

Scientific and Technical Working Group Recommendations

- Methane emissions presently contribute only a small part of Maryland’s GHG emissions, nonetheless actions should be taken to:
 - Incrementally reduce methane emissions from major in-state sources (landfills, wastewater treatment, agriculture and natural gas distribution) to the degree practicable;
 - Account for out-of-state emissions associated with production and processing of natural gas consumed in Maryland; and
 - Ensure that potential natural gas production and transshipment in Maryland have strict federal or state controls on emissions, or effective offsets, to avoid adding to the State’s methane emissions.
 - Directly evaluate the rate of methane emissions from such poorly quantified sources, such as landfills and old wells and coal mines, that might be mitigated.
- Broaden impact analyses of the costs and benefits of mitigation options beyond conventional economic metrics to better account for employment, human health and well-being, social vulnerability and environmental quality.
- Enhance GHG emission inventories by better quantifying presently poorly accounted for sources, including “natural” sources and sinks such as wetlands and surface waters affected by human activities and management strategies.
- Revise or fine-tune adaptation and response strategies in light of updated climate impacts assessment. In the near term:
 - Incorporate probabilistic sea-level projections in coastal resilience planning; and
 - Take climate change into account in Chesapeake Bay restoration, while recognizing uncertainties of its effects on Total Maximum Daily Load limitations.