RNG Coalition's
Sustainable Methane Abatement & Recycling Timeline (SMART)

The Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas (RNG Coalition) advocates for the sustainable development, deployment and utilization of renewable natural gas (RNG, or biomethane) so that present and future generations have access to domestic, renewable, clean fuel and energy.

Methane is a short-lived climate pollutant and greenhouse gas (GHG) that is many times more potent than carbon dioxide and is produced by the decomposition of organic wastes. Uncaptured, methane escapes into the atmosphere and has a negative impact on the Earth's temperature and climate system. RNG facilities capture otherwise fugitive methane from society's inevitable waste streams – wasted food, municipal solid waste, wastewater, livestock and agricultural waste — and significantly decrease its impact on atmospheric warming.

During its annual RNG CONFERENCE in 2019, RNG Coalition's founders announced the *Sustainable Methane Abatement & Recycling Timeline (SMART),* calling on all sectors to work together to capture and control methane from *more than 43,000 waste sites* across the U.S. and Canada, outlining benchmarks for North America as follows:

- 500 operating methane-capture facilities by 2025
- 1,000 operating facilities by 2030
- 5,000 operating facilities by 2040

When RNG Coalition was founded in 2011, there were 31 operating RNG facilities in North America. In 2023, there are gas collection and treatment systems at nearly 300 facilities. With more than 300 additional facilities under construction or in advanced planning, we are on track to exceed our SMART benchmark for 2025.

RNG has multiple benefits: it sustainably mitigates methane emissions and provides a direct substitute for geologic natural gas – helping to decarbonize transportation, stationary applications, and the electric and gas grids. RNG is also a key feedstock for production of crucial future energy resources like renewable hydrogen and sustainable aviation fuel. Other key *technologies convert raw biogas to electricity, convert biogas to combined heat and power (CHP), or incorporate strategic biogas flaring. Each technology and end-use application of biogas and RNG will be necessary to achieve our SMART initiative.*

RNG Coalition's work continues to further advance our mission and to achieve SMART benchmarks. Since 2019, RNG Coalition has:

- Partnered with the *Global Methane Initiative*.
- Tripled the size of our organization's staff to optimize federal, state and provincial policy advocacy, and to improve public education through communications & marketing, events, data & research.
- Continued to provide stakeholders and policy makers with current, reliable data and information.
- Spearheaded legislative and regulatory efforts at the state, federal and provincial levels in support of the industry and our shared mission.
- Promoted the continuation of existing, or introduction of new investment and production

THE COALITION FOR RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS

tax credit or grant programs, like the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

- Provided complimentary weekly educational webinars to industry stakeholders and the general public on a range of technical, policy, market, and financial topics.
- Supported membership and the industry with best-in-class annual events such as **RNG SUMMIT**, our mid-year Policy Forum; **RNG WORKS**, our Technical Workshop & Trade Expo; **RNG CONFERENCE**, our gathering of industry leadership; and our **SMART CUP** Endowment Golf Tournament & Fundraiser.
- Further supported members with regional and topic specific **RNG Connect** events, including in Austin, Boston, Dallas, Detroit, Drummondville, New York City, Pittsburgh and Washington, DC.
- Developed our own **Coalition Coverage** insurance program, leveraging group buying power and expertise to improve access and reduce the cost of insurance for RNG Coalition members.
- Established five Leadership Advisory Boards **(LABs)**: Leadership, Education, Advocacy, Development, and Sustainability (**LEADS**), each home to specific committees comprised of committed members volunteering extra time to lend their expertise in support of our mission.

The LABs are among our most important tools for realizing our SMART initiative, and we will continue to leverage them to:

- Promote public policy that values methane capture and creates an economic incentive for RNG and methane abatement (Advocacy LAB).
- Pursue public education initiatives that promote a greater understanding of RNG, through traditional, online, and social media (Education LAB).
- Promote best practices and technical education (Development LAB).
- Support the development and adoption of GHG measurement standards that account for emissions *and* mitigations; and expand RNG use in voluntary markets (Sustainability LAB).

Future Initiative-supporting efforts will include:

- Engaging with international RNG/biomethane stakeholders, including through the *Clean Energy Ministerial* and RNG Coalition's future *Global SMART Forum*.
- Identifying, sponsoring, or commissioning research that fills information gaps or helps stakeholders overcome technical, market or policy impediments.
- Working to reduce the costs of RNG facility development, including through promotion of technical innovation.
- Identifying project candidate sites by class and promoting adoption of RNG and other appropriate methane capture/destruction facilities.

Much work remains in order to achieve goals outlined under RNG Coalition's SMART. Realizing the full potential of methane capture will require the continued support of our valued members, in addition to the tireless work of RNG Coalition staff. Working together to leverage the full weight of our combined resources, we believe there is no goal too ambitious as we strive to create a more sustainable world for generations to come.