FLARING UPDATE 2025

Gas flaring volumes and intensity rose last year, for a second consecutive year. Global flaring targets look increasingly out of reach without swift action.

July 2025

Environmental Defense Fund | BUSINESS

Summary

- The World Bank's 2025 Global Gas Flaring Tracker report revealed a second straight annual increase in **in gas flaring activity in 2024**. as flaring at upstream oil and gas facilities increased from 148 bcm in 2023 to 151 bcm in 2024, a 2% rise.

- **Flaring intensity also rose 2%,** to 5.1 cubic meters of gas per barrel of oil produced. Flaring would need to fall by 23% *per year* to achieve the World Bank's zero routine flaring by 2030 target -- a target that now looks decisively out of reach.

- The **Oil & Gas Decarbonization Charter**, announced at COP28, includes a pledge to eliminate routine flaring. An intensified focus on eliminating non-emergency flaring, supported by both industry and policy, is urgently needed.

- In addition to being a source of CO_2 emissions, **flaring is a significant source of methane emissions** through the venting of methane when flares do not function properly. It is also associated with negative health impacts for nearby communities.

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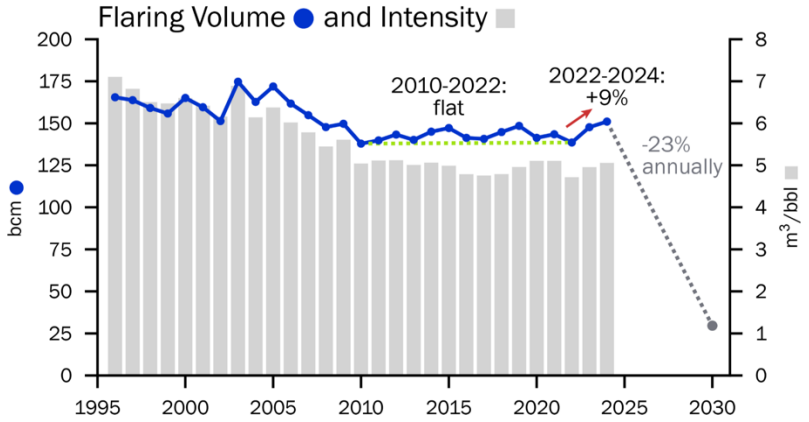
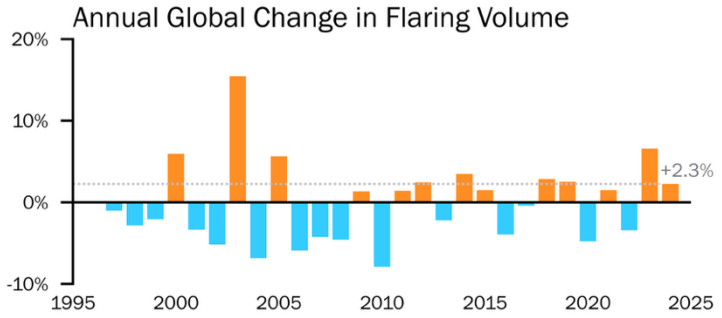
1. Flaring rose 2%; moving in the wrong direction

- Last year's **2% increase to 151 bcm of gas flared** was the second consecutive increase and follows the large 6% increase last year – a 9% rise over 2 years.
- This increase occurred despite flat global oil production. Flaring intensity rose by 2%, from 5.0m^3 to 5.1m^3 of gas per barrel of oil produced.
- Flaring would need to decline **23% per year to reach zero routine flaring** by 2030, assuming ~1 m^3/bbl is caused by unavoidable emergency flaring.
- Zero routine flaring goals look **increasingly out of reach** without a renewed global focus.

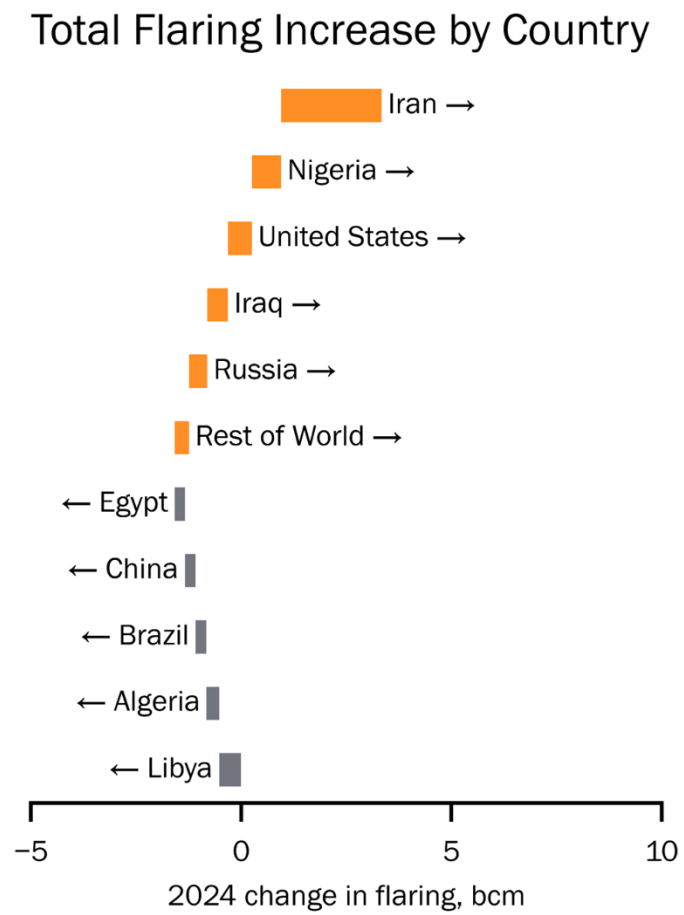




Source for slides 3-5: Word Bank Global Gas Flaring Tracker

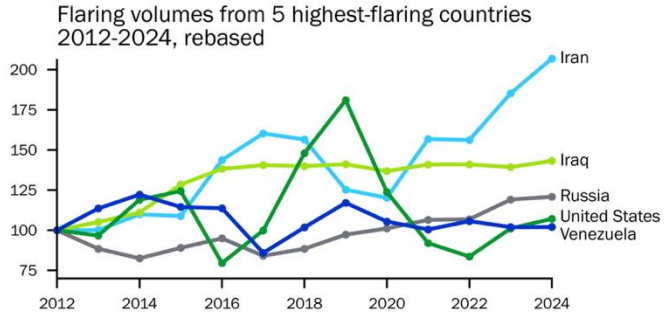
2. Setbacks in Iran, Russia, US

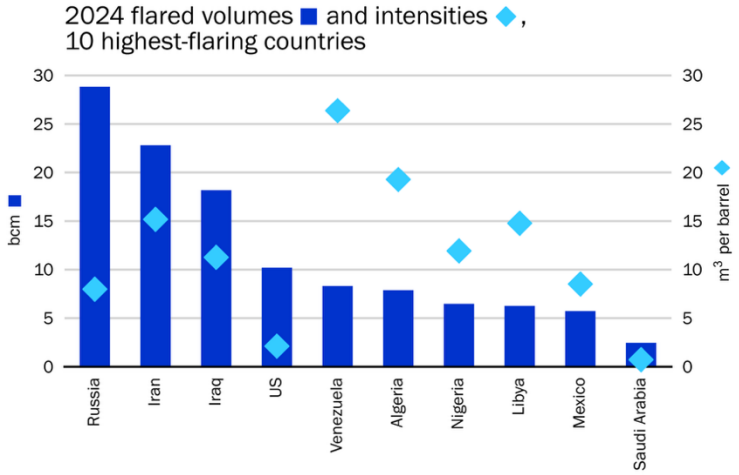
- The largest increases in flare volumes in 2024 occurred in **Iran, Nigeria, the United States, Iraq, and Russia** (in order of the flare volume increase). Together, these five countries accounted for 4.6 bcm of the additional gas flaring. In addition to increases in flare volume, Nigeria, Russia, and the United States also increased their flaring intensity in 2024.
- In the US, according to the World Bank, the increase was driven by **higher flare volumes in the Bakken shale-oil producing basin**, where produced gas volumes exceeded takeaway capacity.
- Similar to last year, **Iran's 12 percent increase in flaring was driven by a similar rise in oil production,** combined with a continued lack of investment in associated gas recovery and utilization.



3. Flaring stubbornly high in many countries

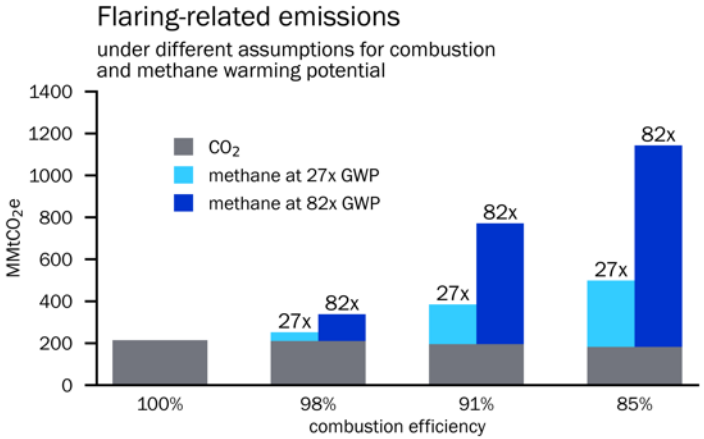
- In terms of overall flared gas volumes, **Russia, Iraq and Iran continue to stand out as the top flaring countries**, representing 25% of volumes. In all three, flaring has risen or stayed flat in recent years.
- **Venezuela** remains the country with the highest flaring intensity at over 25m^3/bbl — 8 times the global average. Algeria, Libya, Iran, Iraq and Nigeria also stand out for above average flaring intensity.
- The US remained in 4th place in flaring volume. Among the top flaring countries, the US and Saudi Arabia have the lowest flaring intensity.





4. Flaring impacts are undercounted

- Flaring contributes to climate change through both **carbon dioxide emissions and methane releases**, while wasting a valuable energy resource. The market value of the gas flared in 2023 could have been between $19b and $64b (using either Henry Hub or EU import prices for 2024).
- **Flaring-related methane emissions are likely underestimated**. Empirical research has found flaring efficiency of 91.1%, well below the 98% that is generally assumed.
- **Particulate emissions from flaring create a health risk** for nearby communities. NOx and VOCs contribute to asthma as well as the formation of ground-level ozone.



Lit flare (L) and unlit flare (R) as seen from an R44 helicopter via infrared camera.

Still taken from video footage.
Photo credit: PermianMAP

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FURTHER READING

The Burning Question:
How to Fix Flaring

Plugging the Leaks: Investor Guide
to Oil & Gas Methane Risk

https://business.edf.org/climate-insights-hub/