

# Methane Capture Projects

## Coal Mine Methane Capture

This project captures methane from a disused coal mine in Pennsylvania. Methane is 21 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub> as a greenhouse gas. The project will generate emission reductions of 133,000 tCO<sub>2</sub> equivalent between 2006 and 2010.

## Technology partner

Foree

## Country

USA

## About your carbon-saving project

### Methane Capture Projects, USA

Methane is originally formed with coal and is stored in large quantities within coal seams. As with many coal mines in the Appalachian Basin, significant quantities of methane from the closed Gateway mine are vented naturally to the atmosphere. Methane has 21 times the global warming potential of CO<sub>2</sub>.

It would be impossible to completely seal the Gateway mine. Since the quantities of methane produced are not sufficient to allow economic exploitation for electricity generation, the project uses a compressor to direct the methane from the mine to a flare. Burning one molecule of methane produces two molecules of water and one molecule of CO<sub>2</sub>. In this way, flaring methane reduces its climate change impact by a factor of 21.

There is no legislation driving flaring projects and where the quantities of methane are relatively small, the only incentive for such activities is securing carbon finance. The CarbonNeutral Company has provided up-front funding for the construction of the compressor and flare, without which the project would not have happened. There can be few projects where the sale of carbon credits can be shown so simply to bring immediate environmental gains.



Compressor directing methane to the flare



Flaring the methane

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