflection and practical exchange across communities that influence methane action in different ways. Participants will examine where the scientific evidence supports ambitious methane mitigation and where remaining gaps limit policy design, investment decisions or implementation. The discussions focus on how research, policy, and finance can work together more effectively to accelerate progress rather than on information sharing alone.

Participants will leave the dialogue with a shared understanding of the methane science–policy landscape and with sharper judgment on where attention and resources can deliver the greatest impact in the coming years. The dialogue will clarify which uncertainties genuinely constrain action, which opportunities remain under-exploited, and where leadership can accelerate progress between now and 2030. It will also identify pathways to sustain and strengthen methane ambition beyond 2030 as part of broader climate, air quality, and development strategies.

The success of the dialogue depends on active engagement. Participants will bring their experience and judgement to the discussions, share lessons from their own contexts, and engage constructively with differing perspectives. The dialogue will generate clear signals rather than formal consensus on priorities for future research, policy innovation, and investment. These signals will inform decision-making within governments, funding institutions, and partner organisations and support participants as they advance methane action through their own leadership and networks.

Programme

JRC site, Europa Science Experience (ESE) Building, 30 March 2026, morning

8:30 – 9:00

**Arrival at the Joint Research Centre (handout of badges)
Welcome by Joint Research Centre (JRC)**

9:00 – 9:20

Welcome by Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and keynote

- Nathan Borgford-Parnell, CCAC Secretariat
- Drew Shindell, Duke University

9:20 – 10:00

Plenary 1: The Methane Science and Policy Landscape

The opening plenary sets the scene for the science-policy dialogue by providing a concise overview of the current methane science base and its relevance for near-term policy action. Drawing on the findings of the [Global Methane Status Report 2025](#), the session will summarise what is now known about global and regional methane emissions, mitigation potential, and expected benefits, and where important uncertainties remain.

The session will also situate this science within the evolving global policy landscape, with a focus on the Global Methane Pledge and related national and regional initiatives. This will help clarify how scientific evidence is currently informing methane policy commitments, implementation strategies, and accountability mechanisms, and where additional evidence could strengthen policy effectiveness.

Finally, the session will highlight the latest science on the links between methane and tropospheric ozone, underscoring methane's dual role as a climate pollutant and a driver of air pollution and health impacts. Together, these perspectives establish a shared baseline for the dialogue and frame the key science and evidence questions that will be explored in subsequent sessions, with a view to identifying priority areas for future public research investment.

Presentations:

- Key conclusions from the Global Methane Status Report (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis)
- The policy landscape for methane action, with a focus on the Global Methane Pledge (UN Environment Programme)
- The latest science on methane-tropospheric ozone linkages (Energy Research Institute China)

Moderator: Laboratory for Climate and Environmental Sciences

10:00 - 11:00

Plenary 2: The Methane “Emergency Brake”, Climate Tipping Points and Temperature Overshoot

This plenary session examines the role of methane mitigation as a near-term “emergency brake” for climate risk, focusing on the latest scientific understanding of climate tipping points and temperature overshoot. It explores how rapid reductions in methane emissions could reduce the likelihood, severity, or irreversibility of critical Earth system changes.

The session will first review current science on climate tipping points, including which systems are most at risk, the levels of warming at which tipping behaviour may be triggered, and the implications for long-term climate stability. It will then examine scenarios of temperature overshoot, highlighting how methane mitigation can influence peak warming, the duration of overshoot, and associated impacts.

By linking methane mitigation directly to risk reduction and climate resilience, this session reframes methane not only as a mitigation opportunity but as a strategic tool for managing near-term climate hazards. The discussion will consider what this framing implies for policy urgency, investment priorities, and future public research funding aimed at supporting rapid methane abatement.

Presentations:

- Climate tipping points: current science and risks (Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development)
- Temperature overshoot and the role of methane mitigation (Climate Spark Solutions)

11:00 - 11:30

Coffee Break

Coffee break and transition to Opening Ceremony

11:30 - 12:40

Opening of the Celebration “Methane turns 250”

(at ESE building) with attendance of regional, international high-level scientists, JRC staff, press

POLICY:

- Science and Innovation with methane as climate emergency brake (EU Commission representative)
- The power of the Global Methane Pledge Champions (Country representative)

ACTION

- International collaboration to reduce methane for Climate, clean air and environment (UNEP-CCAC representative)
- Financing methane action (World Bank representative)

SCIENCE

- Handover of methane manifesto by scientists to policy makers
- Standing on the shoulders of giants like Volta (University of Pavia)
- Regional authorities (mayor of Angera and representative of the Regione Lombardia)
- Bringing home the historical book of Volta

Master of Ceremony: Greet Janssens-Maenhout

12:40 - 12:45

Group photo

12:45 - 13:15

Moving from ESE to the Conference Building 36 (B36)

13:15 - 14:15

Standing lunch at the B36, ground floor

14:15 – 15:15

Breakout Dialogue 1: Methane in Agriculture and Food Systems: Evidence, Messages, and Action Pathways

This breakout session focuses on the key messages from the developing Agriculture and Food Systems Assessment led by the CCAC and FAO, with a particular emphasis on methane mitigation opportunities and co-benefits for air quality, health, and sustainable development.

The session will present the draft high-level messages of the assessment and introduce the new region-specific chapters, which aim to reflect the diversity of agricultural systems, emissions profiles, and policy contexts across regions. Participants will be invited to provide targeted feedback on the clarity, relevance, and policy usefulness of these messages, including whether they adequately reflect the latest understanding of methane emissions, mitigation potential, and interactions with tropospheric ozone.

Beyond refining the assessment messages, the session will explicitly look forward to the post-publication phase. Participants will discuss priority research gaps that should be addressed once the assessment is released, as well as strategies for using the assessment to catalyse policy action, guide investment, and inform future research funding—particularly in support of methane mitigation in agriculture and food systems.

Presentations:

- Key messages from the Assessment (University of York)
- Region-specific Chapters (UN Industrial Development Organisation)

Moderator: Jordan University of Science

14:15 – 15:15

Breakout Dialogue 2: The Economics of Methane Mitigation: Evidence, Barriers, and Investment Priorities

This breakout session focuses on the key findings and innovations of the UNEP-CCAC Economic Assessment of Integrated Climate and Clean Air, with an emphasis on how economic evidence can inform methane mitigation policy, investment, and implementation. The session will present the assessment's headline messages on costs, benefits, and economic trade-offs of methane mitigation, including insights relevant for near-term decision-making.

In addition, the session will examine the practical barriers that often prevent economically attractive methane mitigation options from being implemented at scale. Participants will be invited to discuss the structural, institutional, and informational obstacles that limit uptake, and to consider how policy design, public investment, and targeted research can help overcome these barriers.

Through guided discussion, the session will seek feedback on the clarity and policy relevance of the assessment's messages, identify priority gaps in economic and implementation-related evidence, and explore how the Economic Assessment can be used to guide future public research funding and investment strategies in support of methane mitigation.

Presentations:

- Key messages from the Economic Assessment (Duke University)
- Overcoming Implementation Barriers (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies)

Moderator: Climate and Clean Air Coalition Secretariat

15:15 – 16:15

Breakout Dialogue 3: Addressing Methane Through Air Pollution and Health Lenses: Policy Innovation and Action

This breakout session explores examples of how methane is being addressed through air pollution and public health frameworks, complementing traditional climate-focused approaches. By examining two ongoing policy initiatives—the negotiations to amend the Gothenburg Protocol under the Air Convention to include methane, and the Africa Clean Air Programme led by the African Union with support from the CCAC—the session highlights emerging pathways for raising ambition and broadening support for methane mitigation.

The session will showcase how framing methane as an air-quality and health issue can unlock new institutional entry points, engage different policy communities, and accelerate action at regional and national levels. Participants will be invited to reflect on the challenges these approaches face, the strategies being used to overcome them, and the immediate next steps required to translate political momentum into implementation.

Through guided discussion, the session will identify lessons that can be applied in other contexts, assess where additional evidence or analysis could strengthen air-pollution-driven methane action, and explore how research funding and policy support can reinforce these alternative pathways for methane mitigation.

Presentations:

- Methane under the Air Convention: amending the Gothenburg Protocol (University of Eastern Finland)
- Africa Clean Air Programme (UN Industrial Development Organisation)

Moderator: University of Cambridge

15:15 – 16:15

Breakout Dialogue 4: Financing Methane Action: Scaling Public and Private Investment to 2030 and Beyond

This breakout session examines the current state of global finance supporting methane mitigation and the role of the private sector in accelerating action. Drawing on analysis from the Climate Policy Initiative (CPI), the session will provide an overview of trends in public and private finance for methane mitigation, highlighting where investments are occurring, where gaps persist, and how funding aligns with mitigation potential.

The session will also feature a private sector perspective on methane action, exploring how companies are responding to methane-related risks and opportunities, what is motivating action, and where barriers remain. Together, these perspectives will help clarify how financial incentives, policy frameworks, and market structures shape private-sector engagement on methane.

Through guided discussion, participants will consider what it would take to substantially scale resources for methane mitigation to meet the Global Methane Pledge's 2030 targets and increase ambition beyond 2030. The discussion will focus on practical strategies for mobilising additional public and private finance, aligning incentives, de-risking investments, and strengthening the role of policy and research in enabling sustained methane action.

Presentations:

- Global finance for methane mitigation (Climate Policy Initiative)
- Private sector perspectives on methane action (t.b.c.)

Moderator: World Bank

16:15 - 16:45

- **Coffee Break**

16:45 - 17:35

Plenary 3: Expanding Methane Action: 2026–2030 and Beyond

This closing plenary brings together the key insights from across the dialogue to focus on how methane action can be expanded, accelerated, and sustained between 2026 and 2030—and strengthened further beyond 2030. Building on the scientific, economic, health, and finance discussions throughout the day, the session focuses on leadership, implementation, and coalition-building.

The session will highlight the role of subnational governments and cities for driving methane mitigation through sectoral regulation, infrastructure investment, and local implementation. It will also examine how Global Methane Pledge (GMP) signatory countries can use policy leadership, diplomacy, and finance to spur broader action domestically and internationally.

A moderated panel discussion will then reflect on the dialogue's key messages and explore how governments, civil society, and finance institutions can work together to expand methane ambition, mobilise resources, and translate evidence into sustained action. The session will aim to articulate clear, forward-looking priorities that can guide policy, finance, and research decisions over the remainder of this decade.

Presentations:

- Role of subnational and local actors in advancing climate and clean air goals (Subnational Methane Action Coalition)
- City Leader keynotes on the role of subnational and local leader in advancing climate and clean air goals (authority of London)
- GMP Champion
- Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development
- World Bank

Moderator: Super Pollutants Action Alliance

17:35 – 17:45

Closing of Day 1 Science-Policy Dialogue

- Martina Otto (UN Environment Programme)

17:45 - 18:15

Lecture on the life of Volta (B36 – room 162)

- Videomessage on the IPCC Methane science by Sir Jim Skea
- Lecture on the life of Volta (University of Pavia)

18:15 – 19:45

Apericena (B36 – ground floor)

- Toast with bubbles and light dinner
- Adjourn and transport to hotels



Programme

31 March (Day 2)

1 April 2026 (Day 3)

Methane Action for People & Planet: From Discovery to Solutions

Science to Action

Hybrid Conference

Conference Building 36 (rooms 161, 162, 163) /JRC Ispra
31 March – 1 April 2026



Overall summary of the session

The science to action conference marks the 250th anniversary of Alessandro Volta's discovery of methane, using this historic milestone to elevate global attention on the science, impacts, and solutions.

Co-organized by European Commission Joint Research Centre, Climate and Clean Air Coalition, Environment Defense Fund, Global Carbon Project, UNEP's International Methane Emissions Observatory, Institute For Governance & Sustainable Development, and Spark Climate Solutions, this conference is designed to accelerate momentum on methane mitigation, monitoring, and science policy coordination, and the development of a shared scientist letter that will be advanced in parallel with the event.

The multi-day program brings together leading researchers, senior policymakers, multilateral institutions, journalists, and technology developers to advance a shared understanding of the global methane budget and its transformation under human influence. By connecting scientific insight with policy and technological pathways, the conference aims to inform and inspire the next phase of global methane action through technological innovation, capacity building, and coalition building.

JRC site, Conference Building 36 (rooms 161, 162, 163 together), 31 March 2026 (Day 2)

8:00 - 9:00	Arrival at the Joint Research Centre (passing the gate with the badges) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Coffee and Mixer</i>
9:00 - 9:15	Opening Plenary: Methane Action for People & Planet-From Discovery to Solutions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alessandra Zampieri, Joint Research Centre• Remarks of Commission representative
9:15	Session 1: The First Decade of Methane Science to Action <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Chairs: Greet Janssens-Maenhout and Frank Dentener (JRC)</i> <p>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 keynote and panel look back at the role of methane as the climate emergency brake, and at factors beyond “pulling the brake” and related to various policies and science efforts associated with methane monitoring, measurement and mitigation efforts established to support the successful implementation of the Global Methane Pledge, and frames the following sessions that will look ahead at future methane science and policy.</p>
9:15 - 9:35	Keynote <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four Years to 2030: Delivering on the Global Methane Pledge (Gigaton Strategies LLC)

9:35 – 10:30

Panel: What we've learned about methane & what it means now?

- Global Carbon Project
- Climate and Clean Air Coalition
- Environment Defense Fund /UNEP's International Methane Emissions Observatory
- Institute For Governance & Sustainable Development
- Spark Climate Solutions

Moderator: MIT Technology Review

10:30 - 11:00

Coffee Break and visit of the posters and booths

11:00 - 11:20

Plenary: The Decade of Global Methane Action

Presentations:

- The Methane Imperative (Duke University)
- Science to Action and the Road to COP31 (Global Methane Hub)

11:20-12:15

Panel: Sectoral perspectives on implementation of the Global Methane Pledge and follow ups to COP30

- World Bank
- European Commission, Directorate General for Energy
- National Dairy Development Board
- Representative of Brasil

Moderator: t.b.c.

12:15 – 14:00

Lunch Break

14:00

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

- *Chairs: Pep Canadell (CSIRO) and Sparkle Malone (Yale University)*

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 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.

14:00-14:20

Keynote

- Methane Science: Past, Present, Future, Daniel Jacob (Harvard University)

14:20-15:35

Short Science Talks on the 'Natural Methane' Cycle

- Paleo Perspective (Cambridge University)
- Methanogens and Global Change (University of Alberta)
- Wetlands (Peking University)
- Monitoring (t.b.c.)
- Atmospheric Sinks (University of Washington)

15:35 - 16:00

Coffee Break and visit of the posters and booths

16:00 - 17:00

Short Science Talks on the Perturbed Methane Cycle

- Isotopes/Inversions (t.b.c.)
- Fossil Fuels (International Methane Emissions Observatory)
- Agriculture (t.b.c.)
- Atmospheric changes or Warming-Induced GHG Emissions (t.b.c.)

17:00 - 17:30

Panel: How methane scientific information flows to policy

- LSCE
- Centro Euro Mediterraneo sui Cambiamenti Climatici
- Utrecht University
- JRC

Moderator: t.b.c.

17:30 – 17:45

Methane lifetime achievement and rising star awards

Other announcements (e.g., Climate Prize, XPRIZE)

17:45 - 18:45

Visit of the posters and booths

18:45 - 22:00

Social dinner (Sponsored by Spark Climate Solutions)

- Transport to restaurant
- Dinner
- Transport to the hotels

8:00 – 9:00	Arrival at the Joint Research Centre (passing the gate with the badges)
9:00	Session 3: Methane Science: Past, Present, and Future <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Chair: Gabby Dreyfus (IGSD)</i> <p>The inclusion of methane action in local and national policies, including nationally determined contributions, requires continued investments in capacity building, technology and science as well as coordination with synergistic efforts targeting air quality and health. This session will discuss the datasets and tools being used for successful implementation of methane action and what opportunities exist in the future and how these have been overcome through novel policies and new scientific approaches.</p>
9:00 – 9:10	Summary from previous day and plan for the day <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spark Climate Solutions
9:10 – 9:30	Keynote <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unlocking Science and Policy Solutions for Methane Action (t.b.c.)
9:30-10:30	Panel: Unlocking Policy Action <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environment Defense Fund• Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)• Clean Air Task Force• Representative of Ghana <p><i>Moderator: t.b.c.</i></p>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break and visit of the posters and booths
11:00 – 11:20	Plenary: Unlocking Methane Data for Action Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open Methane Platform (University of Melbourne)• Methane Near Real Time (Laboratory for Climate and Environmental Sciences)

11:20 - 12:15

Panel: Solutions for Methane Policy and Science Implementation

- UNEP's International Methane Emissions Observatory
- Carbon Mapper
- Data Foundation

Moderator: Three Cairns

12:15 – 13:30

Lunch Break

Session 4: The Future of Methane Science to Action

- *Chair: Giulia Zazzeri (RSE SpA)*

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.

13:30 - 13:50

Keynote

- Future Methane Action, Steven Hamburg (EDF)

13:50 - 14:45

Panel: The 'What' of Future Methane Action

- Woodwell Climate Research Center
- Spark Climate Solutions
- WMO Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW)

Moderator: t.b.c.

14:45 - 15:30

Coffee Break and visit of the posters and booths

15:30 - 15:45

Presentation:

- The Future of Methane Policy (Rocky Mountain Institute)

15:45 - 16:45

Panel: Policy, Capacity and Financing

- Institute For Governance & Sustainable Development
- Global Methane Hub
- Representative of UK
- Methane Matters

Moderator: t.b.c.

16:45 - 17:00

Presentation

- Angera Declaration on Methane

17:00 - 17:15

Adjourn

- Closing remarks
- Transport to the hotels

Science for policy

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) provides independent, evidence-based knowledge and science, supporting EU policies to positively impact society



EU Science Hub

[Joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu](https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu)