



# Benchmarking Methane and Other GHG Emissions Of Oil & Natural Gas Production in the United States

May 2023

Data downloads at: [www.sustainability.com](http://www.sustainability.com)

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*Sustainability is the bottom line.*

# Acknowledgements

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Data used in this report can also be accessed via an interactive data platform hosted at [www.sustainability.com](http://www.sustainability.com).

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# Key Findings

- Of 309 oil and natural gas producers with reported data, the top 100 oil and gas producers (by total energy production) were responsible for around 91% of energy production and approximately 75% and 77%, respectively, of total reported methane and GHG emissions in 2021. While most top-100 producers are also among the top 100 emitters, production rank does not correspond to emissions rank.
- The methane emissions intensity of natural gas production and the GHG emissions intensity of oil and gas production varies dramatically across producers. Natural gas producers in the highest quartile of methane emissions intensity have an average emissions intensity that is nearly 26 times higher than natural gas producers in the lowest quartile of methane emissions intensity. Oil and gas producers in the highest quartile of GHG emissions intensity have an average emissions intensity that is more than 13 times higher than oil and gas producers in the lowest quartile.
- Pneumatic controllers were the largest source of total reported production-segment methane emissions, making up 67% of total reported methane emissions.
- Fuel combustion equipment, such as engines and heaters, was the largest source of total reported production-segment CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, responsible for 65% of total reported CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- In oil-heavy basins, associated gas venting and flaring can be a significant contributor to GHG emissions. In the Williston basin, for example, this source is responsible for 50% of total reported GHG emissions. In gas-heavy basins, associated gas is limited or non-existent; for example, there was no reported associated gas venting and flaring in the Appalachian basin. Across all basins, associated gas venting and flaring was responsible for 10% of total reported onshore production-segment GHG emissions.
- Methane and GHG intensity declined 28% and 30%, respectively, between 2019 and 2021 due to a reduction in methane and total GHG emissions reported to EPA, despite an increase in natural gas and total hydrocarbon production. However, these trends are not consistent across basins or individual companies and can fluctuate year to year (e.g., increase 2019-2020 and decrease 2020-2021).
- The 2019-2021 decline in reported methane emissions was driven by a reduction of reported emissions from pneumatic controllers, while associated gas venting and flaring were responsible for the largest decrease in reported CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

## Benchmarking Methane and Other GHG Emissions

Of Oil & Natural Gas Production in the United States

Download detailed data from the 2023 Benchmarking GHG Emissions report at: [www.sustainability.com](http://www.sustainability.com)

### Oil & Gas Production in the United States

The oil and gas production sector in the United States includes a wide array of companies that produce hydrocarbons from diverse geographies and geological formations. For 2021, companies reported to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) information on over 530 thousand onshore wells which together produced almost 35 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and nearly 3 billion barrels of oil. Onshore oil and gas production reported under EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reporting program declined 0.5% and increased 5.5%, respectively, from 2020 to 2021.

# Background

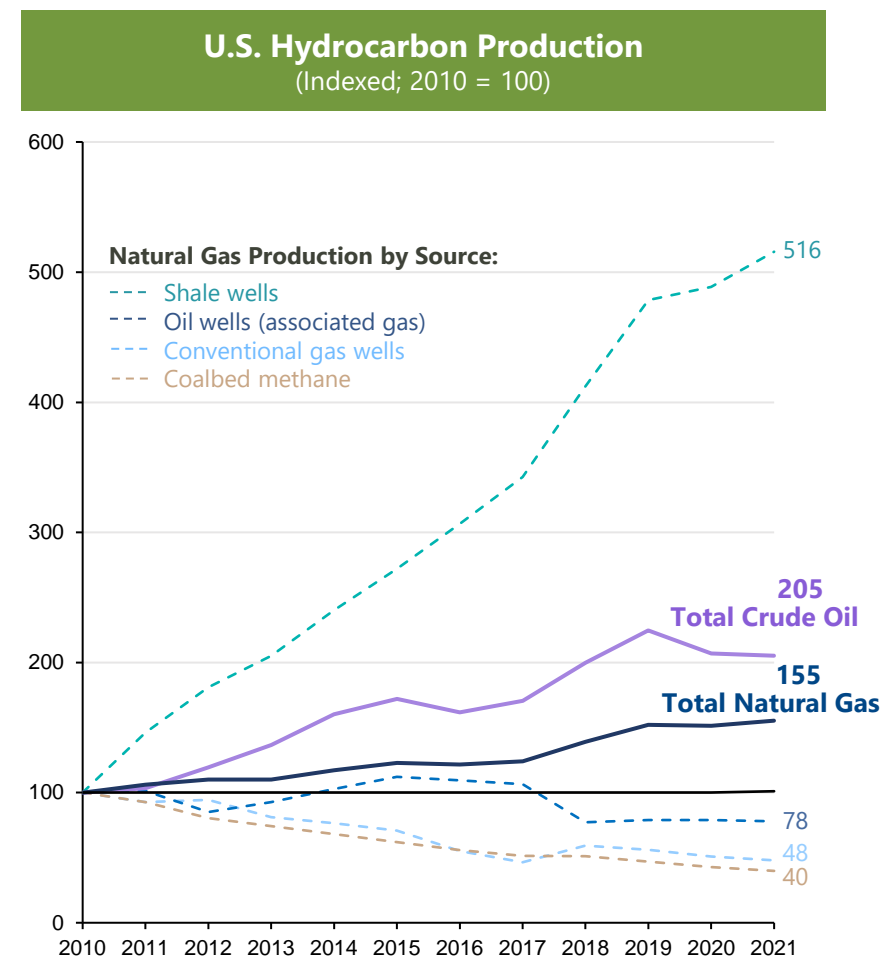
Concern over climate change has brought increased focus on methane and greenhouse gas emissions associated with oil and gas production. These emissions, especially methane, diminish the greenhouse gas benefits of using gas in place of coal for power generation and represent a significant source of climate pollution. In addition, a growing body of research indicates that total methane emissions associated with oil and natural gas production are substantially higher than those reported in official inventories. A wide range of stakeholders, including policymakers, fuel purchasers, environmental organizations, and financial institutions, are interested in better understanding industry-wide and company-specific emissions trends. Oil and gas companies that minimize and most effectively manage their emissions will be better positioned for a low-carbon future.

Stakeholder engagement with the industry—and the industry’s ability to benchmark its own performance—has been stymied by a lack of clear and consistently calculated metrics, forcing stakeholders and companies to rely on voluntary metrics reported by companies that are often incomplete or non-comparable. The 2023 Oil & Gas Benchmarking Report is a collaborative effort that uses publicly available data to develop comparable metrics that highlight the GHG performance of onshore oil and gas producers in the U.S. The report uses data reported to EPA under Subpart W of the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP) and data calculated from assumptions in EPA’s annual Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHG Inventory).\* The report focuses on the onshore oil and natural gas production segments and does not include emissions or production from offshore operations, gathering & boosting facilities, or other midstream or downstream segments of the oil and gas supply chains. This report focuses on 2021 production and emissions data and includes production and emissions trends for 2015 to 2021.

## Data Year and Company Operations

GHGRP data for the previous calendar year are reported to EPA by March 31 and published by EPA in October. This report focuses on 2021 data, the most recent year for which data are currently available. It is important to note that current company production and emissions may be significantly different for individual facilities and companies due to operational changes and changes in asset ownership.

\* For simplicity, the emissions captured in this report are referred to as “reported emissions”



# Introduction and Overview of Oil & Gas Data

Data on U.S. oil and gas production and air emissions are available to the public through several databases maintained by state and federal agencies. Publicly-traded and privately-held oil and gas producers are required to report production and GHG emissions data under EPA's GHGRP for any basin in which their annual GHG emissions exceed 25,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e). In this report, these data are combined for companies operating in multiple basins and presented such that company-level comparisons can be made across U.S. onshore production operations.

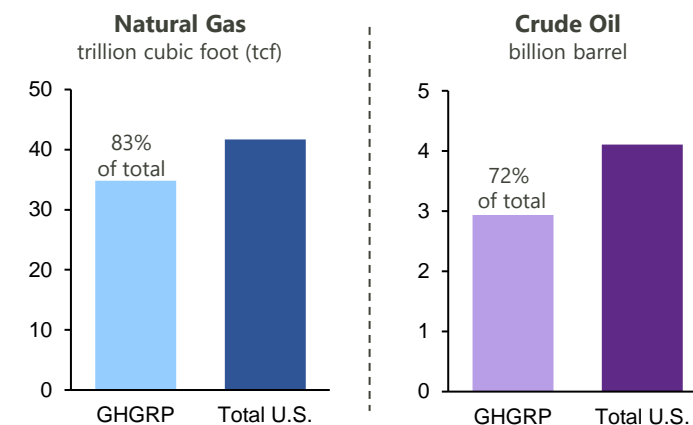
The Oil & Gas Benchmarking Report facilitates the comparison of emissions performance by using reported production and emissions data to calculate methane and GHG emissions intensities and presenting this information and source data in a graphical format that aids in understanding and evaluating the data. The report is intended for a wide audience, including oil and gas industry executives, oil and gas operators, environmental advocates, financial analysts, investors, journalists, and public policymakers.

The methane and GHG emissions included in this report do not capture total emissions from the onshore production segment for several reasons. Most importantly, the GHGRP's methodology relies in part on emission factors that do not properly account for emissions from infrequent, high-emitting occurrences and therefore underestimates emissions from sites covered by the program. In addition, emissions from facilities below the GHGRP reporting threshold are not included. Further, the GHGRP does not require all production segment emission sources (i.e., equipment or processes) to report emissions. As result of these factors, actual emissions from the production segment are higher than the numbers reported to EPA.

## Global Warming Potential (GWP)

This report uses 100-year GWPs from the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (AR6). The 2021 version of this report used GWPs from the Fifth Assessment Report, which were current at the time of publication. While data for all years in this report and the online data dashboard use AR6 GWPs, the emissions data in this written report cannot be directly compared with the emissions data in the 2021 written report. Note that the CO<sub>2</sub>e values in this report also differ from those published in EPA's GHGRP database, as the GHGRP currently uses GWPs from the Fourth Assessment Report.

## 2021 Hydrocarbon Production GHGRP vs. Total U.S.\*



\*Source: U.S. EIA

## Relative Scope of Data Analyzed (2021)

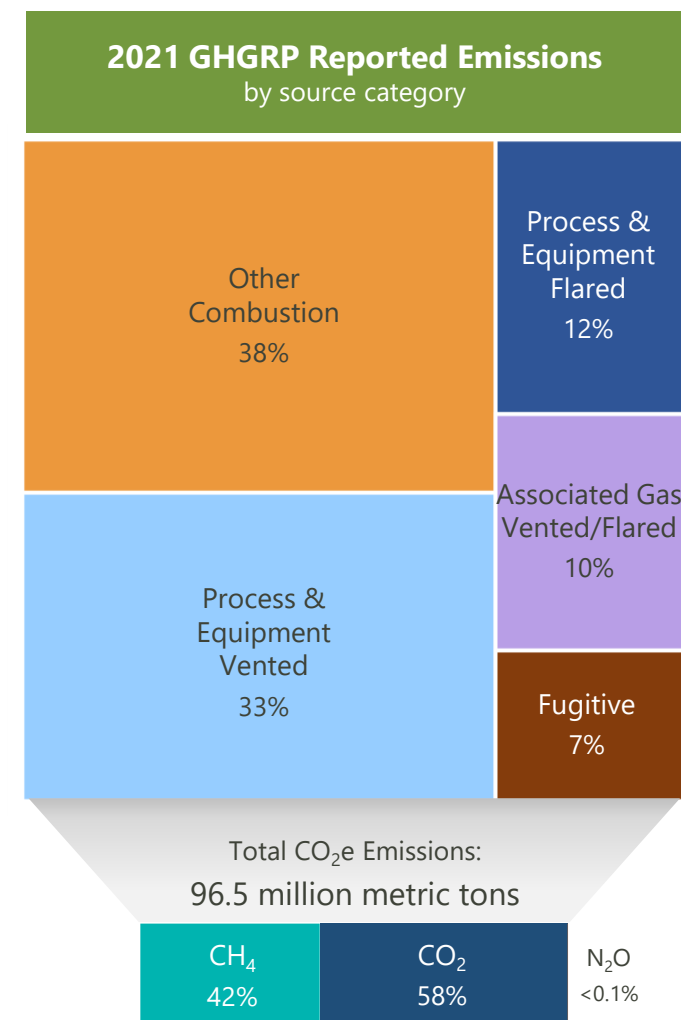
- Onshore oil & gas production reported to the GHGRP represents 72% of total U.S. annual oil production and 83% of total U.S. annual gas production
- Reported onshore production segment methane represents 48% of total methane reported under Subpart W
- Reported onshore production segment CO<sub>2</sub>e represents 42% of total CO<sub>2</sub>e reported under Subpart W
- Oil and gas production reported to GHGRP as a percent of total U.S. oil and gas production increased 2020-2021

# Types of Emissions Associated with Oil & Gas Production

The GHGRP includes reporting on emissions from 17 emission sources (see page 74). In addition, this report attributes emissions associated with six additional sources that are estimated at the national level by EPA in the GHG Inventory, but not included in GHGRP (see page 75). The relative contribution of GHG emissions from oil and gas production can vary widely by both type of gas and emissions source. Factors influencing the relative contribution of emissions include geology, targeted hydrocarbons (e.g., dry gas vs. wet gas), available infrastructure, and company policies and practices.

For purposes of comparison within this report, emission sources are grouped into five categories:

- **Process & Equipment Vented** Vented emissions are intentional releases of natural gas from equipment and processes. Common sources of vented emissions include gas-driven pneumatic devices, compressor seals, tanks, and liquids unloading.
- **Process & Equipment Flared** Flared emissions consist primarily of CO<sub>2</sub> from the combustion of gas that is captured from equipment and processes. Flaring also results in methane emissions from uncombusted gas that escapes through the flare stack.
- **Associated Gas Vented & Flared** Associated gas vented and flared emissions occur at oil wells that do not capture a portion or any of the gas that is produced alongside oil. The gas is directly released to the atmosphere or combusted in a flare rather than captured for sale, on-site use, or reinjection.
- **Fugitive** Fugitive emissions are unintentional releases, or leaks, of natural gas. These emissions are often caused by faulty or worn-out equipment. Sources of fugitive emissions include seals and cracks on equipment such as tanks and piping, and leakage from infrastructure components such as valves and connectors.
- **Other Combustion** Non-flaring combustion is a significant source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from oil and gas production. Diesel and natural gas engines used to power equipment and provide electricity represent the largest source of other combustion emissions. Other combustion also includes methane emissions from uncombusted gas.

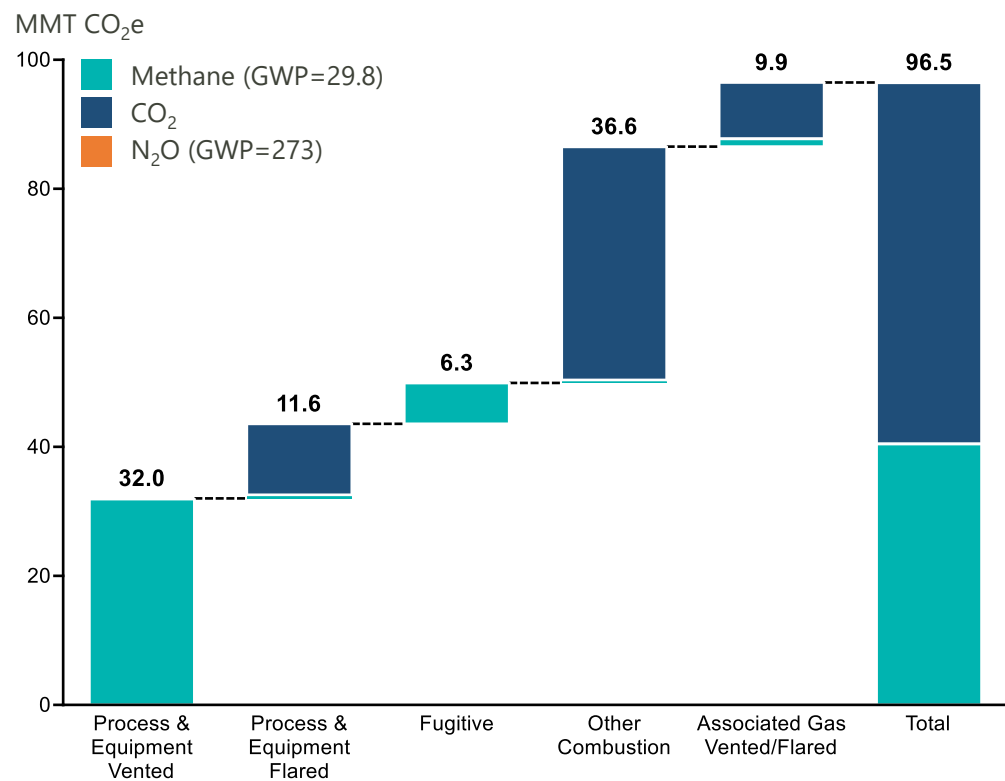


# Sources of Methane Emissions

Process & equipment vented and fugitive methane emissions make up approximately 94% and 40% of the total methane and GHG emissions, respectively, reported across all sources included in this report. Pneumatic devices are the largest source of reported methane emissions.

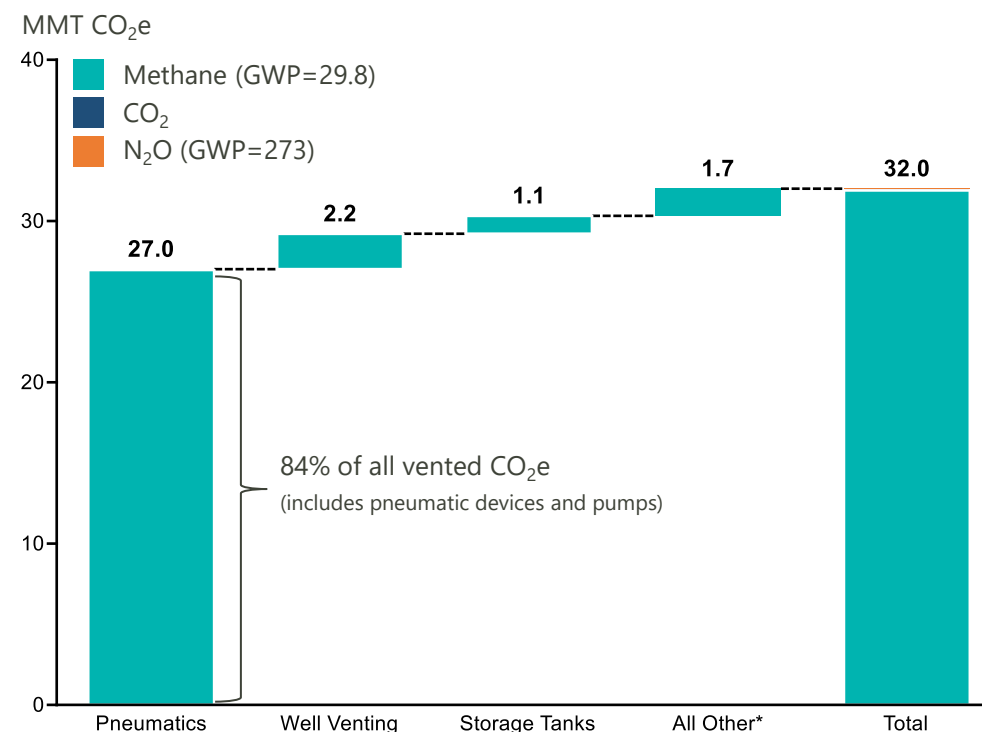
### 2021 Reported Production Emissions, by Source Category

million metric ton CO<sub>2</sub>e (MMT CO<sub>2</sub>e)



### Process & Equipment Vented Emissions, by Source

million metric ton CO<sub>2</sub>e (MMT CO<sub>2</sub>e)



\* Includes: Centrifugal compressors, Completions/workovers, dehydrators, reciprocating compressors, compressor blowdowns and starts, well drilling, pressure relief valves, well testing, and acid gas removal units

# Challenges Associated with Estimating Oil & Gas Emissions

The GHGRP currently represents the most robust and comprehensive inventory of company-level GHG emissions from the oil and gas industry. By applying a uniform emissions calculation methodology across all reporting companies, it creates a dataset that can be used to directly compare company-level data. As noted earlier, the emissions in this report also include sources that are not included in the GHGRP but that can be estimated using emission factors from the GHG Inventory. However, there are important limitations users should keep in mind when reviewing the data:

- **GHGRP emission factors do not represent actual emissions.** The use of emission factors to estimate total emissions relies on the emissions factor being representative of average emissions for a given activity. This approach can be effective where there is robust data on emissions per unit of activity. For example, automobile emissions are routinely and reliably estimated using emission factors despite the fact that emissions from a single vehicle may be different than predicted by an emission factor. With a diversity of emission sources and the presence of low-frequency, high-emission events, the use of emission factors is significantly less reliable in the oil and gas sector, and typically underestimates actual emissions from a number of sources.
- **Emissions from facilities below GHGRP reporting threshold.** Emissions from facilities below the GHGRP's reporting threshold of 25,000 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/year are not included in this analysis. Because the GHGRP does not capture facilities responsible for nearly one third of oil production and one quarter of gas production, emissions associated with that portion of oil and gas production activities are not reported to EPA or included in this analysis.
- **Emission source definitions from production and gathering and boosting activities inconsistently applied.** GHGRP requires companies to report emissions from production sources separately from gathering and boosting sources. However, the line between these two activities may be unclear and sometimes overlaps. Thus, companies must decide which section of the GHGRP is appropriate for reporting each source, and the decision is not uniform among all companies. As a result, this analysis, which only looks at production data, may capture emissions from certain equipment for some companies, while not capturing emissions from the same equipment for other companies, depending on how they classify their assets.
- **Emissions from sources not covered by GHGRP.** Companies are not required to report emissions from certain equipment and processes. Estimated emissions from some of these sources are included in this analysis by applying GHG Inventory emission factors to GHGRP reported activity data, as described in the Appendix.
- **Emission reduction activities not included.** Many producers implement work practices to reduce emissions and, in some cases, separately report these reductions to EPA through voluntary programs. However, unless the practices result in the use of a lower emissions factor or changes in activity data, these reductions are not incorporated into reported GHGRP data and are not accounted for in this analysis.
- **Abandoned infrastructure not included.** Research has highlighted that abandoned oil and gas wells are a significant source of methane emissions. These sources are not reported under the GHGRP and represent another source of the industry's GHG emissions that are not accounted for in this report. As a result, if companies are responsible for significant amounts of abandoned infrastructure, emissions from that infrastructure will not be captured in this report.
- **EPA flags on GHGRP data.** EPA may include a flag on company data to indicate that some of its verification requirements have not been met. Reports can be flagged because the facility has not provided an acceptable explanation for the potential error identified in their report, has not submitted a revised report to correct the potential error, or has submitted a revised report that does not resolve the error or contains new potential errors. However, EPA does not specify the specific reason for flagging individual facilities, and these flags are not considered in the current analysis.



# Potential Impacts of Rulemaking Across the U.S.

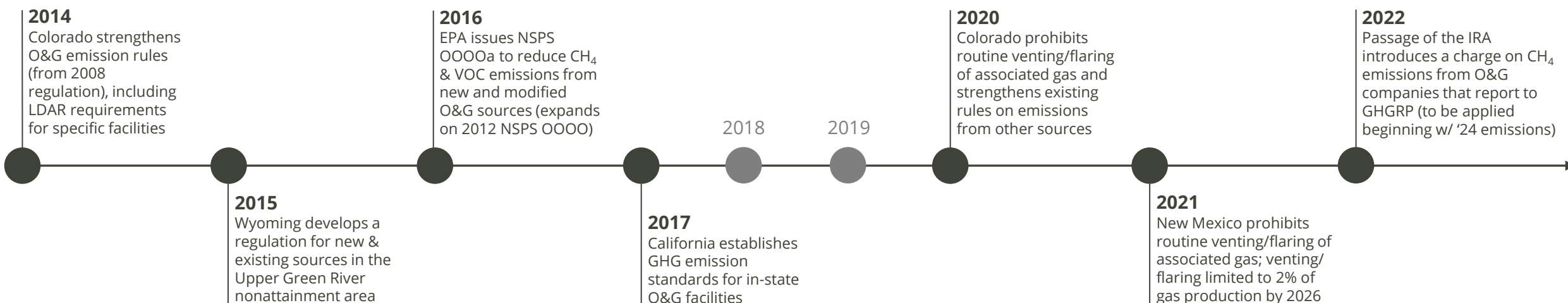
The reported emissions levels and calculated emissions intensities must be viewed in the context of the broader regulatory landscape in the U.S., both at the state and federal levels. Compliance with these regulations has led to emissions reductions. For example:

- Requirements for reduced emissions completions are driving down emissions from well completions and workovers;
- Requirements to replace or prohibit new high-bleed pneumatic and/or venting controllers/devices at new or modified sites are lowering pneumatic controller emissions;
- Leak detection and repair (LDAR) requirements are improving the identification of leaks and leading to lower fugitive emissions rates.

However, it is difficult to separate the impact of regulatory compliance from other factors:

- GHGRP reporting basins often do not fall within one state, making it complex to isolate the impact of state-level regulatory actions;
- Current EPA regulations only apply to new or modified facilities, and it is not feasible to separate the affected facilities in the reported GHGRP data;
- GHGRP reported data does not accurately capture LDAR emissions because of high-emitting, abnormal process conditions (see page 11);
- An increase in new (and highly productive) wells tends to reduce overall emissions intensity, regardless of voluntary or regulatory compliance actions;
- Voluntary company actions may play a role but are difficult to document and quantify.

## Major State & Federal Regulations



# Expected Impact of New or Upcoming Rulemaking Across the U.S.

A number of new laws and regulations will soon be finalized and implemented across the U.S., which will have a significant impact on both reported methane emissions and actual methane emissions in the coming years.

In 2022, **EPA issued a Supplemental Proposal for its New/Modified Source Standards (OOOOb) and Existing Source Guidelines (OOOOC)**. These requirements build from the initial 2021 proposal, as well as the 2016 and 2012 New/Modified Source rules (OOOOa and OOOO, respectively). Due to the way the Clean Air Act is structured, existing source rules are implemented by states through State Implementation Plans (SIPs), rather than by EPA itself, unless a state delegates authority to EPA or submits an inadequate SIP. In the coming years, states will need to develop their own regulations that meet the standards set by EPA in the OOOOC standards. Key components of the 2022 Supplemental Proposal include:

- A requirement to conduct regular leak detection and repair at all facilities;
- A super-emitter detection program;
- A requirement to replace all natural gas bleed pneumatic controllers and most pneumatic pumps with zero-emitting alternatives.

In 2022, **Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which included the Methane Emissions Reduction Program (MERP)**. Through the MERP, Congress established an additional methane reduction framework that complements EPA's standards and guidelines for new and existing sources. Not only does it provide \$1.55 billion for EPA to distribute for programs to reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas industry, but through MERP, EPA also has the clear authority, obligation, and resources to establish a methane waste emissions charge (WEC) for operators that are required to report emissions under the GHGRP and that exceed statutorily-established emissions thresholds that vary by segment. The WEC will begin with emissions reported for the year 2024.

Also, as part of the MERP program, Congress instructed EPA to update the GHGRP to include "empirical" emission estimates to ensure the total reported emissions are accurately reflected. While EPA is still working on its proposal on GHGRP updates, it is anticipated that it will significantly change the methodology companies need to use to estimate emissions, and also significantly impact total reported emissions.

**Note:** The methane intensity metric established by the IRA has not been defined and will be developed in the EPA rulemaking. Based on the IRA text, this methane intensity will likely be calculated using a different methodology than the NGSI intensity used in this report (see page 13). The NGSI methane intensity should not be used to project or estimate potential methane fee obligations under the IRA's Methane Emissions Reduction Program. Future versions of this benchmarking report may adopt the IRA methane intensity metric once it has been finalized by EPA.

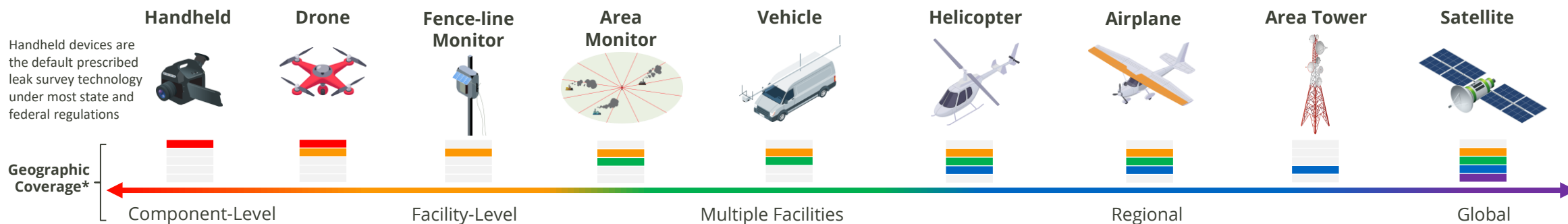
# Using Direct Measurement to Improve Estimates of Methane Emissions

Research over the last decade using technologies that directly measure methane emissions from oil and gas infrastructure has consistently shown that existing emission inventories, including those calculated using EPA's methodologies, underestimate total industry emissions. Studies have repeatedly found that a major driver of this mismatch is a relatively small number of sources with high-emitting, abnormal process conditions. These emission events have random spatial and temporal distributions and have proven to be difficult to account for using equipment-level emission factors.

Emissions inventories based on real-world measurements are critical because they better quantify the amount of methane emitted to the atmosphere, providing an improved understanding of the industry's climate impact. Fortunately, a growing number of advanced technologies that directly quantify methane emissions are being deployed by operators and industry stakeholders. At the same time, academic research and initiatives such as the Oil and Gas Methane Partnership 2.0 and GTI Veritas are working to establish processes and frameworks to demonstrate the effectiveness of technologies and reconcile differences between emission inventories and measured emissions to subsequently improve the quantification of emissions and determine the impact of emission reduction strategies.

The analysis and benchmarking in this report primarily uses the GHGRP data because it provides the only comprehensive data set that captures the majority of U.S. oil and gas production and applies a consistent methodology that allows for direct comparison of company performance. As more data based on direct measurement become publicly available, benchmarking efforts such as this will be able to integrate these new data. For example, the Inflation Reduction Act directs EPA to update Subpart W of the GHGRP to ensure that company reporting is based on "empirical data."

## Advanced Emission Detection and Quantification Platforms



# Top-Down and Bottom-Up Emission Studies

Many studies have evaluated and attempted to reconcile the emissions gap between top-down and bottom-up emission inventories. Most studies have focused on specific regions or basins (such as the Permian), but a recent analysis (Shen *et al.*) summarizes satellite methane observations to the national scale. The table below shows estimated methane leakage rates as a percent of total natural gas production from recent top-down studies. **For comparison, 2018-2020 GHGRP data imply that oil and gas methane emissions range between 0.57%-0.74% of methane produced nationally and 0.58%-0.81% of methane produced in the Permian.\***

Note that the leak rates in the following table are not directly comparable to the production-segment NGSI methane intensity metric used in this report:

1. They represent total methane emissions from oil and gas equipment divided by total methane produced (i.e., gas ratio not applied)
2. They capture methane emissions from production through transmission compression

Study**	Region	Leak Rate	Measurement Year(s)
Shen et al.	U.S.	2.0%	2018-2020
Chen et al.	Permian	9.4%	2018-2020
Lyon et al.	Permian	1.9% - 3.3%	2020
Schneising et al.	Permian	3.7%	2018-2019
Zhang et al.	Permian	3.7%	2018-2019

\*Leak rate calculated as total methane emissions divided by methane production. Includes Subpart W methane emissions for onshore production, gathering & boosting, processing, transmission compression, and underground storage facilities, as well as Subpart C methane emissions for processing, transmission compression, and underground storage facilities. Applies average calculated GHGRP-reported produced gas methane contents of 75.3%-75.7% (national) and 64.1%-64.8% (Permian).

\*\*See page 81 for complete study citations.

The comparison of GHGRP and top-down study data shows that estimated methane leak rates in top-down studies can be multiple times higher than leak rates derived from emissions and production data reported under GHGRP. The primary drivers of the observed gap are GHGRP emission factors that do not reflect actual emissions for all sources and the absence of emissions from high-emitting abnormal process conditions.

Leak rates derived from top-down measurements provide a snapshot of emissions performance for an area or region. However, these estimates do not isolate company performance; some companies within the region will have leak rates below the composite regional performance while others will have leak rates above the regional performance. Although a growing number of technology providers offer companies proprietary estimates of company-level leak rates and EDF has launched regional monitoring initiatives, there are no public datasets that provide a national view into company-level performance using top-down measurements.

In addition to there being differences in methane emissions intensities derived from top-down and bottom-up estimates, there are also meaningful differences in intensities associated with EPA's two bottom-up programs, the GHGRP and GHG Inventory. For 2021 data year, the GHG Inventory's implied national methane leak rate of 1.15% is more than double that of the GHGRP's 0.47% for the same industry boundaries (onshore production through transmission compression). There are a variety of potential reasons for this disparity, including (but not limited to): different quantification methods for the same sources; GHGI's inclusion of more sources; and GHGRP's exclusion of facilities that emit less than 25,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e.

## Top-Down Uncertainty

When considering top-down estimates, it is important to understand the potential magnitude of uncertainty associated with different measurement technologies and how emissions or leak rates from observed sites are extrapolated across unobserved sites and broader geographic areas.

# Using Public Data to Compare Producer Performance

Despite the challenges of estimating emissions from oil and gas sources, the application of a uniform emissions calculation methodology across the industry allows for direct comparison of reported company-level data. Normalizing these emissions by reported production data allows for calculation of emissions intensities that can be used to directly compare company methane and GHG emissions performance per unit of energy produced. While intensity metrics provide a straightforward way to compare the performance of operators of different sizes, it is important to note that absolute emissions can increase even as emissions intensity declines. Users are encouraged to consider total GHG emissions as well as emissions intensity when reviewing company data.

This report uses two emissions intensity metrics to compare producer performance. The first is the Edison Electric Institute and American Gas Association Natural Gas Sustainability Initiative (NGSI) protocol for calculating methane emissions intensity. This approach focuses on the natural gas value chain and calculates intensity as methane emissions assigned to natural gas on an energy basis divided by the total methane content of produced natural gas. This metric provides insight to investors and gas purchasers interested in evaluating the methane performance of the natural gas value chain separate from the oil value chain. The NGSI methane emissions intensity is expressed as a percent (%).\*

The second metric, total GHG emissions intensity, is calculated as total production-segment GHG emissions in kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) divided by total hydrocarbon production in barrel of oil equivalent (BOE). The GHG emissions intensity is expressed as kilograms CO<sub>2</sub>e per BOE.

\*Note that the NGSI intensity is not a methane leak rate (total methane emissions divided by total produced methane) because of its allocation of emissions based on the gas ratio (energy content of produced gas vs. total hydrocarbons). The methane intensity metric established by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) has not been defined and will be developed in an EPA rulemaking, but it is likely that this intensity will be different from the NGSI intensity used in this report. (See page 10 for more details on the IRA).

## NGSI Methane Emissions Intensity

$$\frac{\text{CH}_4 \text{ Emissions (MT)} * \text{Gas Ratio}}{\text{Produced Gas (mcf)} * \text{Methane Content} * (0.0192 \text{ MT/mcf})}$$

**where:**

Gas Ratio = Energy content of produced gas / Energy content of total hydrocarbons

Methane Content = Molar fraction of methane in produced gas

## Greenhouse Gas Emissions Intensity

$$\frac{\text{CH}_4 \text{ Emissions (kg CO}_2\text{e)} + \text{CO}_2 \text{ Emissions (kg CO}_2\text{e)} + \text{N}_2\text{O Emissions (kg CO}_2\text{e)}}{\text{Produced Gas (BOE)} + \text{Oil Sales (BOE)}}$$

**where:**

CO<sub>2</sub>e = CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent of gases adjusted by GWP

Produced Gas (BOE) + Oil Sales (BOE) = Hydrocarbons as barrel oil equivalent

Note that the NGSI methane intensities in this report may differ slightly from those calculated by companies due to assumptions made in this analysis and its use of publicly reported data

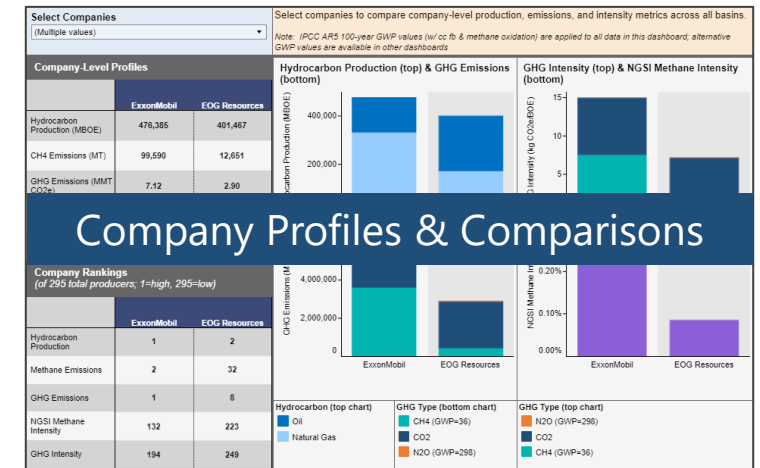
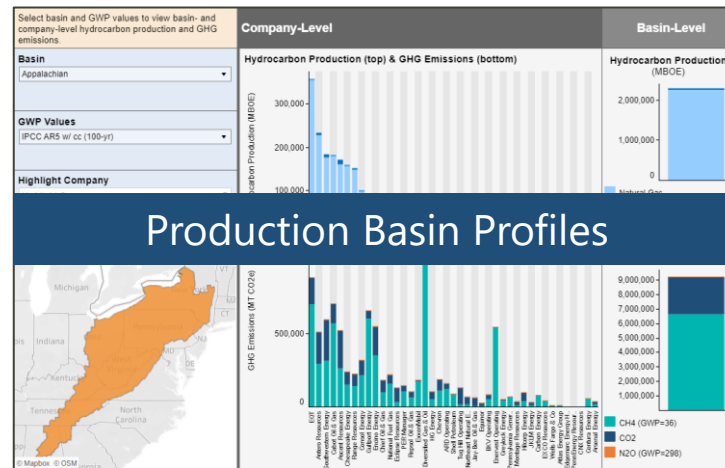
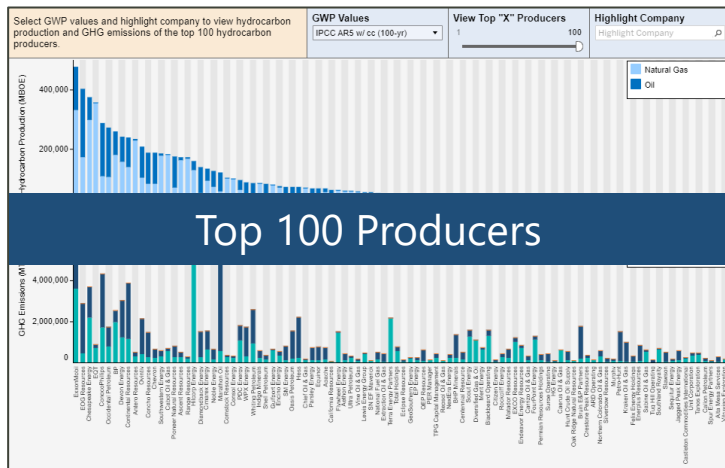
# Benchmarking Analytical Resources

The Oil & Gas Benchmarking Report includes a series of interactive, web-based dashboards to further visualize GHG emissions from oil and gas producers and production basins in the United States. These tools provide insight into how company- and basin-level emissions and emissions intensity vary as well as information on the types of sources that contribute to GHG emissions.

The online resources include data for all companies and basins in the GHGRP database, including those not highlighted in this report. Data dashboards include:

- **Top 100 Producers:** Oil & gas production, source-specific emissions, and emissions intensities of the top 100 hydrocarbon producers with additional company rankings of other key metrics
- **Production Basin Profiles:** Production, detailed emissions, and emissions intensities by basin and companies that operate within selected basins
- **Company Profiles & Comparisons:** Production, detailed emissions, and emissions intensities at a company and basin level with the ability to select and directly compare companies

These tools are available at <https://www.sustainability.com>

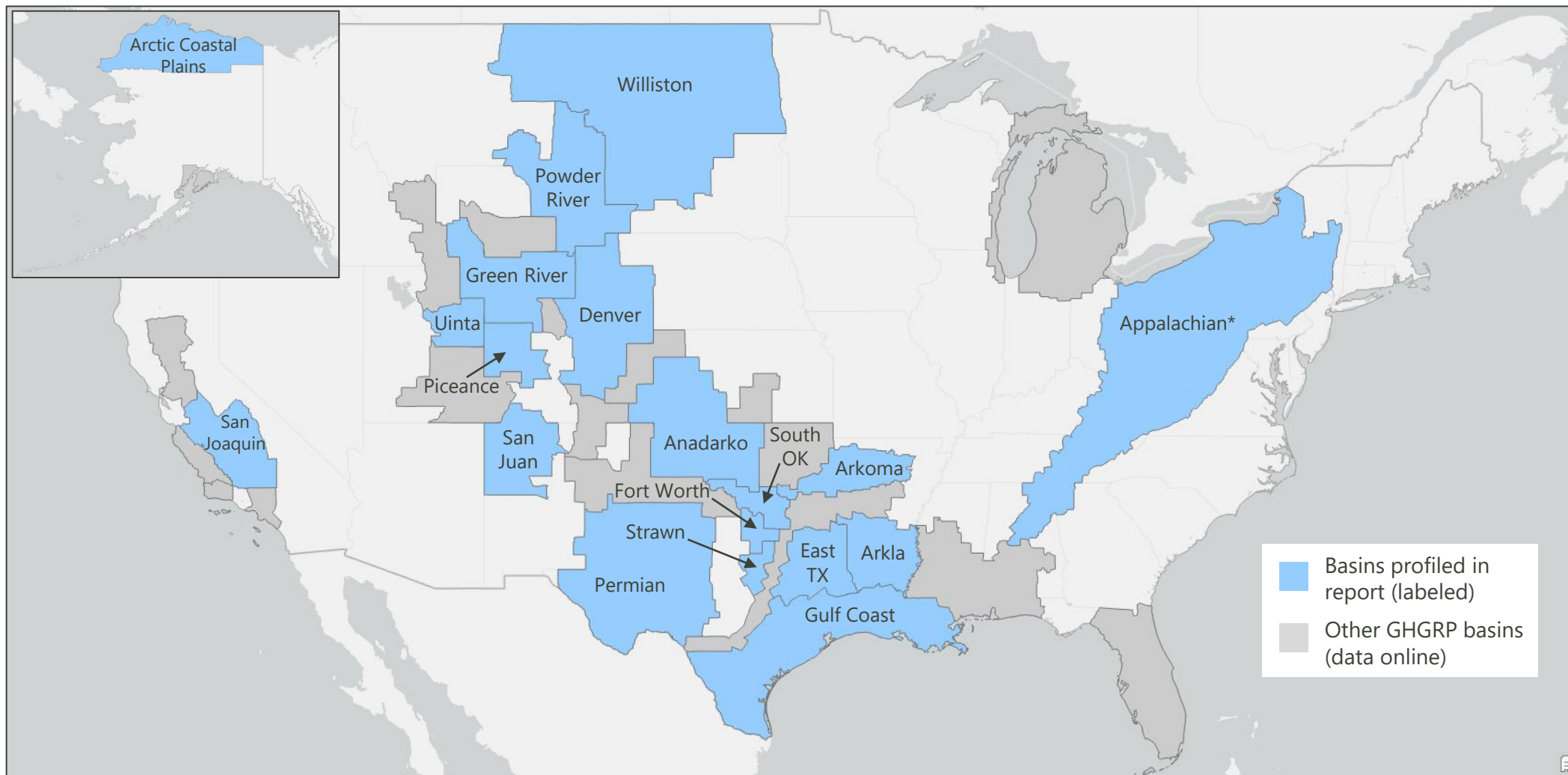


## Basin-Level Summary Data

This section provides data on hydrocarbon production, GHG emissions, emissions intensity, and sources of emissions for the 19 largest hydrocarbon production basins in the U.S. by 2021 production volume. Together these basins represent 98.4% and 99.3% of total 2021 natural gas and oil production, respectively, in the EPA data.



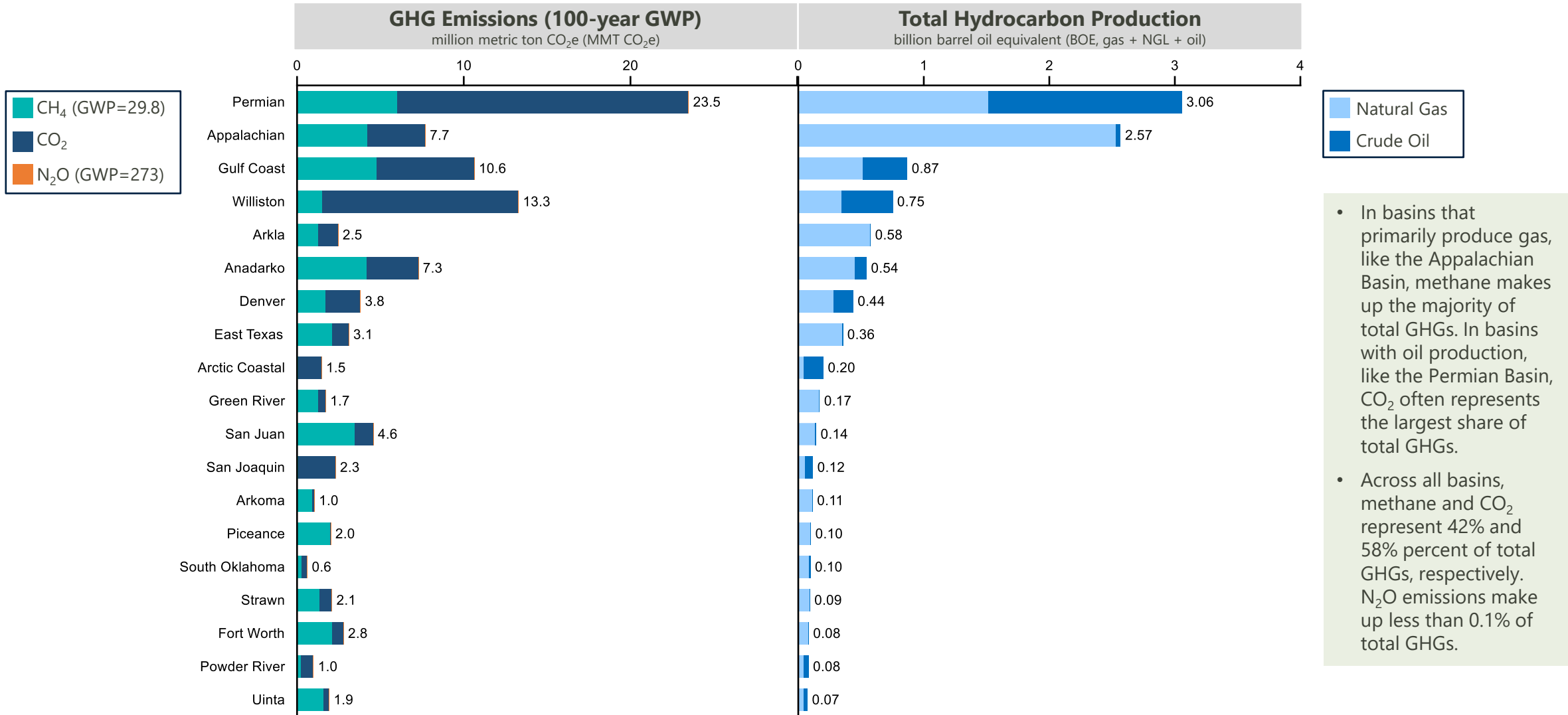
# GHGRP Basins



\* GHGRP data contain two distinct Appalachian basins (160 & 160A). This analysis combines data reported across both basins and presents them as a single basin.  
Note: Basin boundaries defined by geologic provinces published by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists; data provided by U.S. EPA.



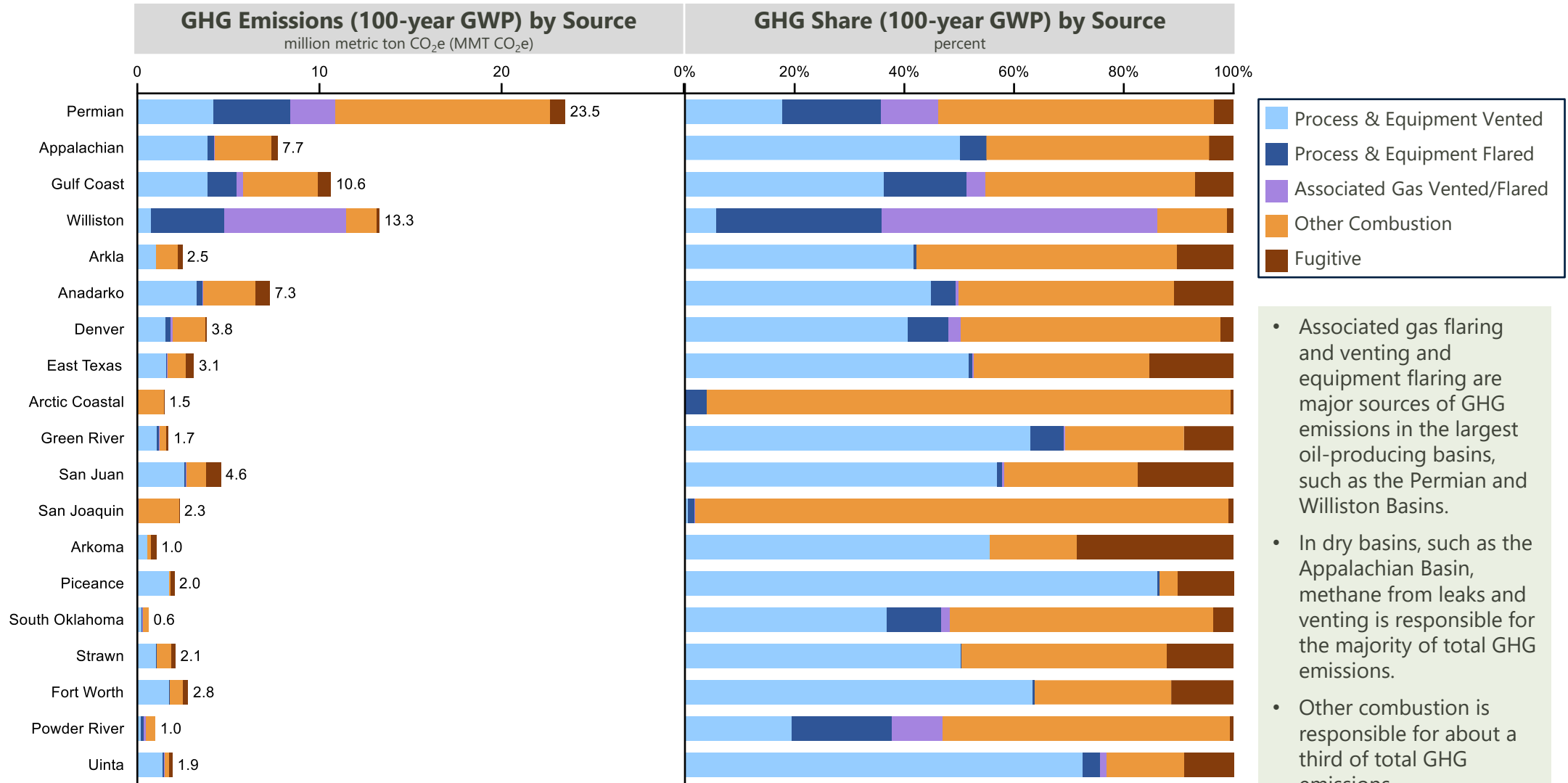
# GHGRP Basin Production & Emissions



- In basins that primarily produce gas, like the Appalachian Basin, methane makes up the majority of total GHGs. In basins with oil production, like the Permian Basin, CO<sub>2</sub> often represents the largest share of total GHGs.
- Across all basins, methane and CO<sub>2</sub> represent 42% and 58% percent of total GHGs, respectively. N<sub>2</sub>O emissions make up less than 0.1% of total GHGs.

Note: Basins are ranked in descending order of hydrocarbon production (BOE)

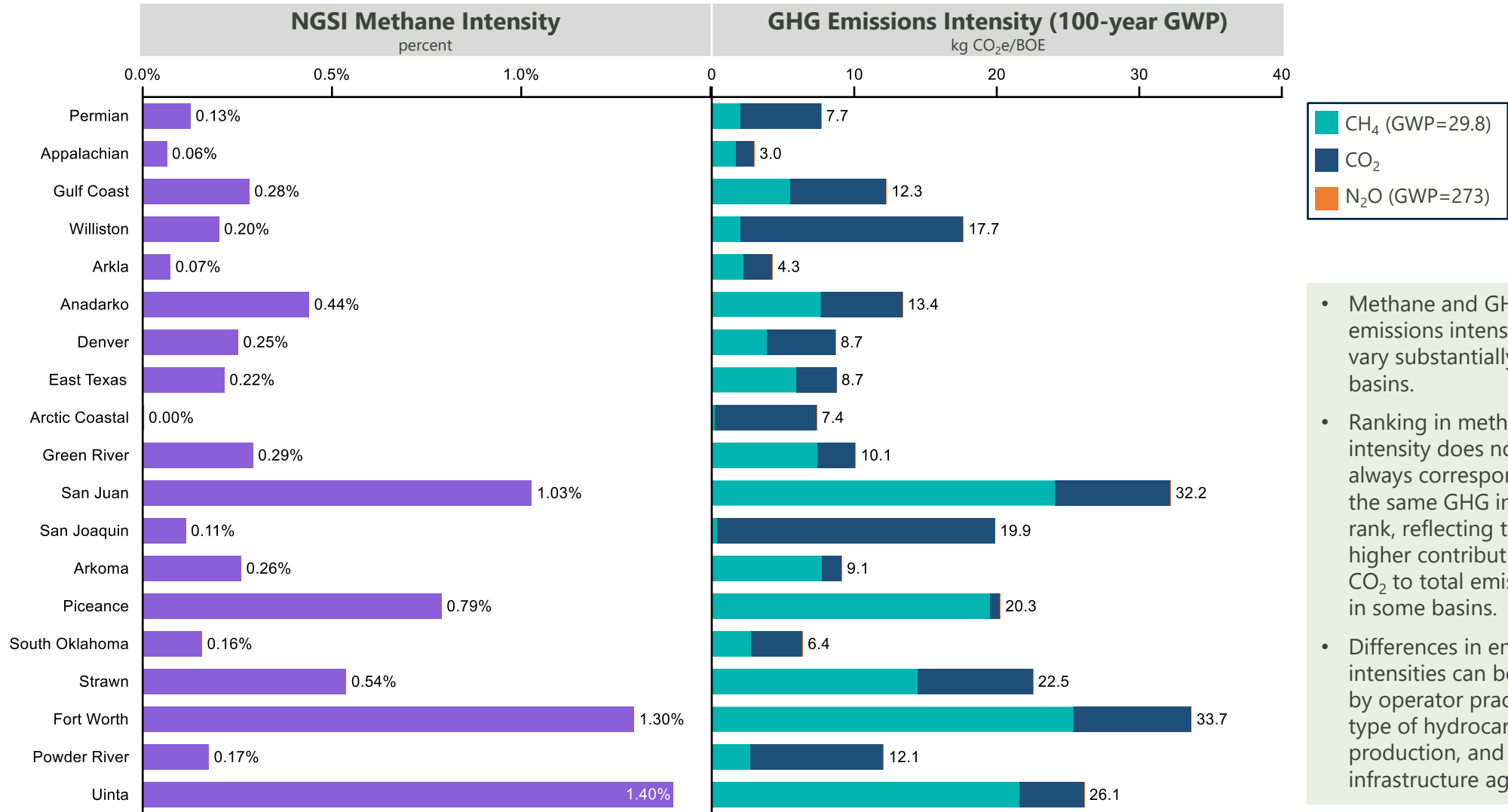
# GHGRP Basin Emissions by Source



- Associated gas flaring and venting and equipment flaring are major sources of GHG emissions in the largest oil-producing basins, such as the Permian and Williston Basins.
- In dry basins, such as the Appalachian Basin, methane from leaks and venting is responsible for the majority of total GHG emissions.
- Other combustion is responsible for about a third of total GHG emissions.

Note: Basins are ranked in descending order of hydrocarbon production (BOE)

# GHGRP Basin Methane & GHG Intensity



- Methane and GHG emissions intensities vary substantially across basins.
- Ranking in methane intensity does not always correspond to the same GHG intensity rank, reflecting the higher contribution of CO<sub>2</sub> to total emissions in some basins.
- Differences in emissions intensities can be driven by operator practices, type of hydrocarbon production, and infrastructure age.

Note: Basins are ranked in descending order of hydrocarbon production (BOE)

## 2015-2021 Trends Analysis

Year-over-year changes in emissions, production, and intensities are driven by a variety of factors. These factors can result in both increases and decreases to company-, basin-, and national-level metrics. The reasons for changes may not be able to be determined by analysis of the GHGRP data alone, and company-specific trends often need additional narrative and context to explain the causes of annual variability. This report presents national trends as well as basin trends for the four largest hydrocarbon producing basins. Data for all other basins and individual companies are available in the online dashboards.

The factors driving annual trends fall into several categories:

**Operational Changes.** Operational changes reflect tangible changes captured within the GHGRP methodology and include updates to technologies, practices, and activities. These could include deployment of new systems and strategies to mitigate emissions, such as conversion to non-venting pneumatic controllers or installation of gas capture systems (e.g., vapor recovery units) on sources that previously vented emissions. Operational changes also include increases and decreases in hydrocarbon production, which could be the result of multiple factors (e.g., new well completions, recompletions, natural production declines). New, high-producing wells can also drive down emission intensities, as increased production initially outpaces resulting emissions. Activity can also reduce emissions from certain sources while increasing emissions from other sources. For example, the build-out of gas gathering infrastructure in oil-rich basins may reduce emissions from associated gas venting and flaring, but increase emissions from compression equipment at production facilities.\*

**Structural Changes.** Structural changes include acquisitions, divestments, and mergers that affect company size. These types of changes can lead to significant year-over-year variation in production and emissions at the company level as production and emissions shift from one company to another. Total production and emissions as measured at the basin or national level are not affected by structural changes, unless such changes result in assets moving from GHGRP reporters to non-reporters, or vice versa. It is important to note that due to the lag in data disclosure, the most recently available company data (i.e., 2021) may not reflect current asset ownership.

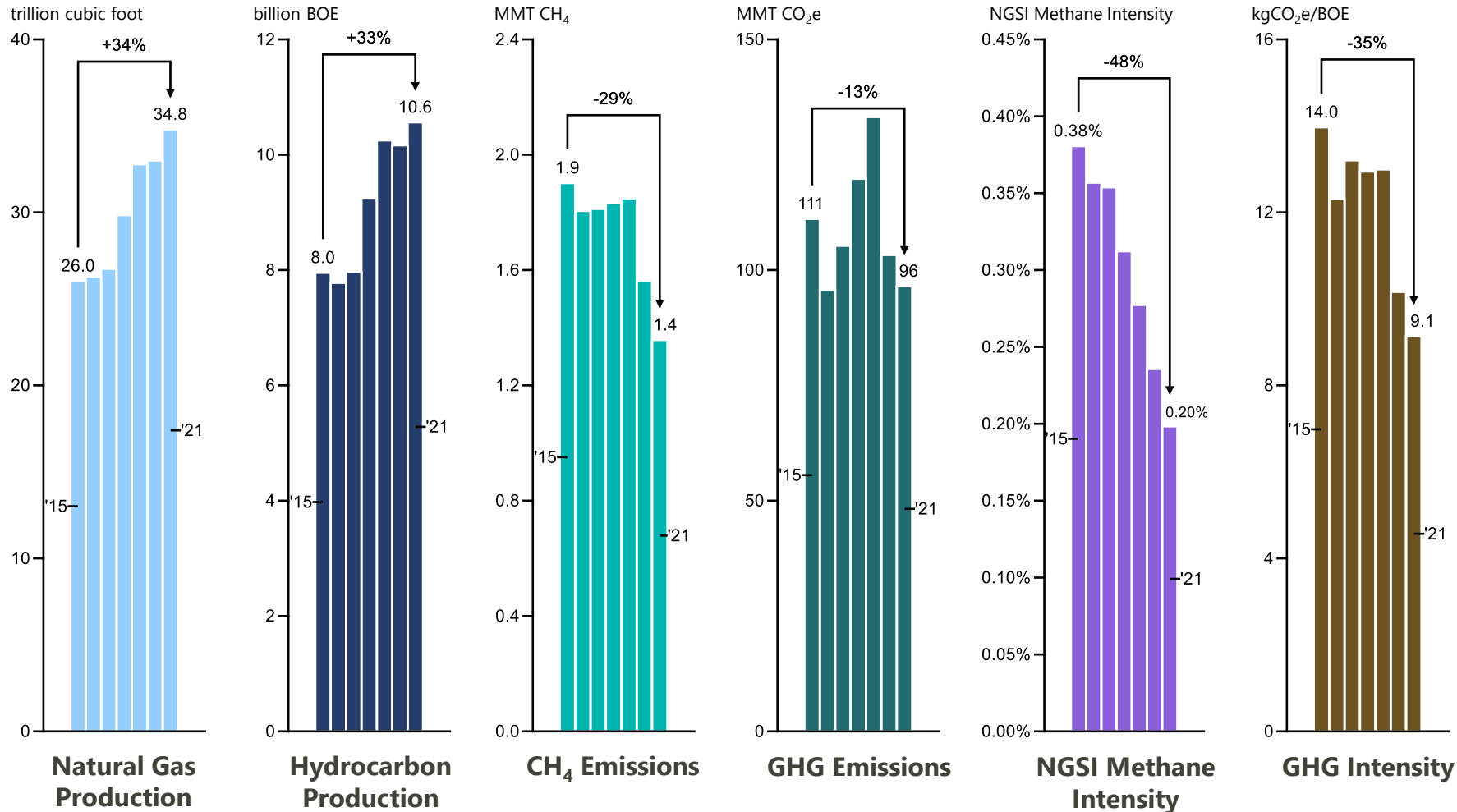
**Methodological Changes.** Methodological changes are changes to the way companies estimate emissions within the GHGRP's prescribed calculation methodologies. For example, several approaches use equipment operating hours as an input to the emissions calculation equation. Different interpretations of how to apply the operating hour factor can lead to inconsistency across companies, while inconsistent application of the factor year-over-year results in fluctuating emissions within a company or facility. These types of changes are the result of changes to the methodology used to calculate emissions rather than operational changes. Changes in emissions identified as resulting from methodological revisions must be carefully scrutinized.

**Boundary Changes.** Boundary changes are related to the GHGRP's annual reporting threshold of 25,000 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e. As facilities exceed or fall below this threshold, they will be captured or dropped from the EPA dataset. For example, a facility that began operations in 2020 and ramped up production in 2021 may be included in the 2021 data but not the 2020 data. Similarly, if assets are sold to smaller firms that do not meet the reporting threshold, emissions associated with those assets may no longer be reflected in the GHGRP.

\*Note that the build out of natural gas gathering equipment can also shift emissions from the production segment to the gathering & boosting segment, depending on how these assets are categorized by operators. This report only analyzes the onshore production segment and does not capture data from gathering & boosting facilities.

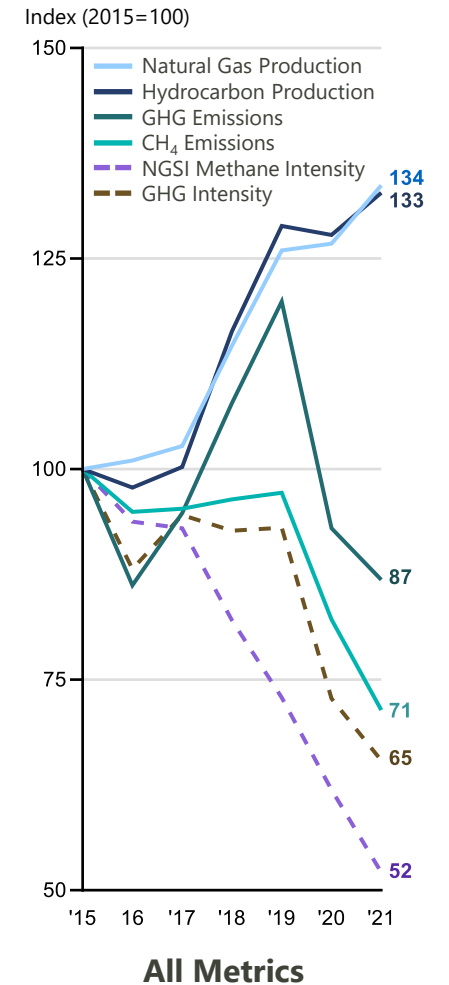
# 2015-2021 Trends Analysis: Production & Emission Metrics

## GHGRP Data Trends, 2015-2021



## Combined Data Metrics

Indexed; 2015 = 100

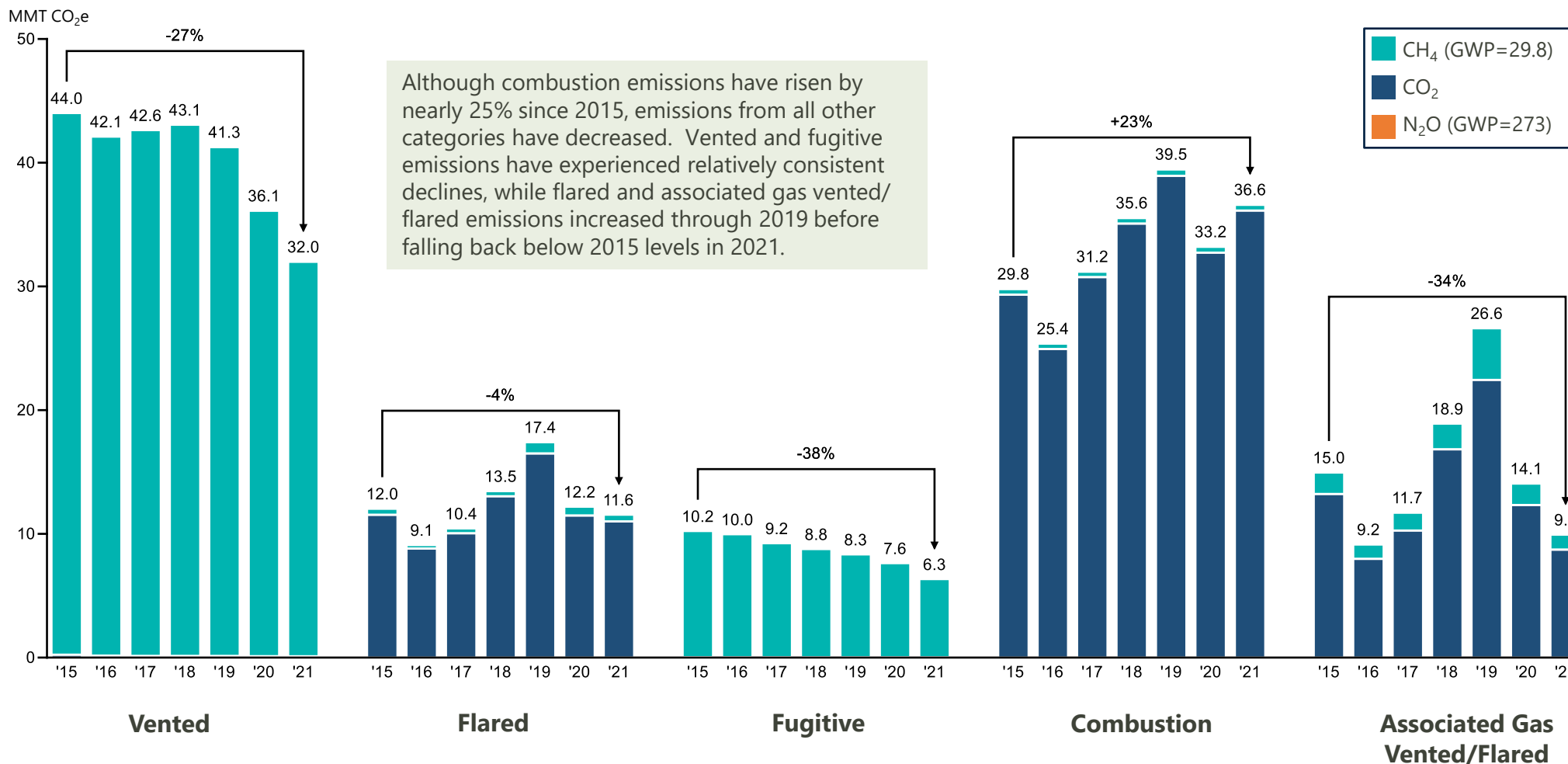


# 2015-2021 Trends Analysis: Emission Sources

## GHGRP Reported Emissions, by Source Category

million metric ton CO<sub>2</sub>e (MMT CO<sub>2</sub>e)

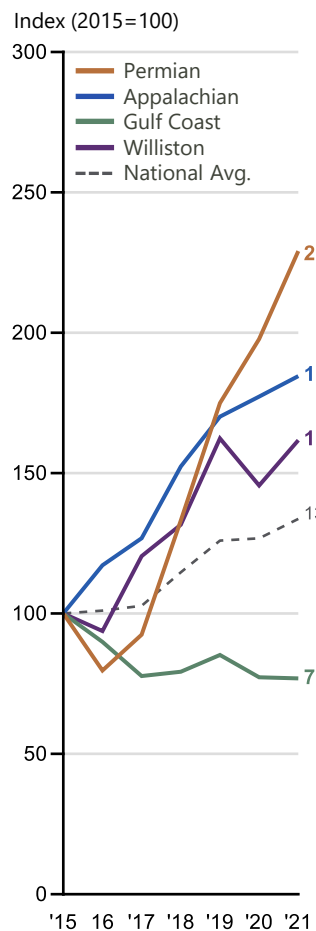
GHG Emissions (MMT CO<sub>2</sub>e)



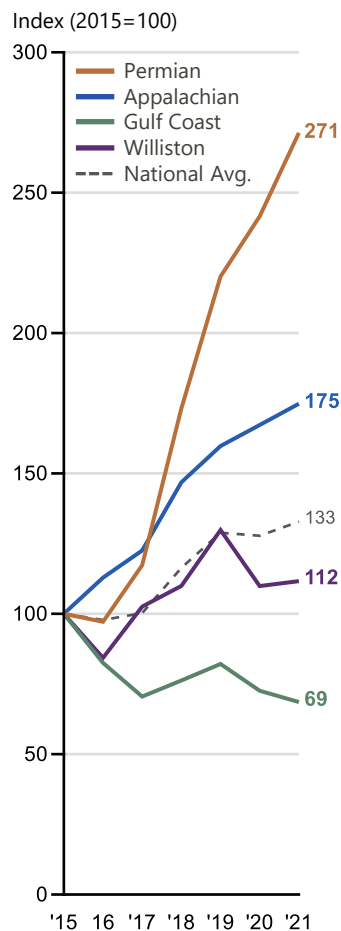
# 2015-2021 Trends Analysis: Production & Emission Metrics of Top Production Basins

## GHGRP Data Trends, 2015-2021

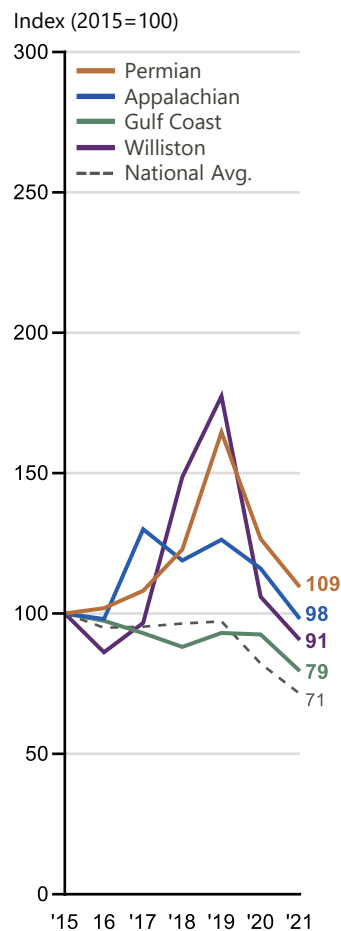
Indexed; 2015 = 100



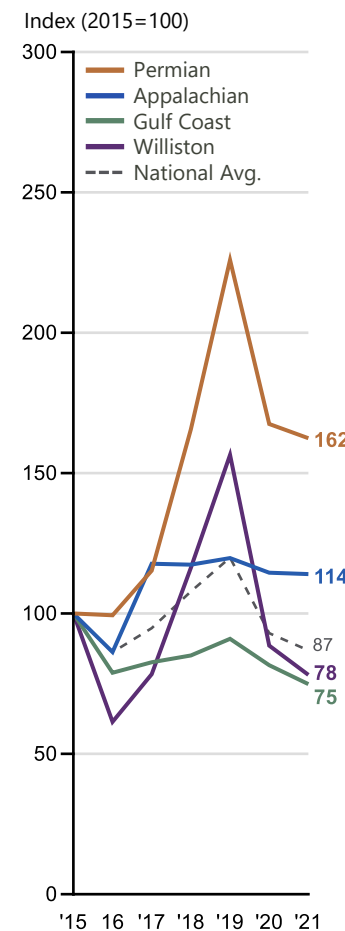
**Natural Gas Production**



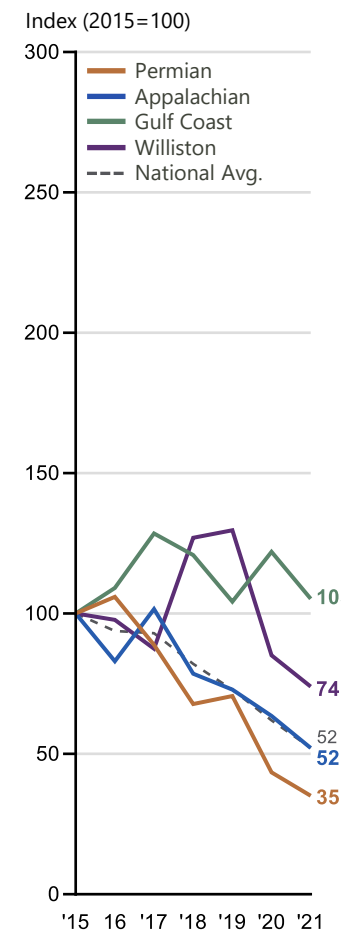
**Hydrocarbon Production**



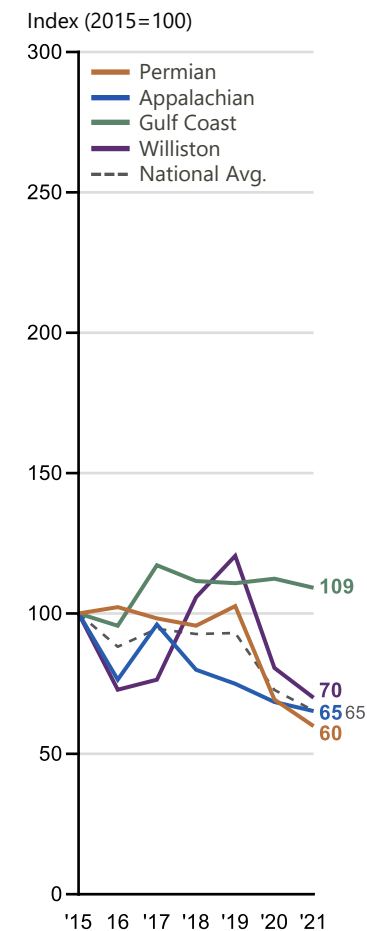
**CH<sub>4</sub> Emissions**



**GHG Emissions**



**NGSi Methane Intensity**



**GHG Intensity**

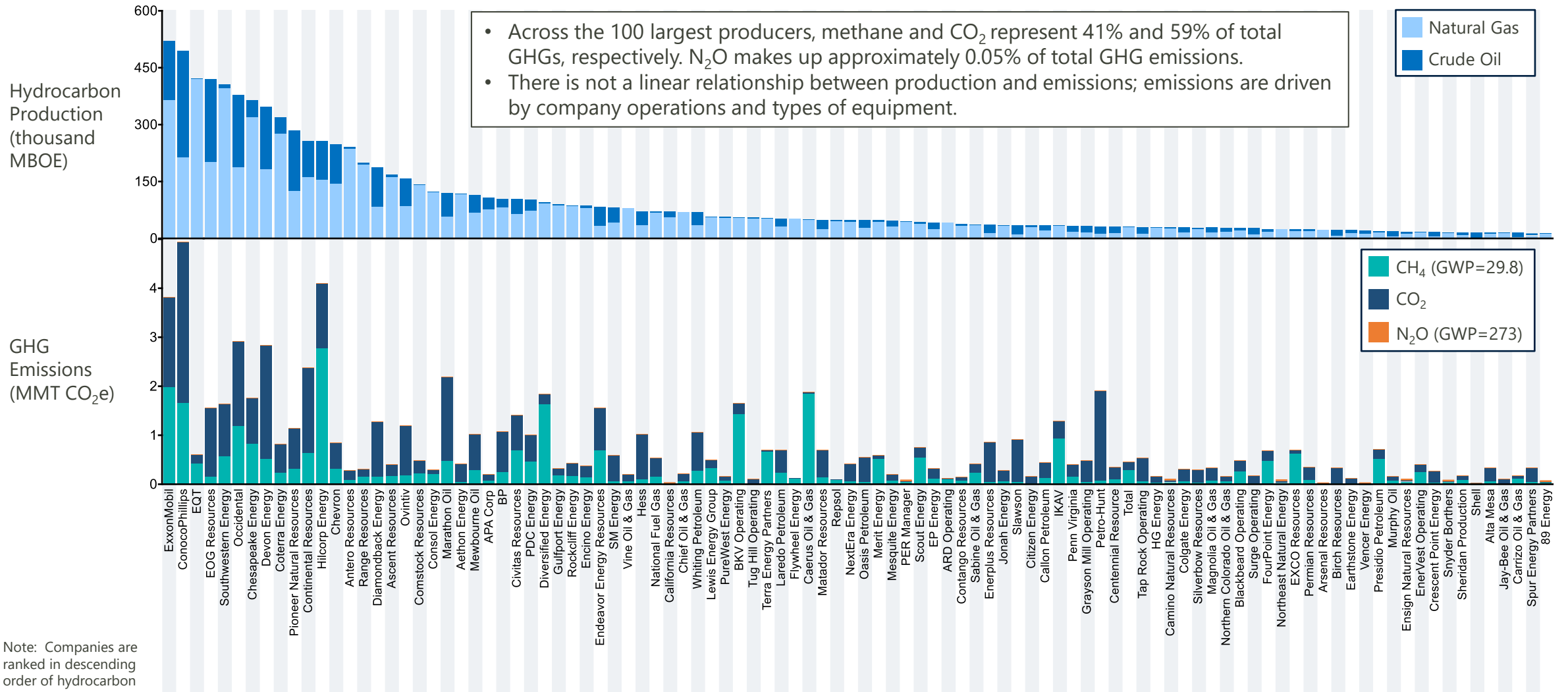
## Company-Level Summary Data

This section summarizes data on hydrocarbon production, GHG emissions, emissions intensity, and sources of emissions for the 100 largest hydrocarbon producers in the U.S. Additional graphics show the relative distribution of hydrocarbon production, GHG emissions, and methane and GHG emissions intensities across the 100 largest producers. Detailed tables list the data and associated rankings for the primary metrics included in this analysis for each of the 100 companies.

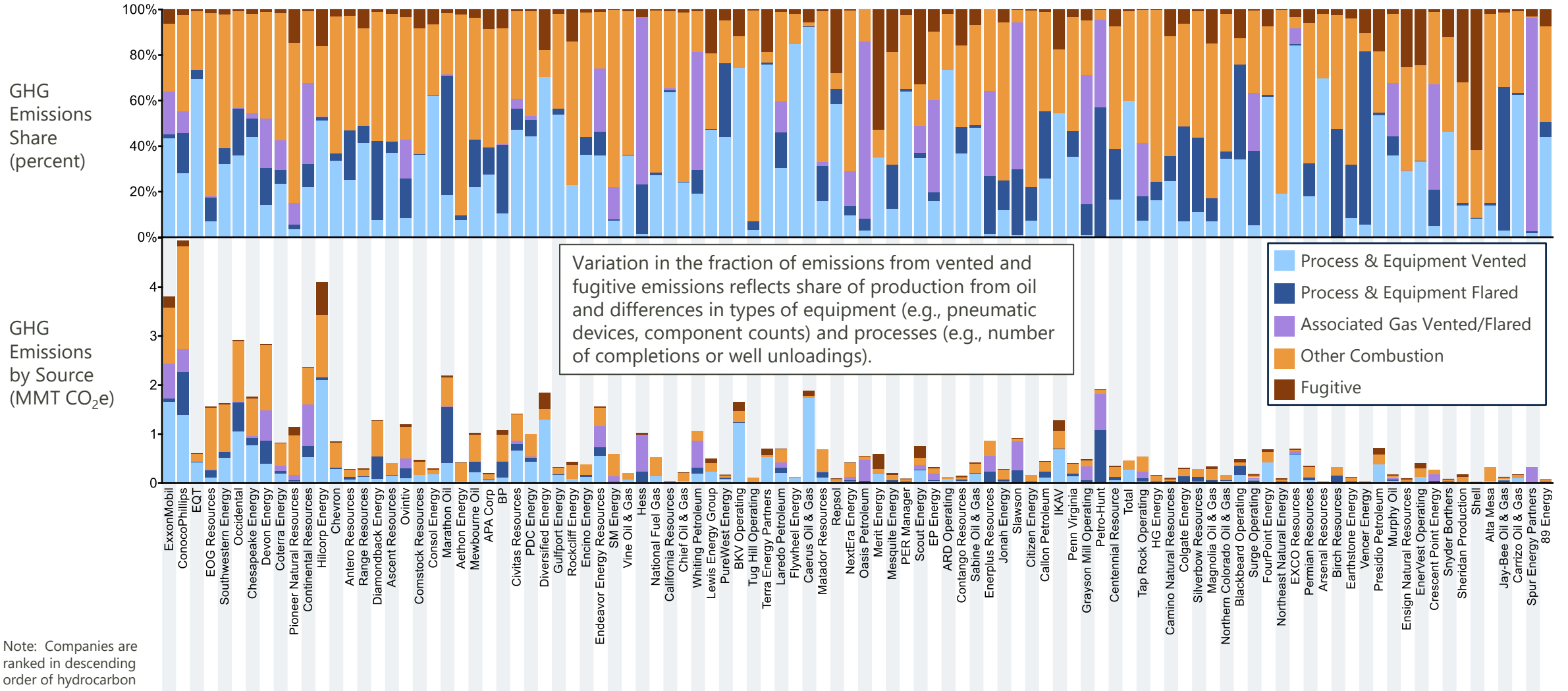




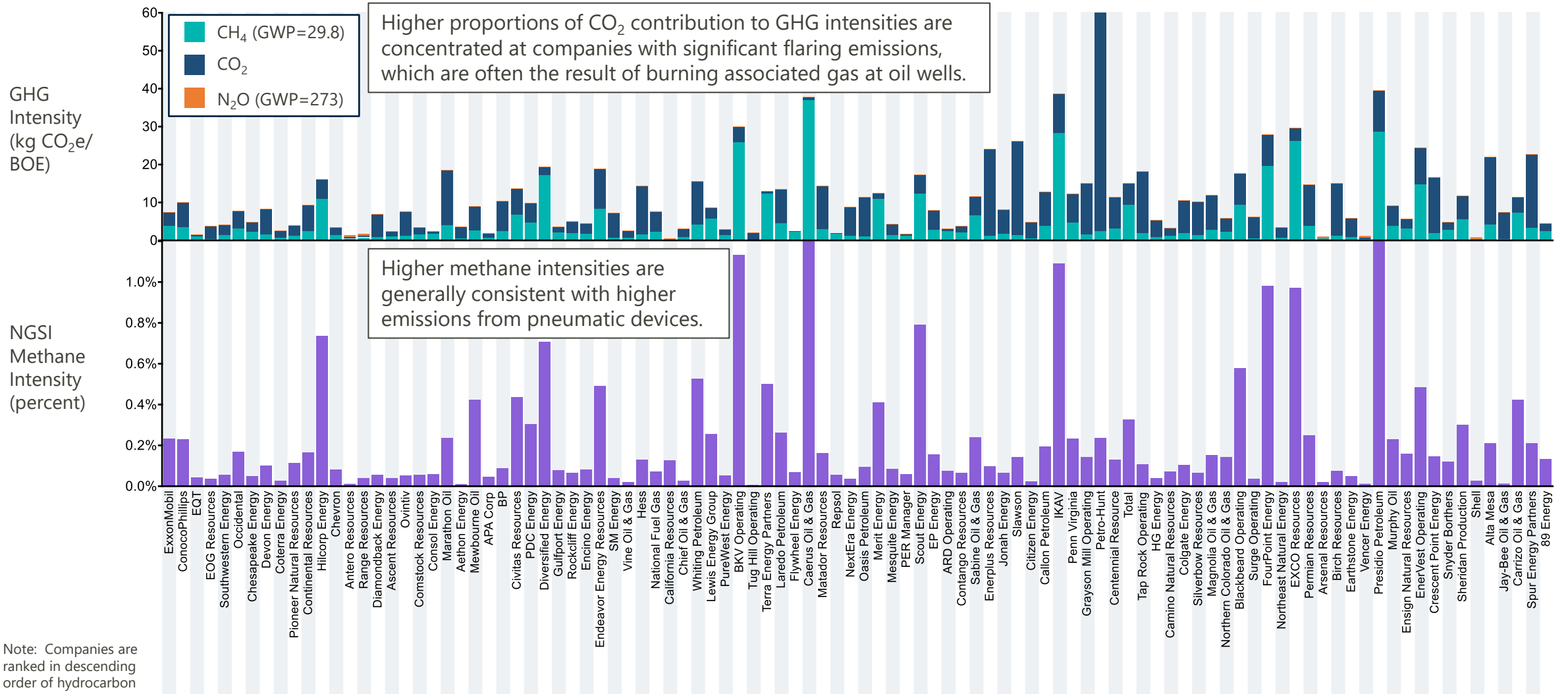
# Hydrocarbon Production & Emissions (100-year GWP)



# GHG Emissions by Source (100-year GWP)

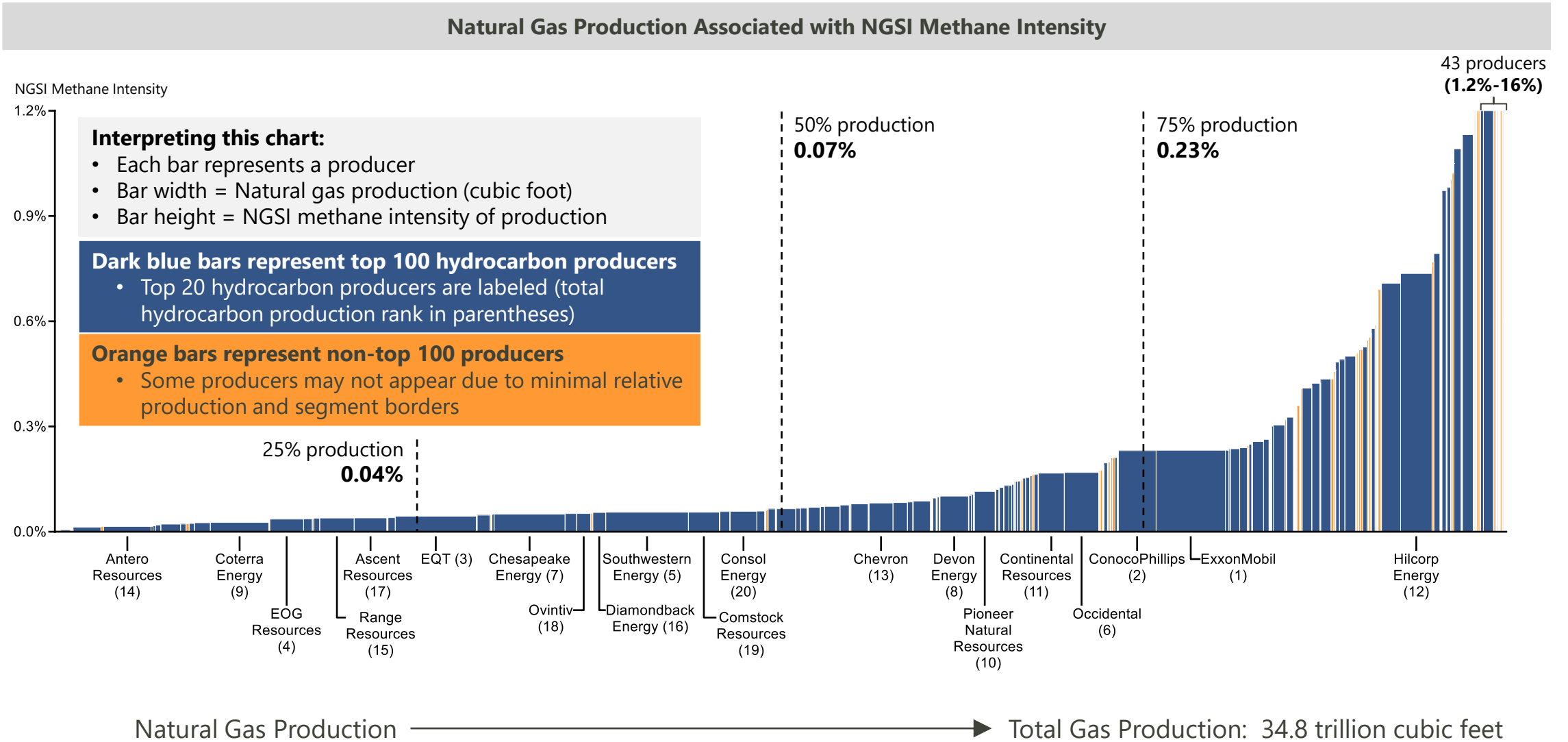


# Methane & GHG Intensity (100-year GWP)

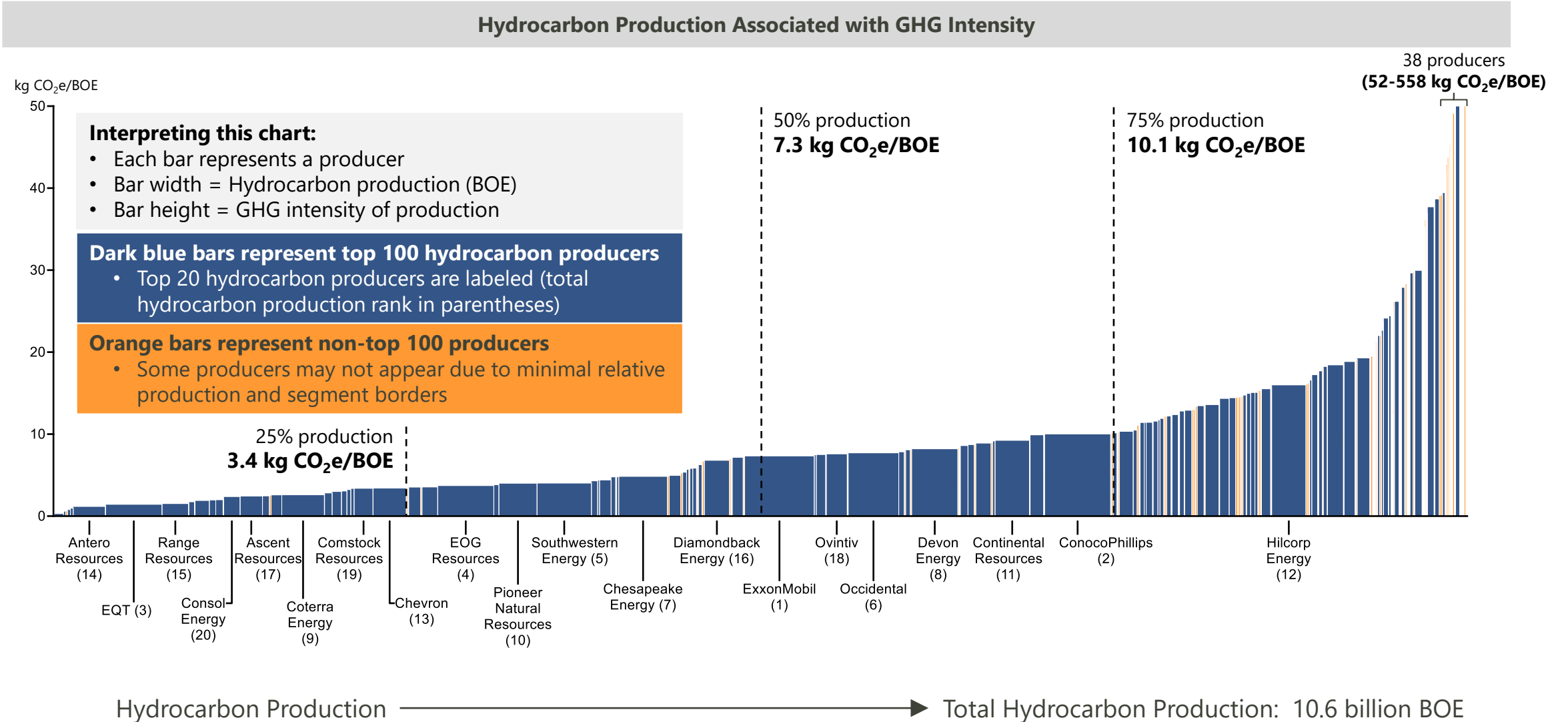


Note: Companies are ranked in descending order of hydrocarbon production (BOE)

# Total GHGRP Natural Gas Production, by Methane Intensity

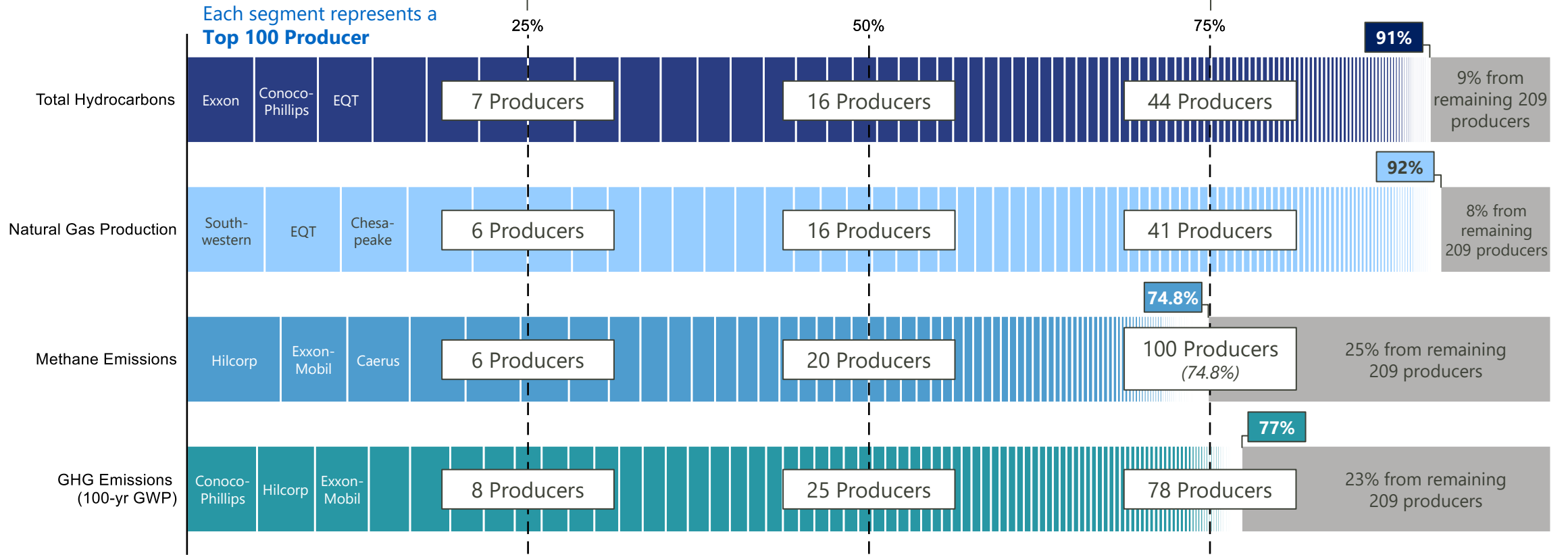


# Total GHGRP Hydrocarbon Production, by GHG Intensity



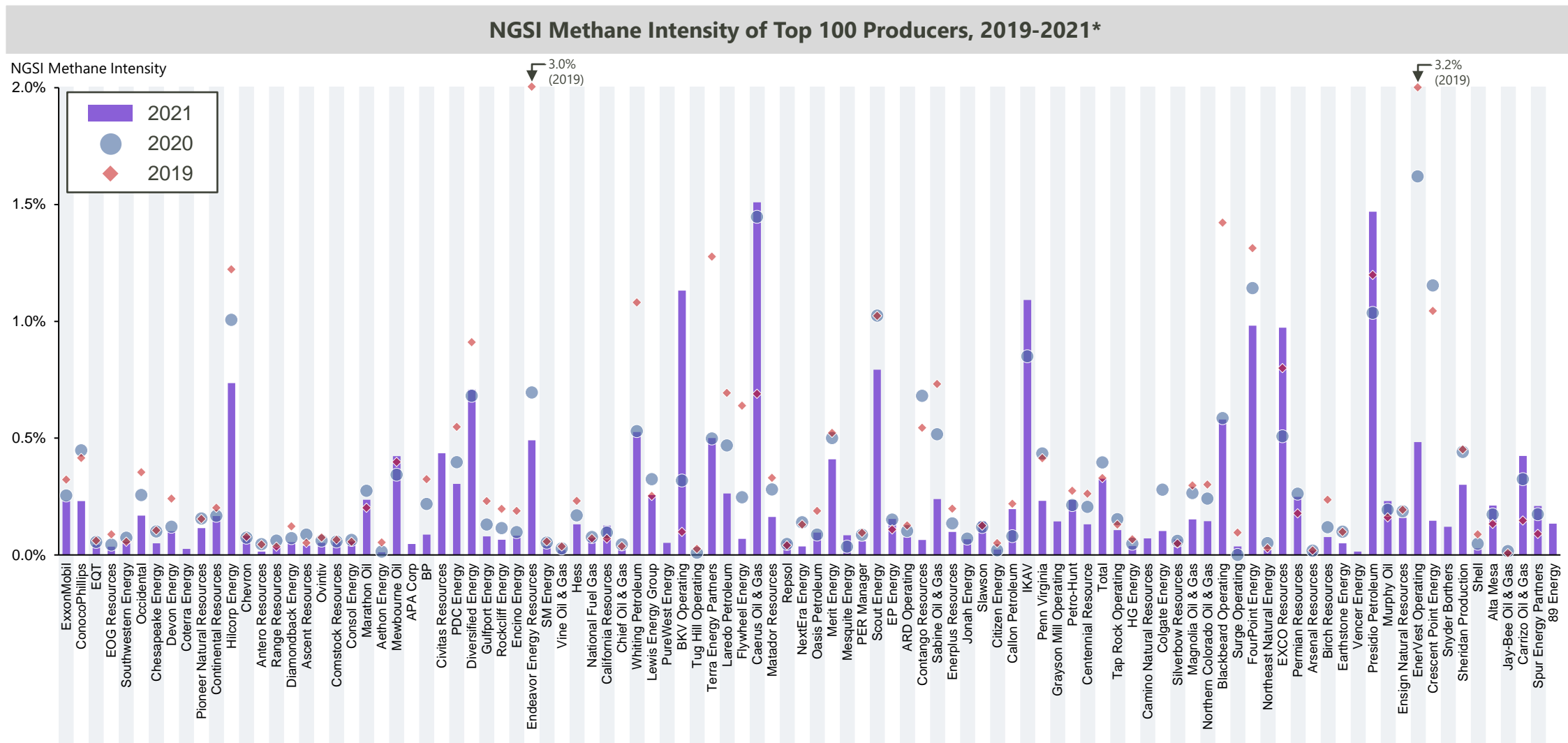
# GHGRP Hydrocarbon Production & Emission Contributions

Percent Contribution to Metric from Reporting Companies



Hydrocarbon production and absolute GHG emissions reported to EPA are highly concentrated among a small number of companies. 25% of total reported hydrocarbons produced and GHG emitted are by seven companies. However, the 209 companies that fall outside the top 100 are responsible for 23% of reported GHG emissions but only 9% of total hydrocarbon production.

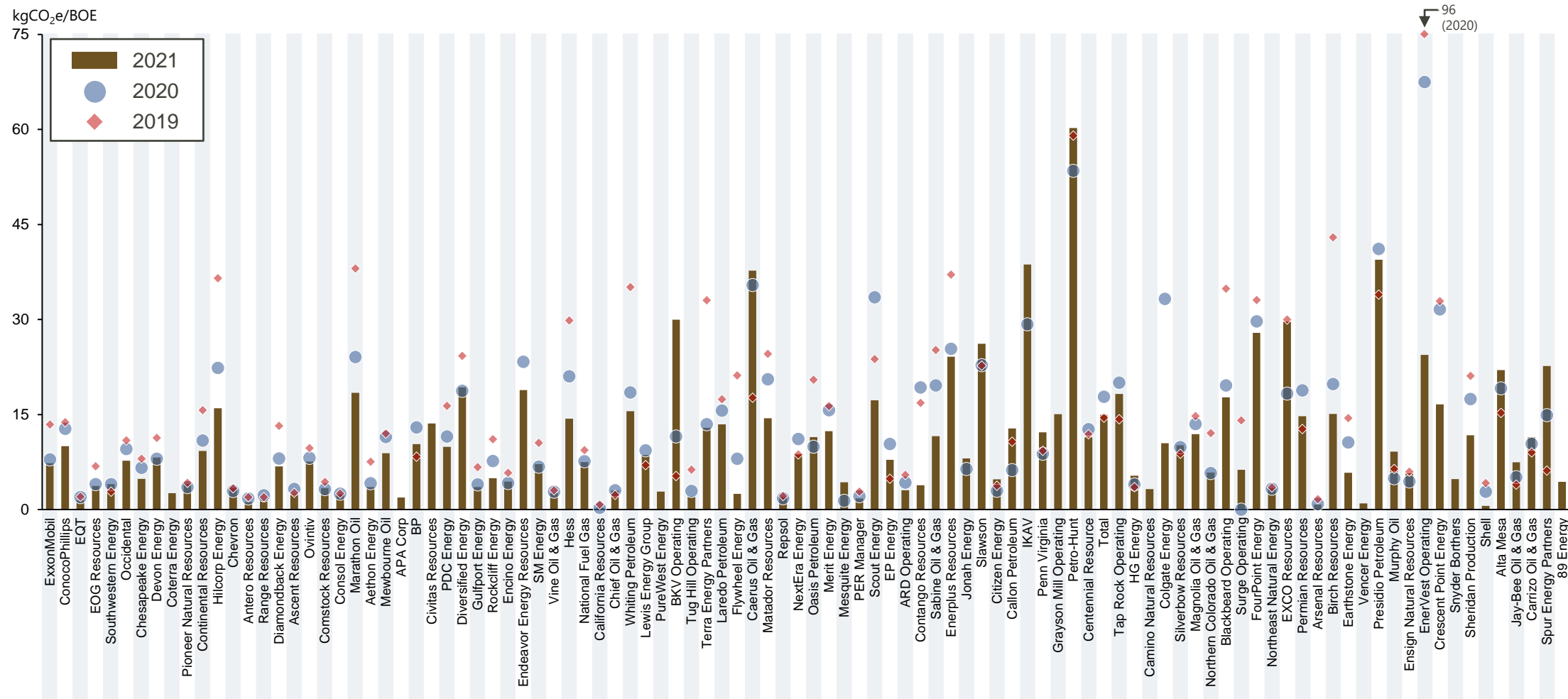
# 2019-2021 Trends Analysis: Change in Methane Intensity, by Top 100 Producer



\*9 of the top 100 producers in 2021 were not in the EPA database for all three years and may not have data for 2019 and/or 2020.

# 2019-2021 Trends Analysis: Change in GHG Intensity, by Top 100 Producer

## GHG Intensity of Top 100 Producers, 2019-2021\*



\*9 of the top 100 producers in 2021 were not in the EPA database for all three years and may not have data for 2019 and/or 2020.



# Emissions & Emissions Intensities of the Top 100 Producers

Rank	Company	Production		Emissions		Intensity		Metric Rank (among top 100 producers)				
		Total MBOE	Gas (bcf)	MT CH4	MT GHG	NGSI Intensity	GHG Intensity	1=highest, 100=lowest				
								Gas (bcf)	CH4 Emissions	GHG Emissions	NGSI Intensity	GHG Intensity
1	ExxonMobil	519,853	1,661	66,350	3,810,972	0.23%	7.33	4	2	3	29	57
2	ConocoPhillips	494,228	910	55,651	4,948,130	0.23%	10.01	7	4	1	30	43
3	EQT	422,078	1,942	14,256	604,750	0.04%	1.43	2	23	37	81	95
4	EOG Resources	419,256	812	5,157	1,558,324	0.04%	3.72	10	43	15	88	75
5	Southwestern Energy	406,259	1,981	19,043	1,633,774	0.06%	4.02	1	15	13	74	72
6	Occidental	378,266	830	39,718	2,916,828	0.17%	7.71	8	7	4	35	53
7	Chesapeake Energy	363,461	1,701	27,752	1,759,351	0.05%	4.84	3	9	11	78	66
8	Devon Energy	346,030	685	17,104	2,838,647	0.10%	8.20	14	19	5	53	50
9	Coterra Energy	318,388	1,403	7,729	825,664	0.03%	2.59	5	35	29	90	85
10	Pioneer Natural Resources	285,069	499	10,659	1,140,630	0.11%	4.00	19	26	20	50	73
11	Continental Resources	257,042	619	21,240	2,373,678	0.17%	9.23	17	13	6	36	45
12	Hilcorp Energy	256,344	755	93,177	4,100,401	0.74%	16.00	12	1	2	8	20
13	Chevron	248,723	574	10,719	848,569	0.08%	3.41	18	25	28	59	78
14	Antero Resources	241,342	1,134	2,744	283,377	0.01%	1.17	6	58	69	98	96
15	Range Resources	198,679	826	5,086	302,831	0.04%	1.52	9	44	66	84	94
16	Diamondback Energy	188,095	311	4,910	1,279,398	0.05%	6.80	30	46	18	75	59
17	Ascent Resources	167,468	784	5,505	408,354	0.04%	2.44	11	40	53	83	88
18	Ovintiv	157,014	337	6,021	1,190,561	0.05%	7.58	28	38	19	76	54
19	Comstock Resources	141,526	742	7,177	479,295	0.06%	3.39	13	36	46	73	79
20	Consol Energy	123,455	643	6,806	293,379	0.06%	2.38	16	37	67	71	89
21	Marathon Oil	118,940	219	15,807	2,192,759	0.24%	18.44	43	21	7	26	15
22	Aethon Energy	117,430	668	1,530	416,579	0.01%	3.55	15	81	50	99	76
23	Mewbourne Oil	114,790	193	9,648	1,021,191	0.42%	8.90	45	27	24	17	47
24	APA Corp	107,080	313	2,523	203,479	0.05%	1.90	29	63	74	80	92
25	BP	104,264	415	8,100	1,077,222	0.09%	10.33	24	31	21	56	41
26	Civitas Resources	104,063	247	23,379	1,414,188	0.44%	13.59	38	10	16	15	28
27	PDC Energy	101,397	277	15,576	1,004,450	0.30%	9.91	33	22	25	20	44
28	Diversified Energy	95,458	458	54,804	1,840,829	0.71%	19.28	22	5	10	9	13
29	Gulfport Energy	89,986	417	5,975	317,908	0.08%	3.53	23	39	64	60	77
30	Rockcliff Energy	86,789	462	5,379	430,026	0.07%	4.95	21	41	49	68	65
31	Encino Energy	85,976	346	4,885	378,326	0.08%	4.40	27	47	56	58	69
32	Endeavor Energy Resources	82,721	131	23,088	1,558,919	0.49%	18.85	57	11	14	13	14
33	SM Energy	82,151	176	1,963	588,462	0.04%	7.16	48	69	39	82	58
34	Vine Oil & Gas	79,385	475	1,878	205,037	0.02%	2.58	20	71	73	94	86

# Emissions & Emissions Intensities of the Top 100 Producers

Rank	Company	Production		Emissions		Intensity		Metric Rank (among top 100 producers)				
		Total MBOE	Gas (bcf)	MT CH4	MT GHG	NGSI Intensity	GHG Intensity	1=highest, 100=lowest				
								Gas (bcf)	CH4 Emissions	GHG Emissions	NGSI Intensity	GHG Intensity
35	Hess	71,240	115	3,469	1,021,732	0.13%	14.34	61	53	23	47	27
36	National Fuel Gas	70,850	372	5,048	531,325	0.07%	7.50	26	45	42	63	55
37	California Resources	70,363	99	472	21,486	0.13%	0.31	67	94	97	48	100
38	Chief Oil & Gas	69,771	380	1,821	209,211	0.03%	3.00	25	73	72	91	83
39	Whiting Petroleum	68,579	102	9,392	1,064,358	0.53%	15.52	64	29	22	11	21
40	Lewis Energy Group	57,738	263	11,088	496,244	0.26%	8.59	34	24	43	23	49
41	PureWest Energy	56,585	279	2,645	159,611	0.05%	2.82	32	60	82	77	84
42	BKV Operating	55,339	260	48,064	1,657,863	1.13%	29.96	36	6	12	3	5
43	Tug Hill Operating	54,417	248	177	108,320	0.00%	1.99	37	98	89	100	90
44	Terra Energy Partners	53,954	260	22,107	696,234	0.50%	12.90	35	12	33	12	30
45	Laredo Petroleum	51,727	131	7,793	696,133	0.26%	13.46	56	34	34	22	29
46	Flywheel Energy	50,919	286	3,645	125,178	0.07%	2.46	31	51	85	65	87
47	Caerus Oil & Gas	50,014	243	62,057	1,886,283	1.51%	37.71	39	3	9	1	4
48	Matador Resources	48,063	101	4,738	693,438	0.16%	14.43	65	48	35	37	26
49	Repsol	47,925	242	2,720	93,892	0.06%	1.96	40	59	92	72	91
50	NextEra Energy	47,784	208	1,817	416,398	0.04%	8.71	44	74	52	87	48
51	Oasis Petroleum	47,674	85	1,489	544,947	0.10%	11.43	73	82	40	55	37
52	Merit Energy	47,604	227	17,447	588,816	0.41%	12.37	41	17	38	18	32
53	Mesquite Energy	46,701	128	2,220	200,706	0.08%	4.30	58	66	75	57	71
54	PER Manager	44,351	188	1,726	77,200	0.06%	1.74	46	77	94	70	93
55	Scout Energy	43,786	149	18,001	754,943	0.79%	17.24	53	16	30	7	18
56	EP Energy	41,499	98	3,701	325,114	0.15%	7.83	68	50	63	39	52
57	ARD Operating	40,686	222	3,161	124,422	0.08%	3.06	42	54	86	62	82
58	Contango Resources	37,923	175	2,597	144,843	0.06%	3.82	49	61	84	69	74
59	Sabine Oil & Gas	35,979	184	7,834	416,419	0.24%	11.57	47	33	51	25	36
60	Enerplus Resources	35,651	45	1,394	860,471	0.10%	24.14	90	84	27	54	10
61	Jonah Energy	34,969	163	1,960	282,378	0.07%	8.08	52	70	70	66	51
62	Slawson	34,632	33	1,586	906,693	0.14%	26.18	94	78	26	44	8
63	Citizen Energy	34,397	125	523	164,380	0.02%	4.78	59	93	80	92	68
64	Callon Petroleum	34,225	88	4,356	438,232	0.20%	12.80	70	49	48	34	31
65	IKAV	33,235	171	31,453	1,285,346	1.09%	38.67	50	8	17	4	3
66	Penn Virginia	33,086	85	5,185	403,607	0.23%	12.20	74	42	54	28	33
67	Grayson Mill Operating	32,040	51	1,583	482,744	0.14%	15.07	84	79	44	43	23

# Emissions & Emissions Intensities of the Top 100 Producers

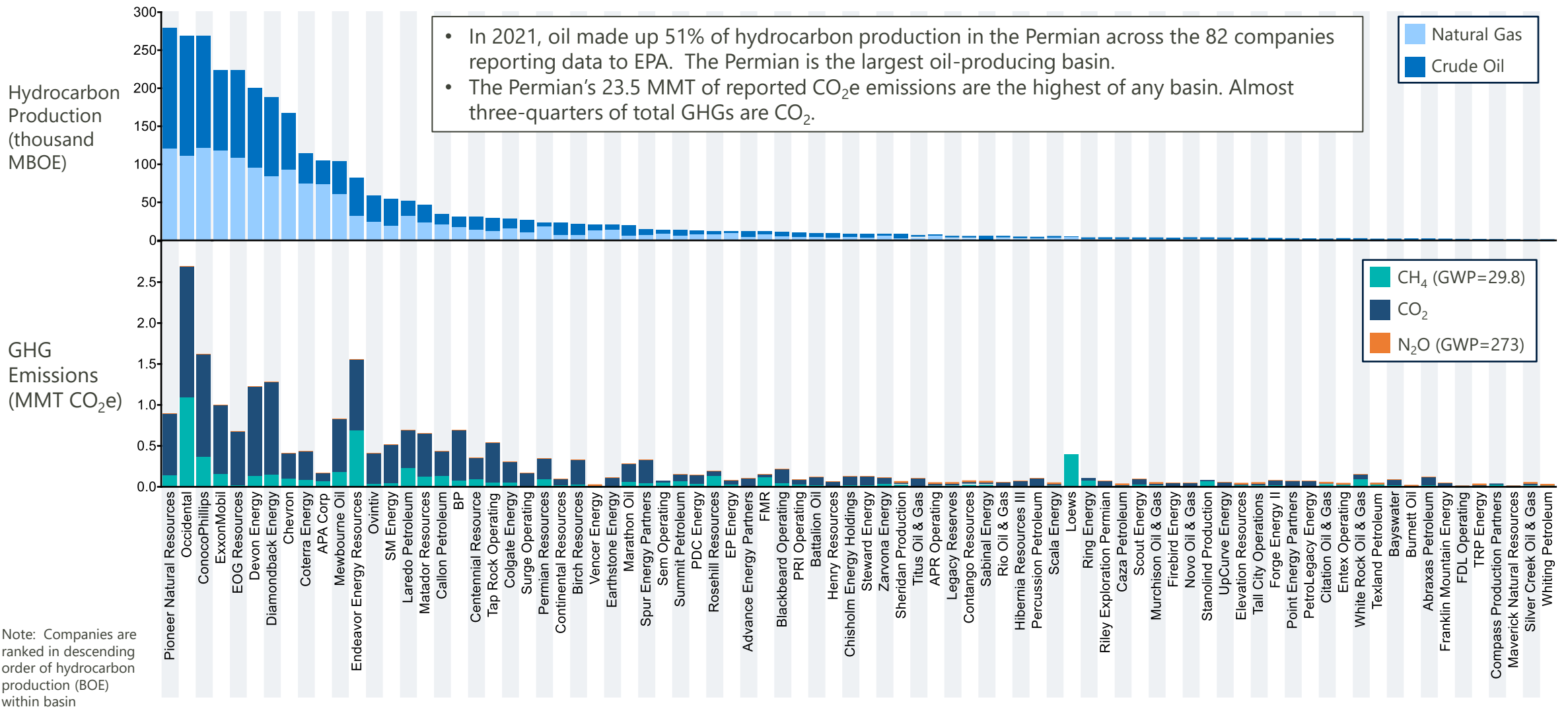
Rank	Company	Production		Emissions		Intensity		Metric Rank (among top 100 producers) 1=highest, 100=lowest				
		Total MBOE	Gas (bcf)	MT CH4	MT GHG	NGSI Intensity	GHG Intensity	Gas (bcf)	CH4 Emissions	GHG Emissions	NGSI Intensity	GHG Intensity
68	Petro-Hunt	31,590	40	2,465	1,903,262	0.24%	60.25	92	64	8	27	1
69	Centennial Resource	30,968	67	3,129	353,189	0.13%	11.41	77	55	57	46	39
70	Total	30,466	164	9,514	455,787	0.33%	14.96	51	28	47	19	24
71	Tap Rock Operating	29,502	50	1,823	538,091	0.11%	18.24	88	72	41	51	16
72	HG Energy	29,180	140	875	156,160	0.04%	5.35	54	89	83	85	64
73	Camino Natural Resources	29,158	101	1,152	94,295	0.07%	3.23	66	86	91	64	81
74	Colgate Energy	29,084	66	1,762	304,736	0.10%	10.48	81	75	65	52	40
75	Silverbow Resources	28,487	110	1,203	288,892	0.07%	10.14	62	85	68	67	42
76	Magnolia Oil & Gas	28,184	67	2,575	335,471	0.15%	11.90	79	62	59	40	34
77	Northern Colorado Oil & Gas	28,132	67	2,066	164,396	0.14%	5.84	80	67	79	42	61
78	Blackbeard Operating	27,186	87	8,552	481,511	0.58%	17.71	71	30	45	10	17
79	Surge Operating	26,691	37	422	167,216	0.04%	6.26	93	96	78	86	60
80	FourPoint Energy	24,551	86	16,156	684,582	0.98%	27.88	72	20	36	5	7
81	Northeast Natural Energy	24,364	132	535	82,085	0.02%	3.37	55	92	93	93	80
82	EXCO Resources	23,714	105	20,827	702,991	0.97%	29.64	63	14	32	6	6
83	Permian Resources	23,568	71	2,961	347,695	0.25%	14.75	76	56	58	24	25
84	Arsenal Resources	22,436	122	429	17,815	0.02%	0.79	60	95	99	95	98
85	Birch Resources	21,797	28	816	328,719	0.08%	15.08	96	90	61	61	22
86	Earthstone Energy	21,319	52	581	123,808	0.05%	5.81	83	91	87	79	62
87	Vencer Energy	20,693	49	154	19,875	0.02%	0.96	89	100	98	97	97
88	Presidio Petroleum	18,163	67	17,392	716,310	1.47%	39.44	78	18	31	2	2
89	Murphy Oil	17,666	21	2,238	161,745	0.23%	9.16	97	65	81	31	46
90	Ensign Natural Resources	16,807	51	1,747	95,782	0.16%	5.70	85	76	90	38	63
91	EnerVest Operating	16,446	91	8,079	401,619	0.48%	24.42	69	32	55	14	9
92	Crescent Point Energy	16,067	18	977	266,452	0.15%	16.58	98	88	71	41	19
93	Snyder Borthers	15,605	72	1,462	74,775	0.12%	4.79	75	83	95	49	67
94	Sheridan Production	15,373	42	2,830	180,258	0.30%	11.73	91	57	76	21	35
95	Shell	15,047	5	199	8,866	0.03%	0.59	100	97	100	89	99
96	Alta Mesa	14,939	51	2,034	328,699	0.21%	22.00	87	68	62	32	12
97	Jay-Bee Oil & Gas	14,889	62	163	111,233	0.02%	7.47	82	99	88	96	56
98	Carrizo Oil & Gas	14,786	17	3,622	168,884	0.42%	11.42	99	52	77	16	38
99	Spur Energy Partners	14,590	28	1,566	330,610	0.21%	22.66	95	80	60	33	11
100	89 Energy	14,289	51	1,104	62,729	0.13%	4.39	86	87	96	45	70

# Company- & Basin-Level Summary Data

This section summarizes company-level data on hydrocarbon production, GHG emissions, emissions intensity, and sources of emissions for each of the following basins: Permian, Appalachian, Gulf Coast, and Williston. Additional data show the distribution of methane and GHG emissions intensities by volume in each basin.

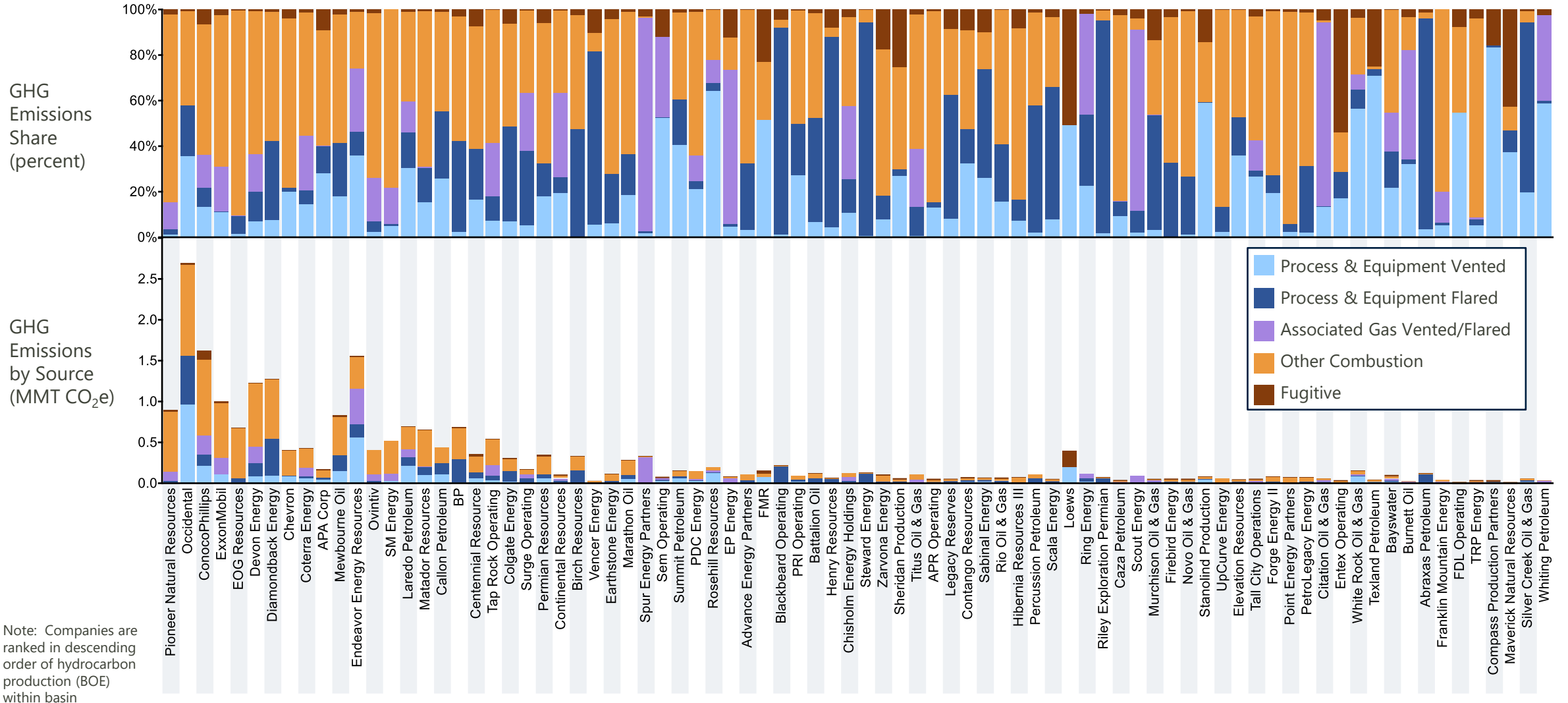


# Hydrocarbon Production & Emissions (100-year GWP)

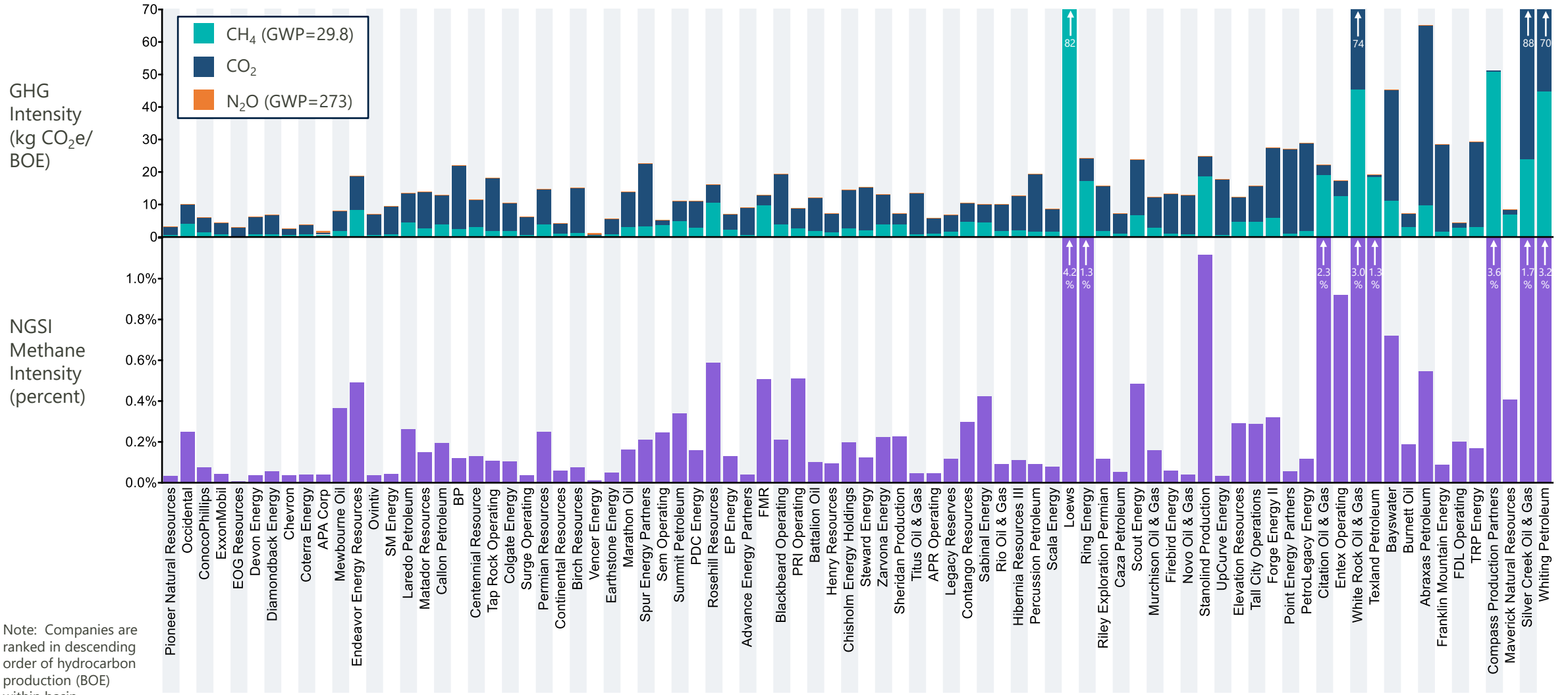


Note: Companies are ranked in descending order of hydrocarbon production (BOE) within basin

# GHG Emissions by Source (100-year GWP)

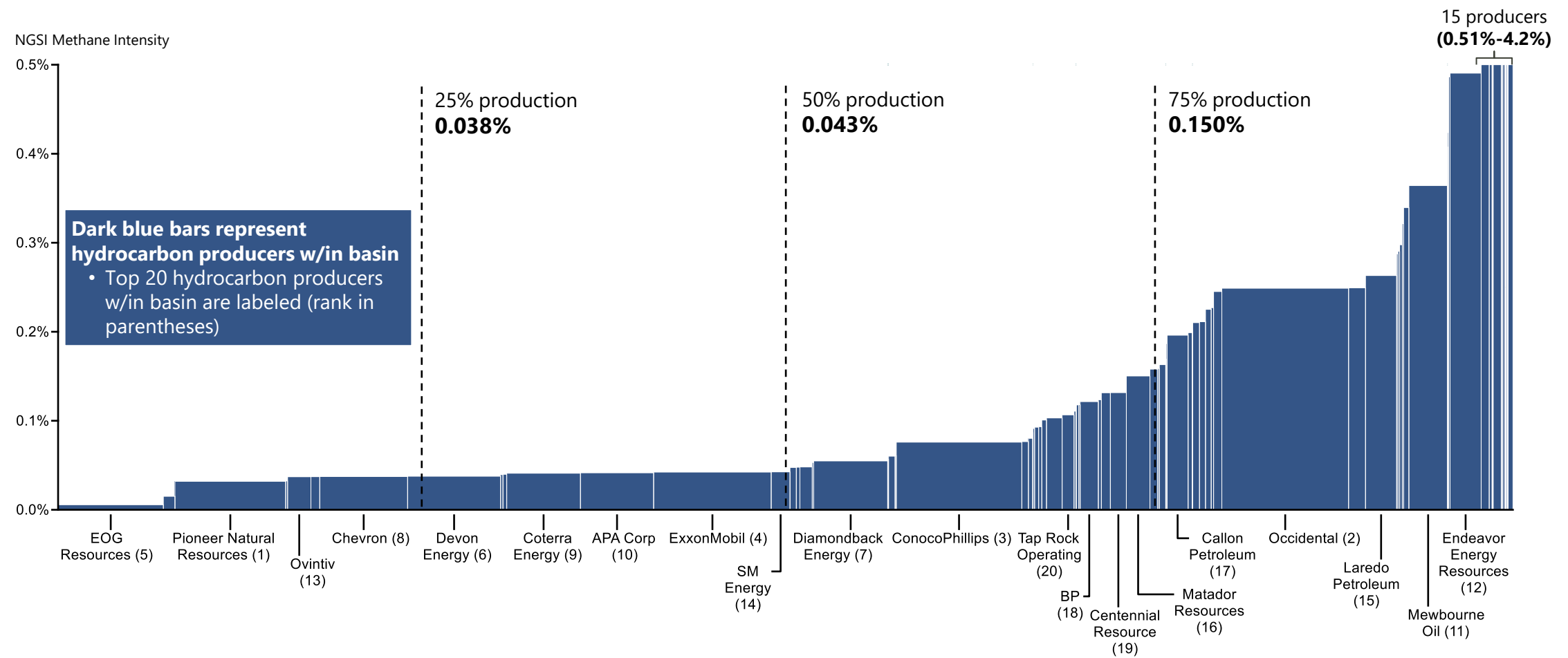


# Methane & GHG Intensity (100-year GWP)



# Total GHGRP Natural Gas Production, by Methane Intensity

**Natural Gas Production Associated with NCSI Methane Intensity**

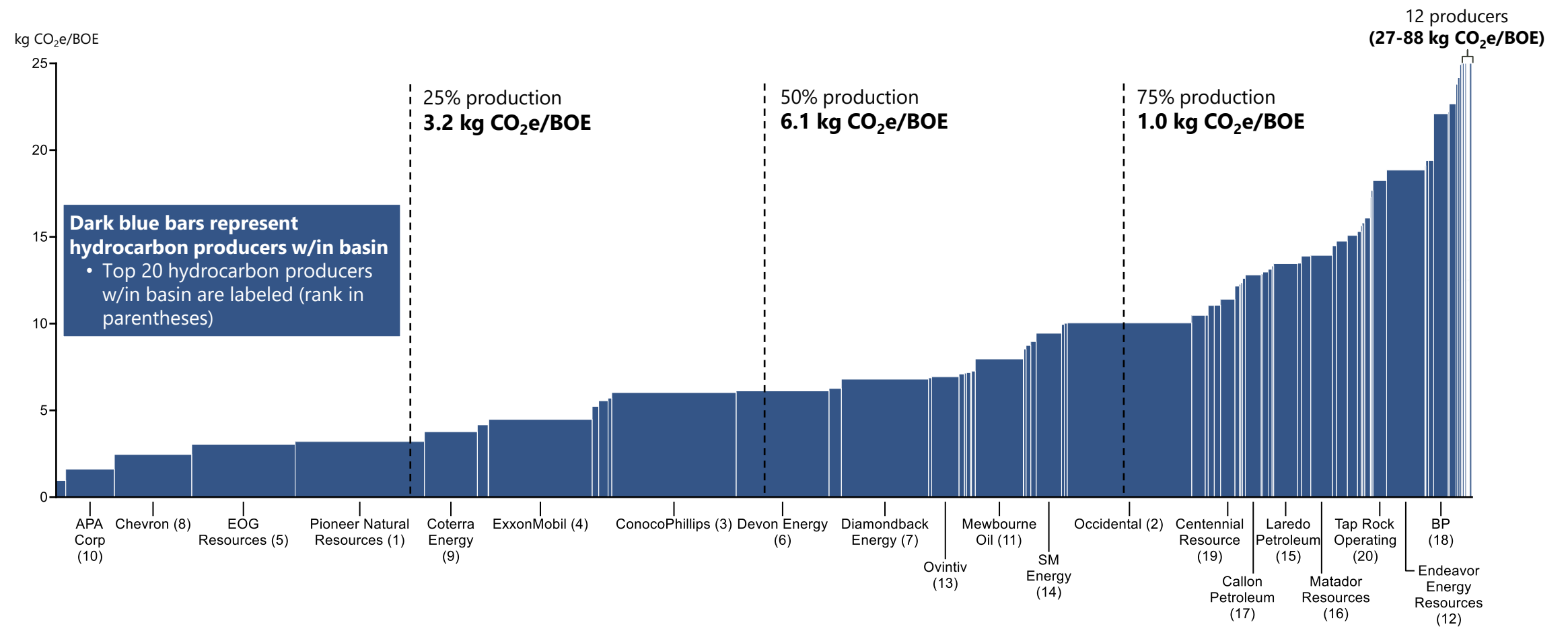


Natural Gas Production → Total Gas Production: 6.1 trillion cubic feet



# Total GHGRP Hydrocarbon Production, by GHG Intensity

**Hydrocarbon Production Associated with GHG Intensity**

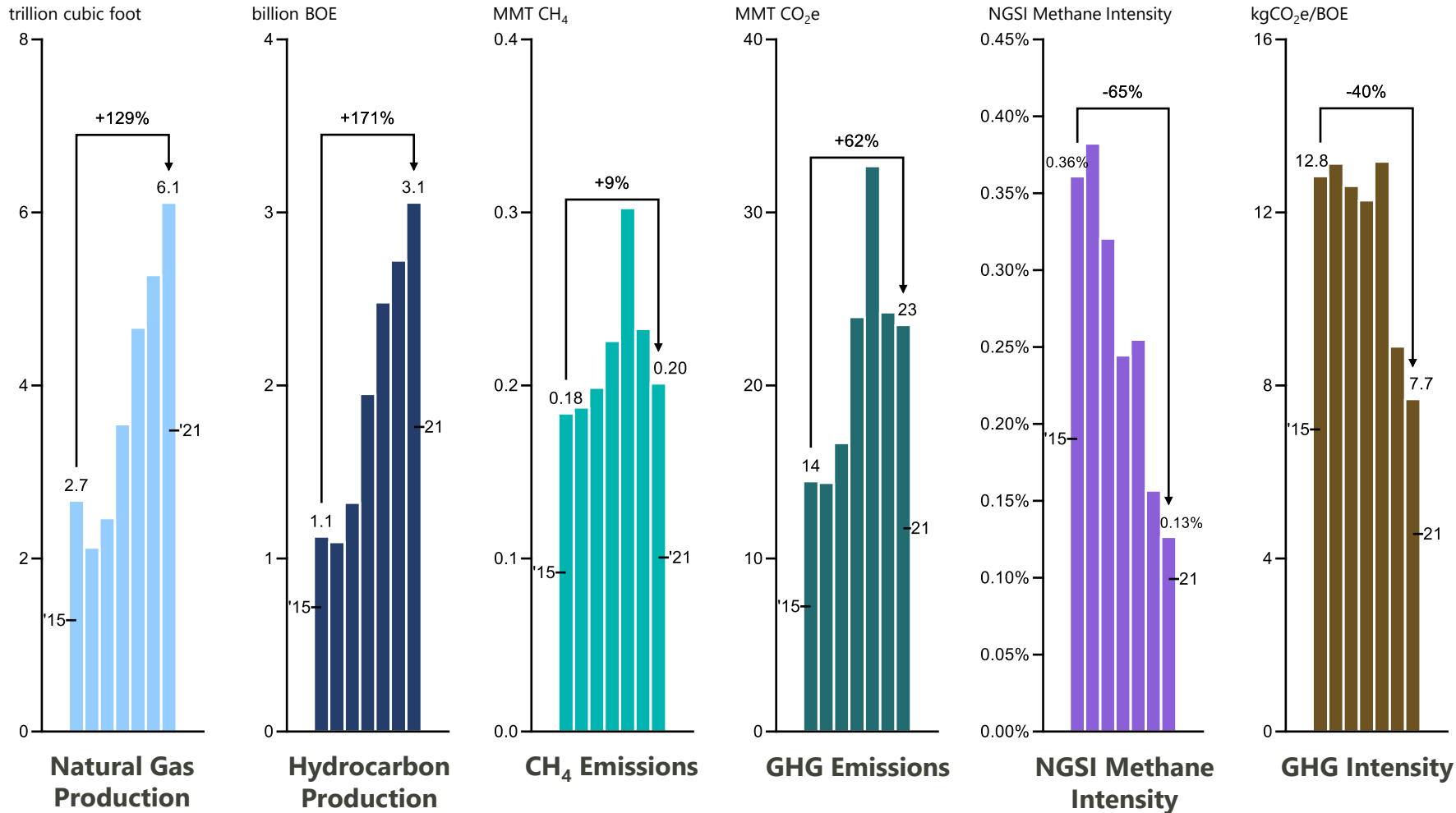


Hydrocarbon Production → Total Hydrocarbon Production: 3.06 billion BOE

# 2015-2021 Trends Analysis: Production & Emission Metrics

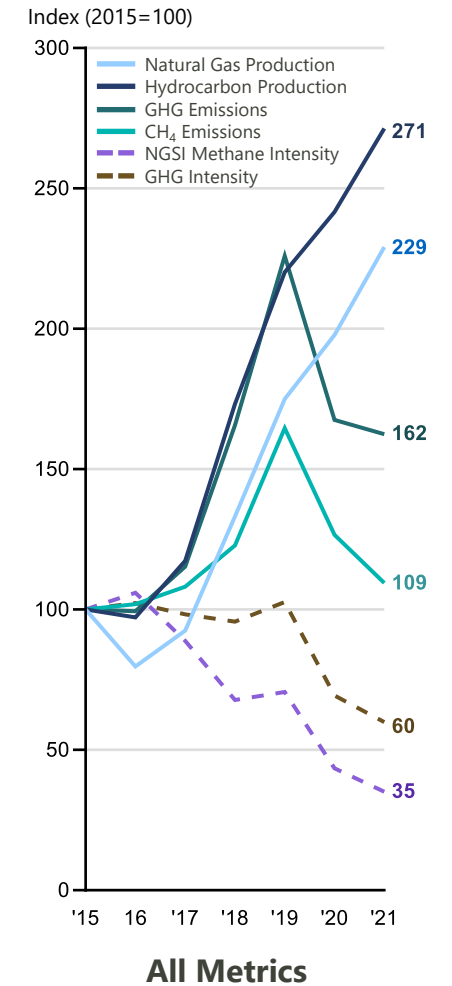
## GHGRP Data Trends, 2015-2021

Permian Basin



## Combined Data Metrics

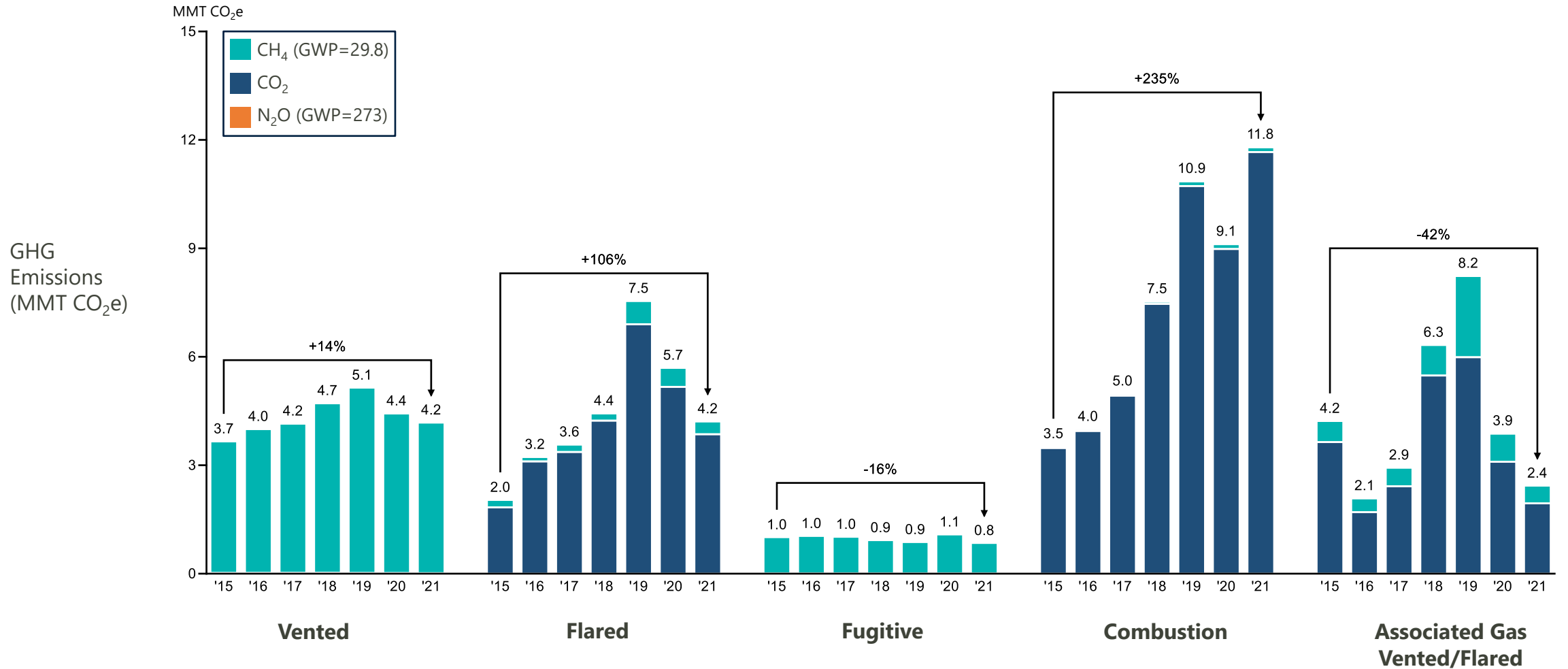
Indexed; 2015 = 100



# 2015-2021 Trends Analysis: Emission Sources

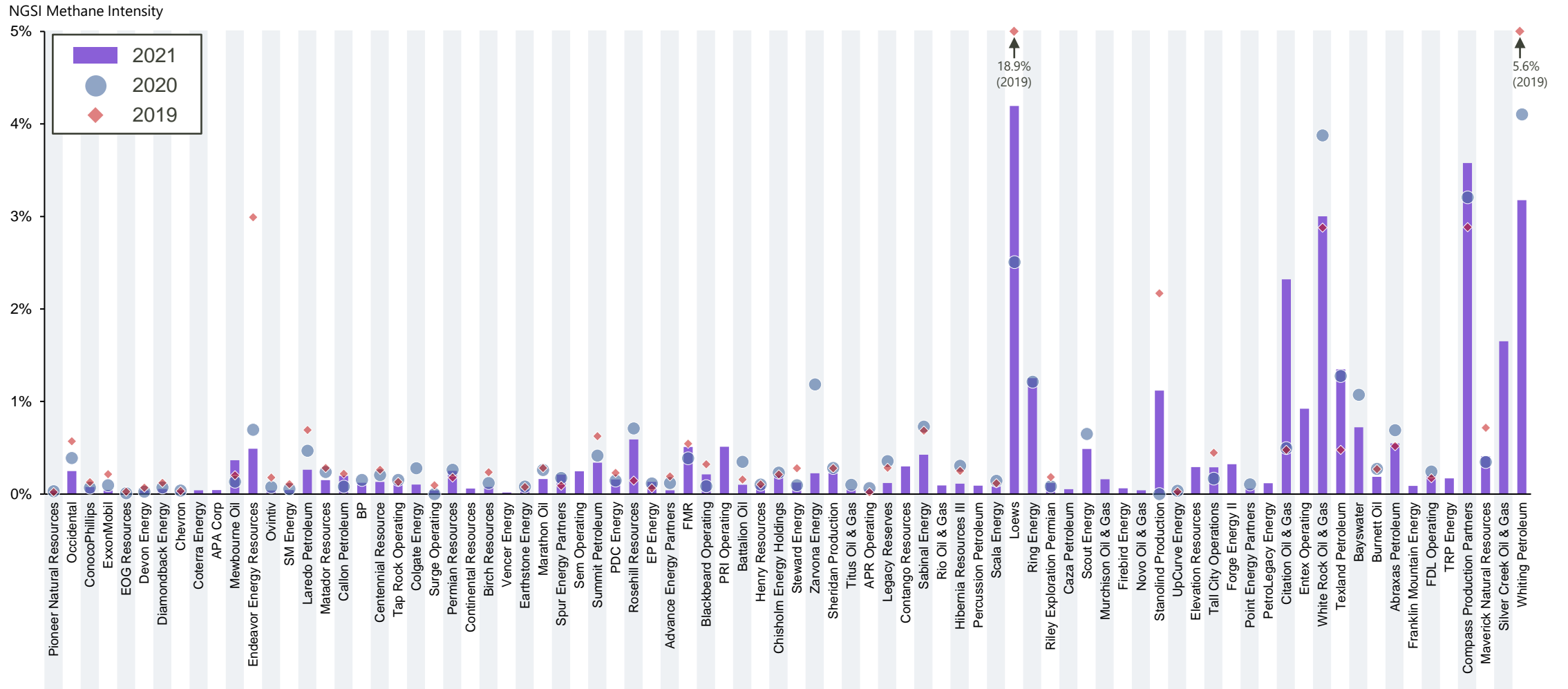
## GHGRP Reported Emissions, by Source Category

Permian Basin; million MT CO<sub>2</sub>e



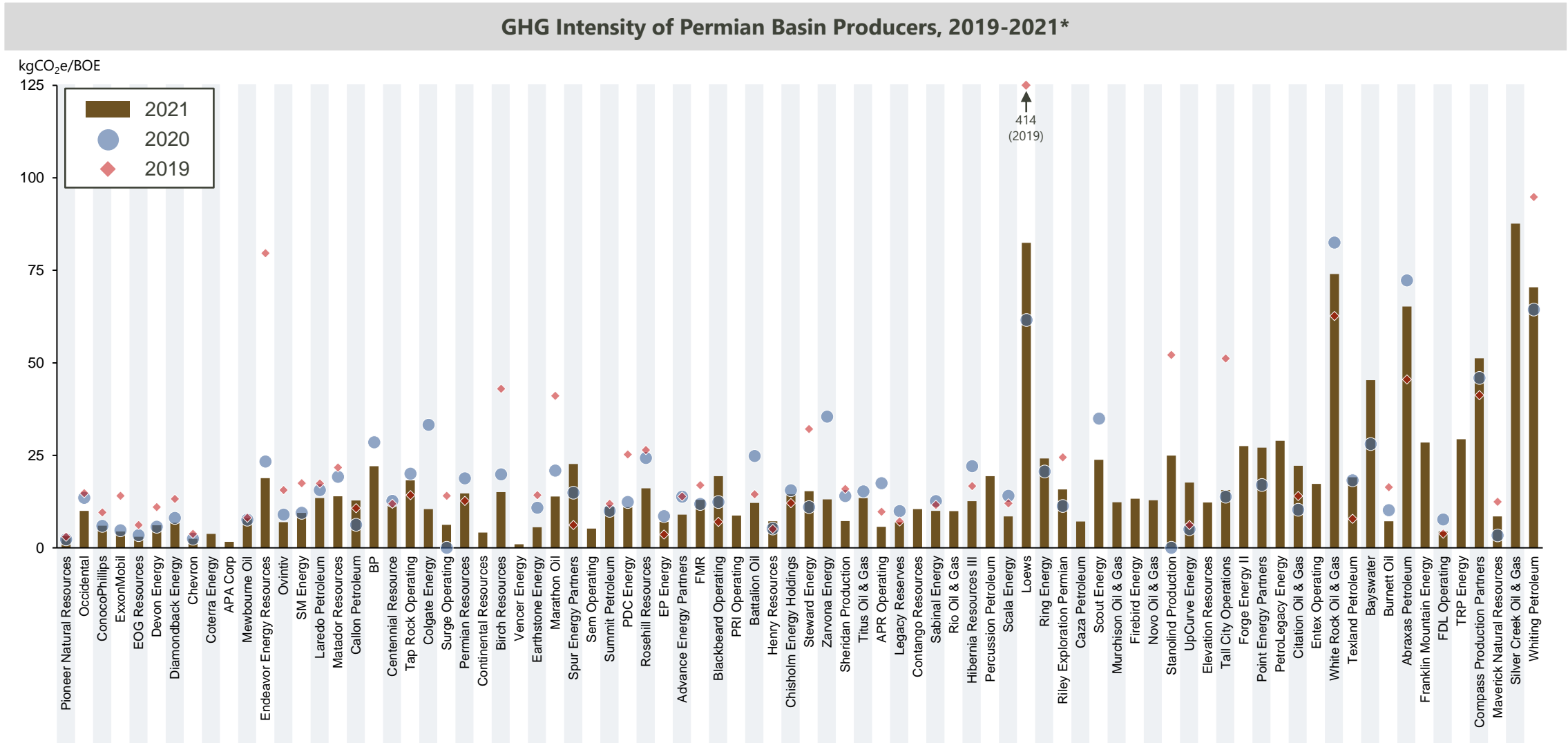
# 2019-2021 Trends Analysis: Change in Methane Intensity, by Top Producer

NGSI Methane Intensity of Permian Basin Producers, 2019-2021\*



\*Note that some producers in 2021 were not in the EPA database for all three years and may not have data for 2019 and/or 2020.

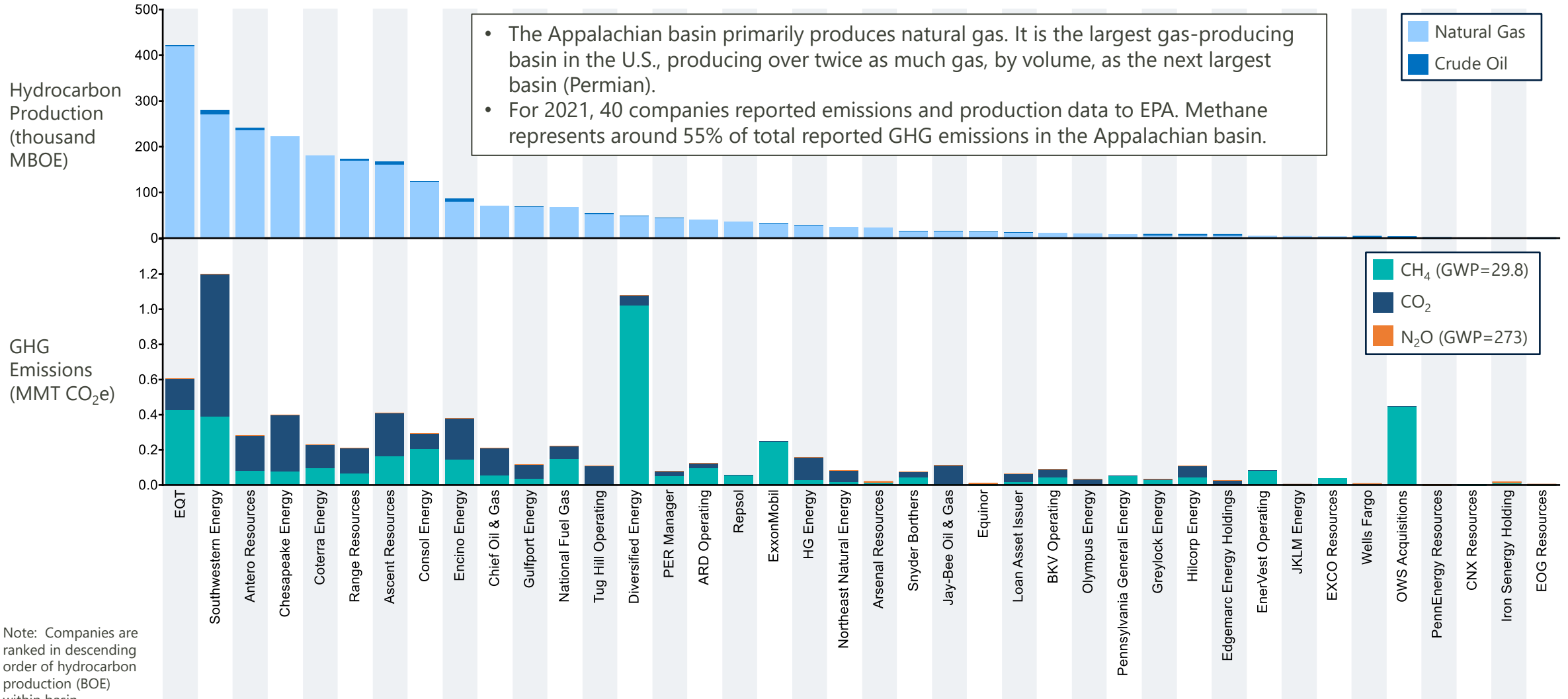
# 2019-2021 Trends Analysis: Change in GHG Intensity, by Top Producer



\*Note that some producers in 2021 were not in the EPA database for all three years and may not have data for 2019 and/or 2020.

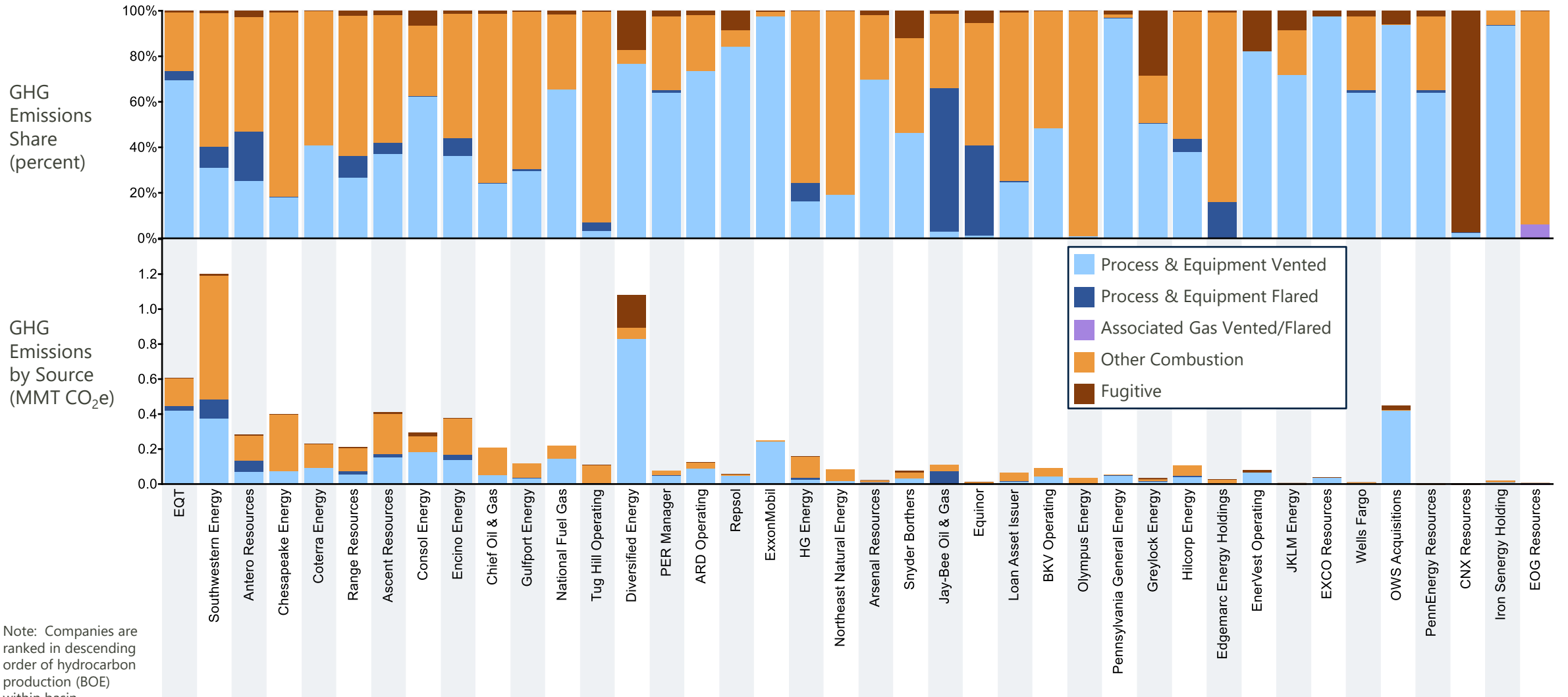
# Hydrocarbon Production & Emissions (100-year GWP)

- The Appalachian basin primarily produces natural gas. It is the largest gas-producing basin in the U.S., producing over twice as much gas, by volume, as the next largest basin (Permian).
- For 2021, 40 companies reported emissions and production data to EPA. Methane represents around 55% of total reported GHG emissions in the Appalachian basin.



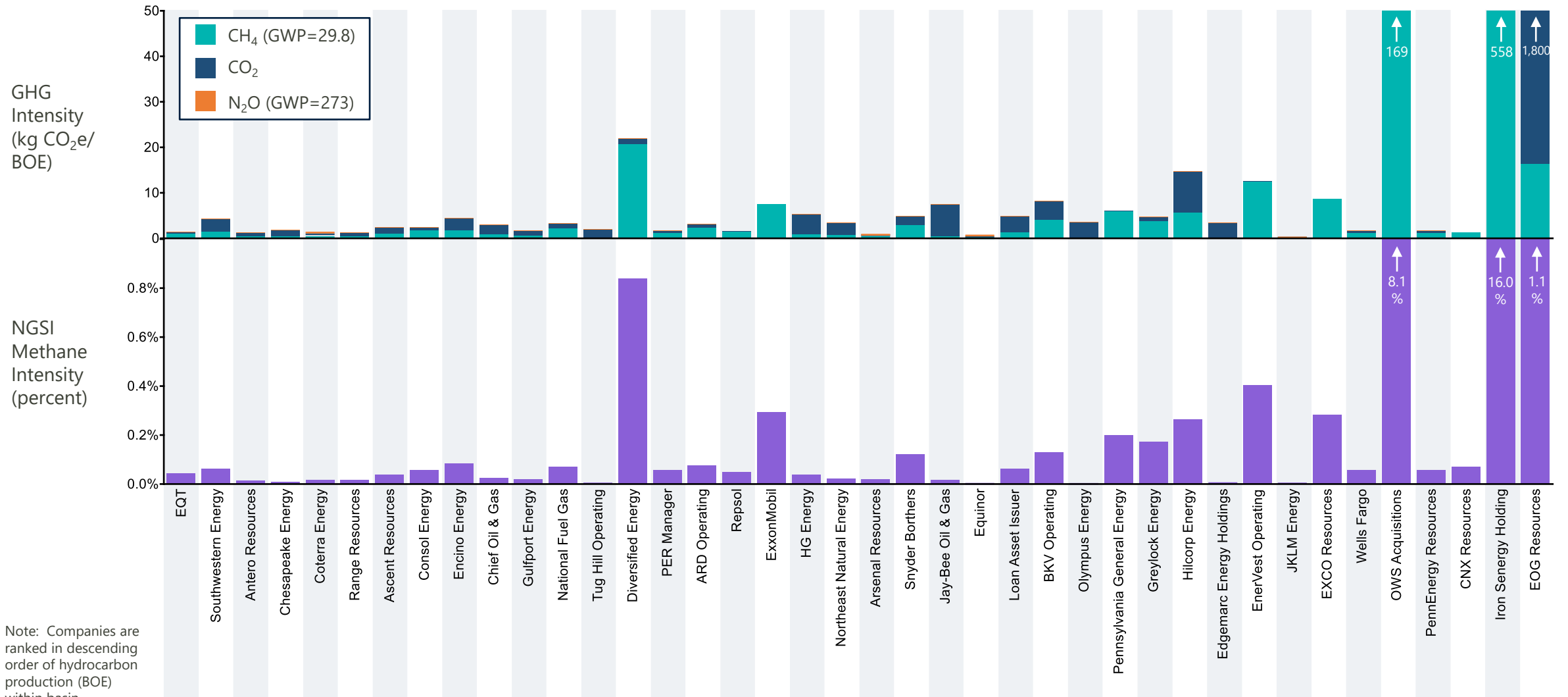
Note: Companies are ranked in descending order of hydrocarbon production (BOE) within basin

# GHG Emissions by Source (100-year GWP)



Note: Companies are ranked in descending order of hydrocarbon production (BOE) within basin

# Methane & GHG Intensity (100-year GWP)

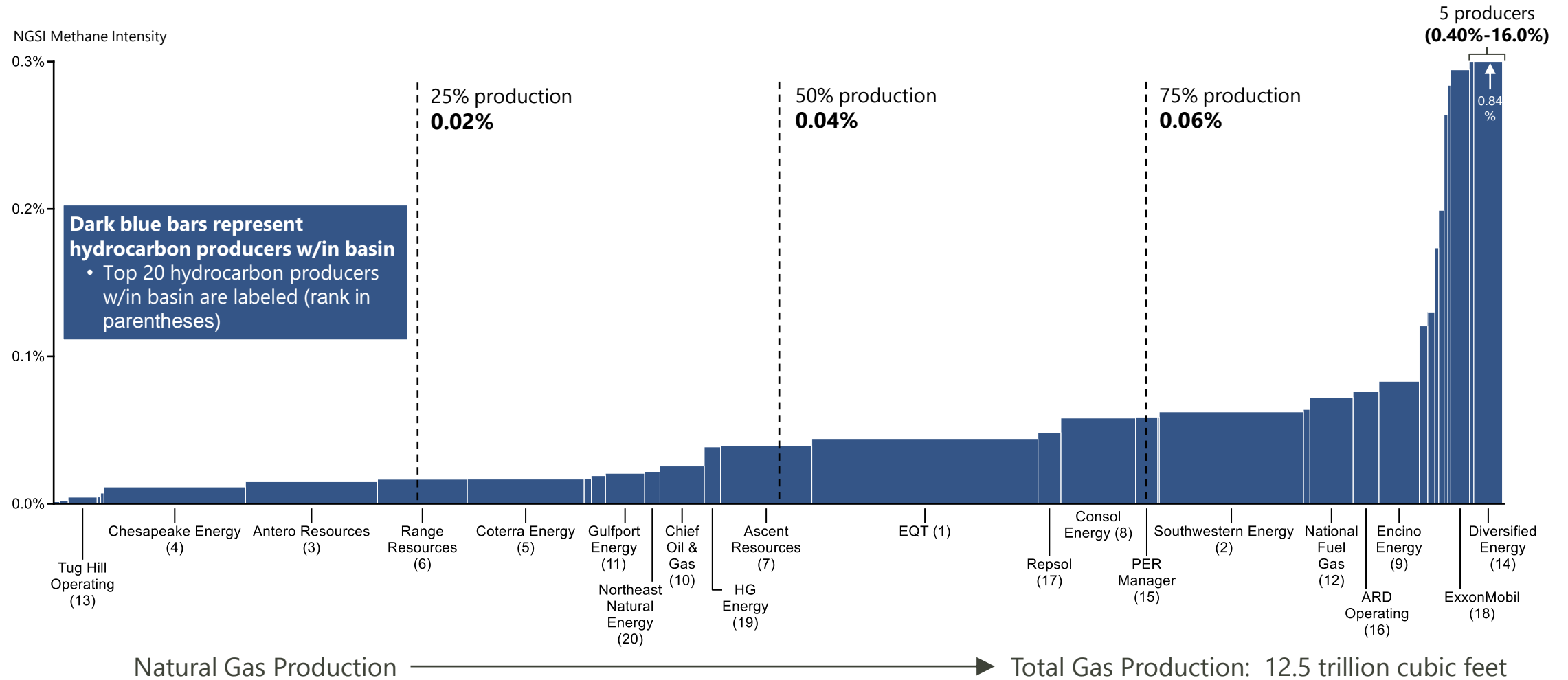


Note: Companies are ranked in descending order of hydrocarbon production (BOE) within basin



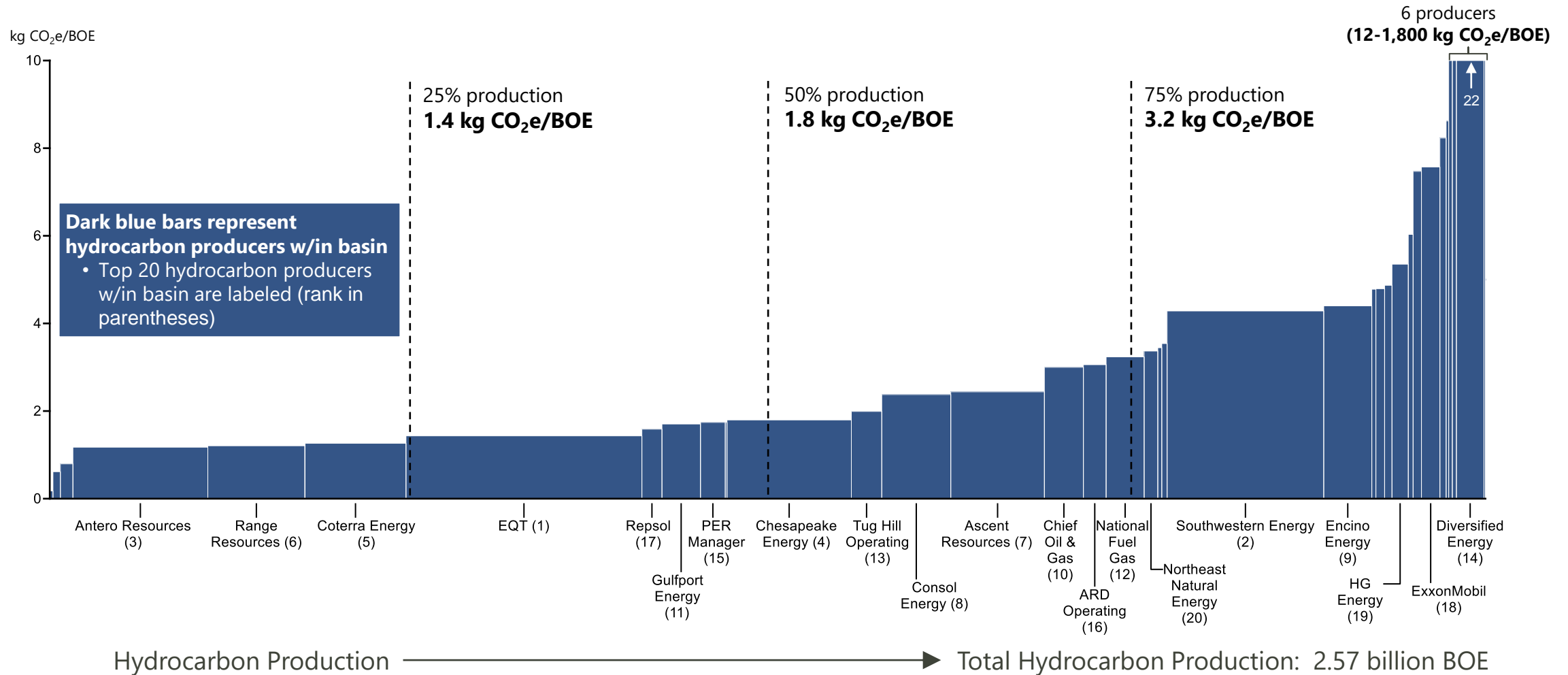
# Total GHGRP Natural Gas Production, by Methane Intensity

**Natural Gas Production Associated with NCSI Methane Intensity**



# Total GHGRP Hydrocarbon Production, by GHG Intensity

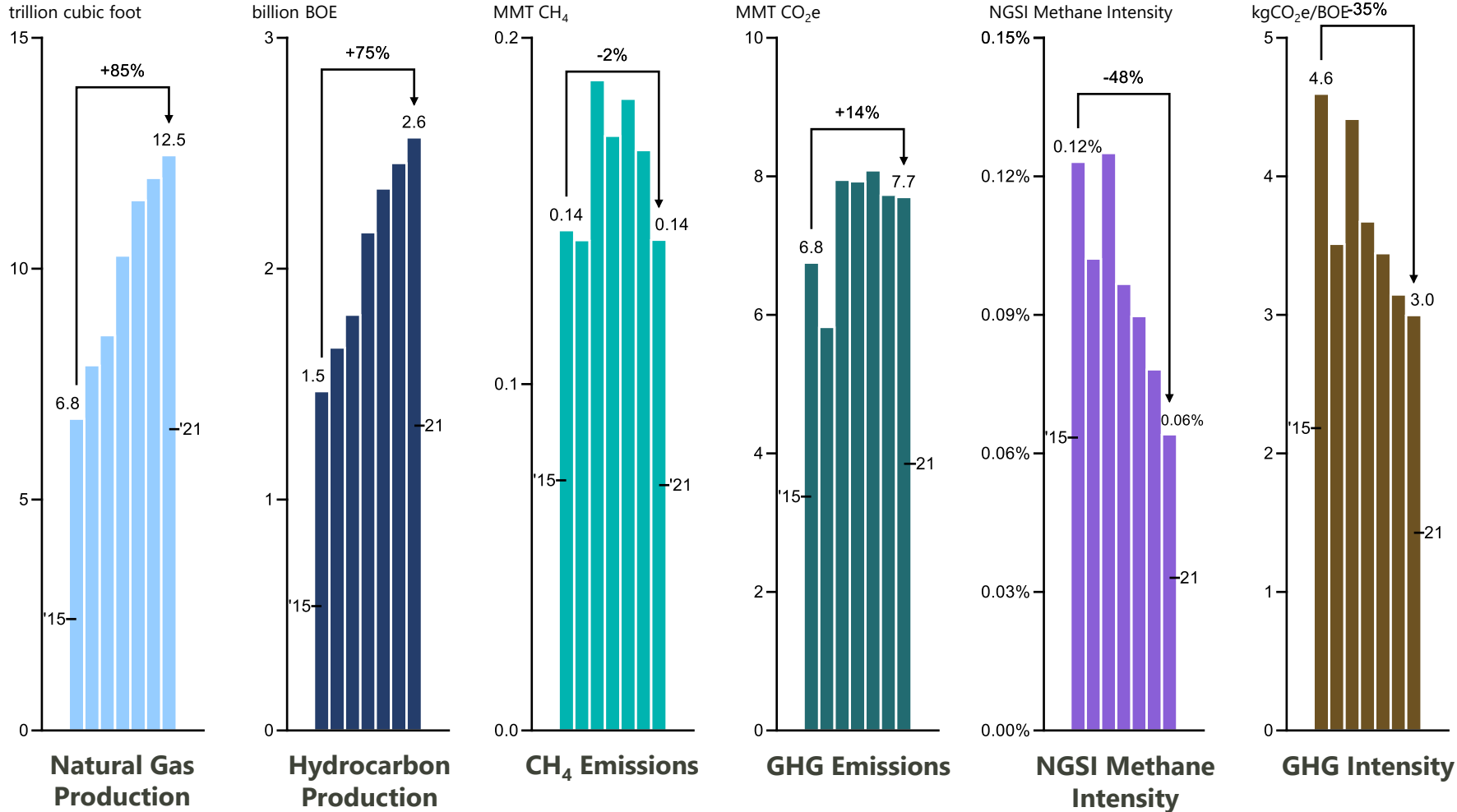
## Hydrocarbon Production Associated with GHG Intensity



# 2015-2021 Trends Analysis: Production & Emission Metrics

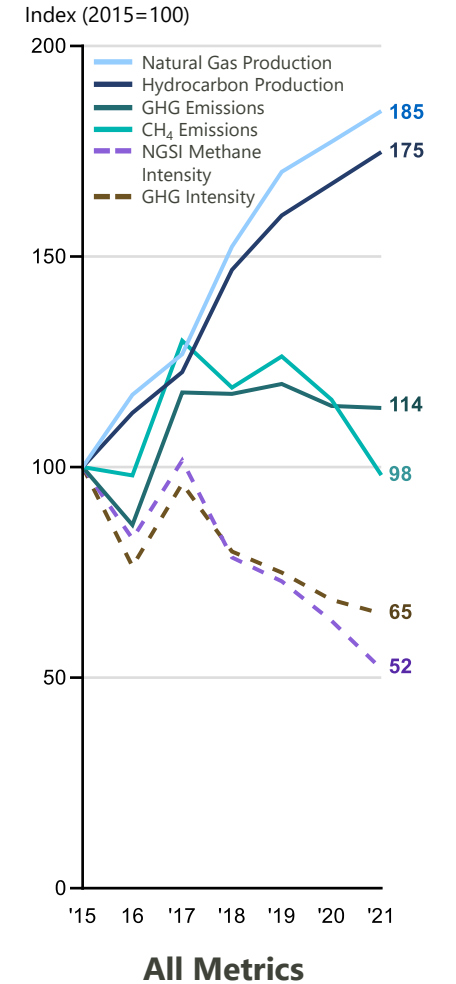
## GHGRP Data Trends, 2015-2021

Appalachian Basin



## Combined Data Metrics

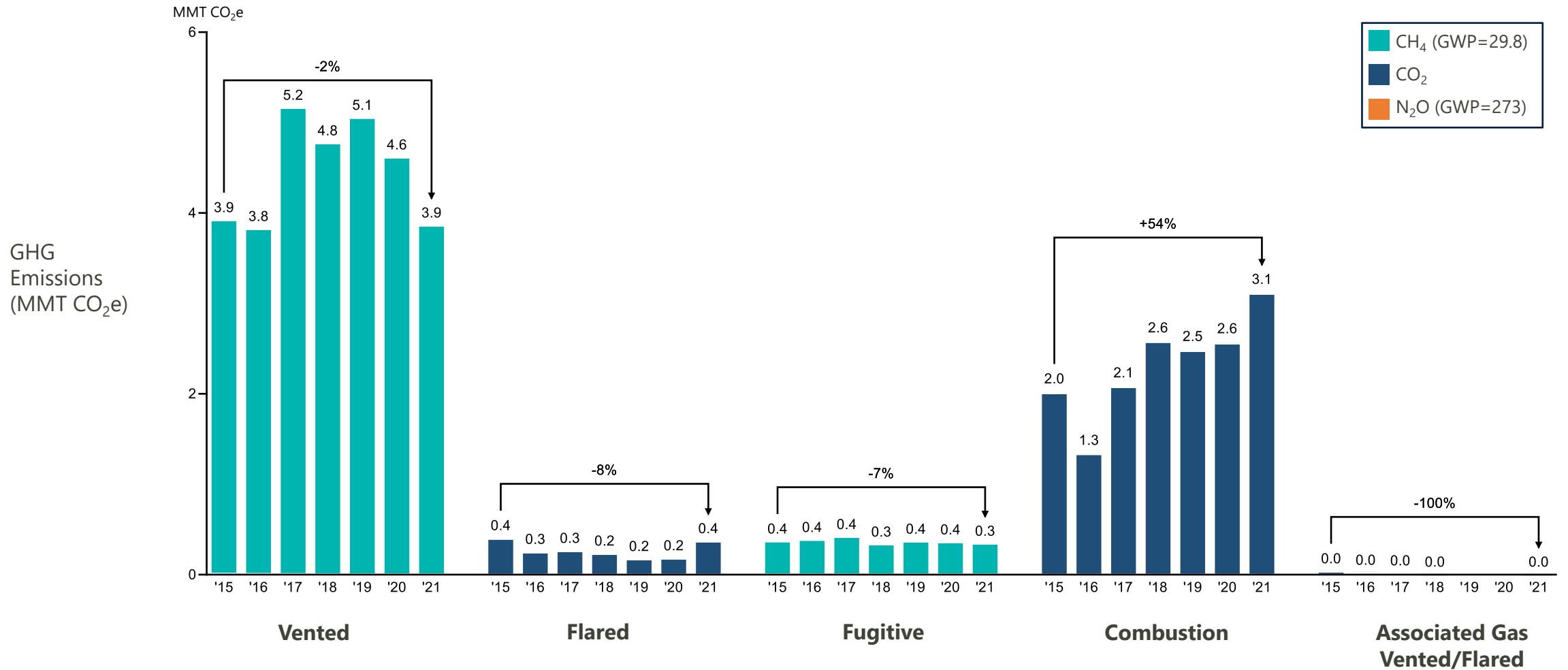
Indexed; 2015 = 100



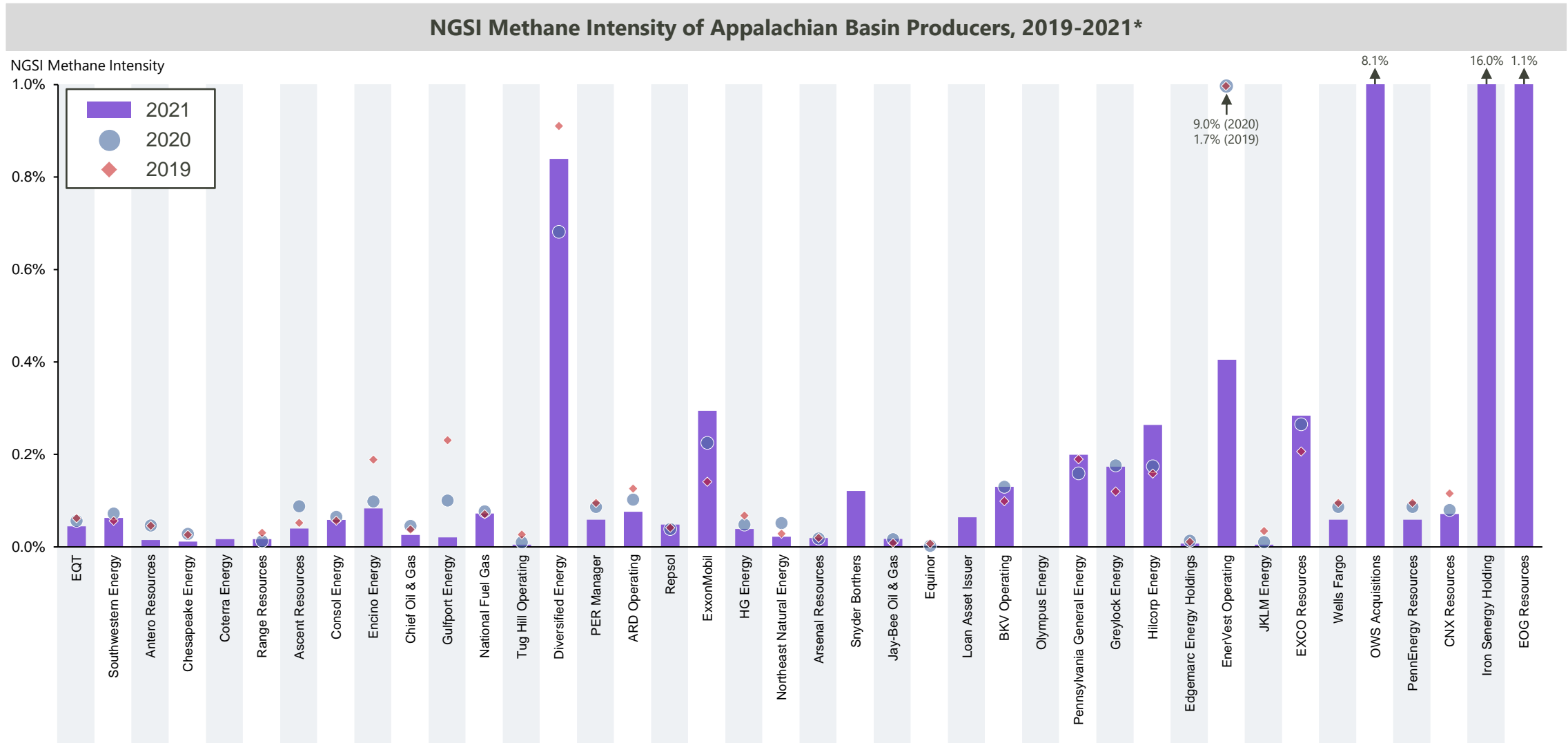
# 2015-2021 Trends Analysis: Emission Sources

## GHGRP Reported Emissions, by Source Category

Appalachian Basin; million MT CO<sub>2</sub>e

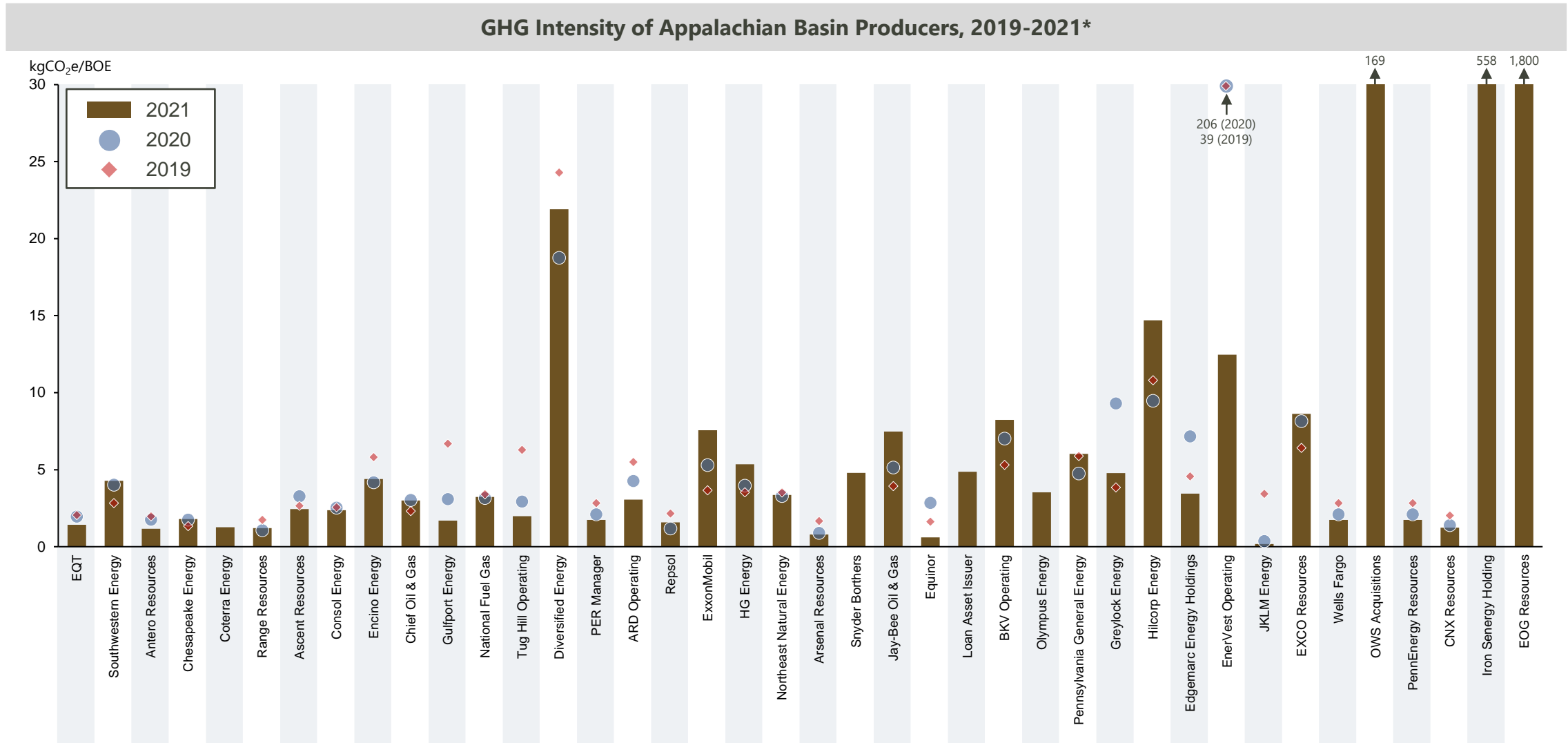


# 2019-2021 Trends Analysis: Change in Methane Intensity, by Top Producer



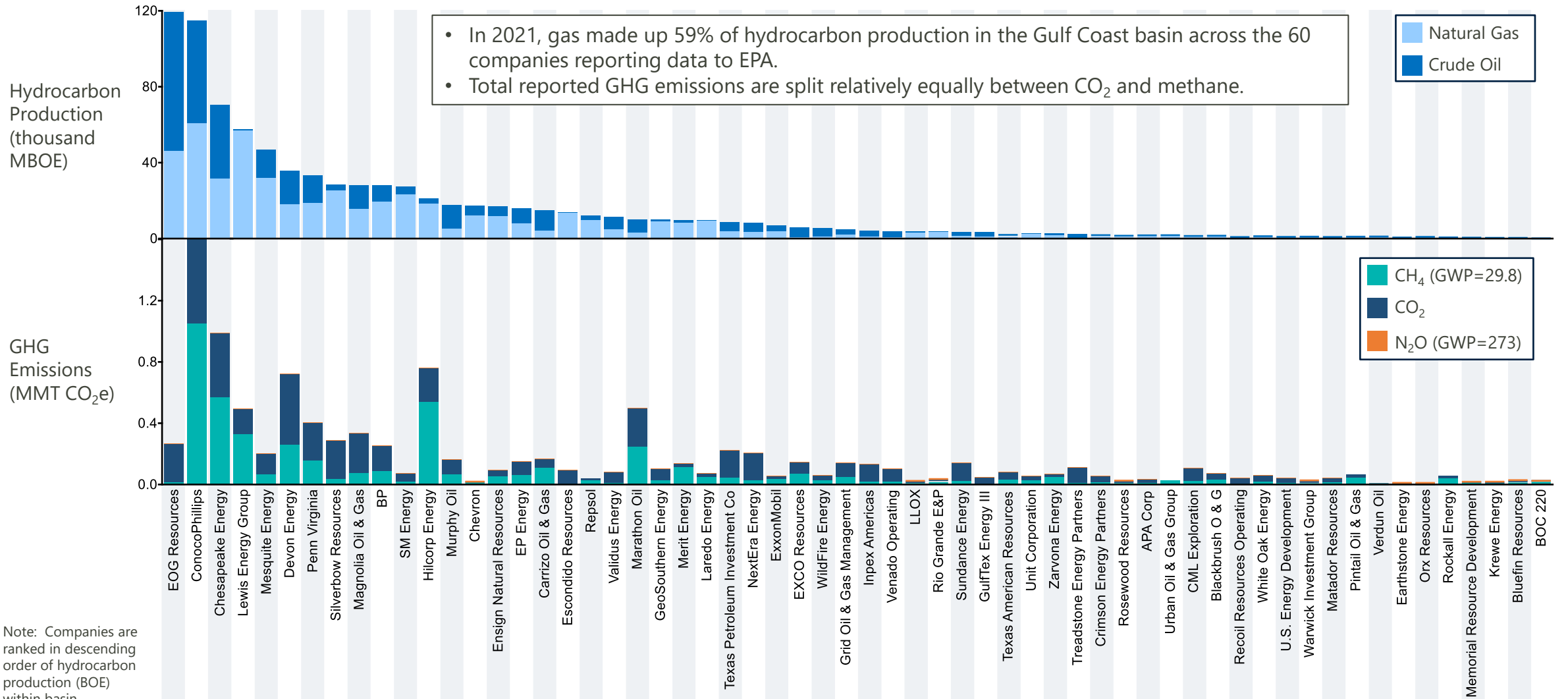
\*Note that some producers in 2021 were not in the EPA database for all three years and may not have data for 2019 and/or 2020.

# 2019-2021 Trends Analysis: Change in GHG Intensity, by Top Producer

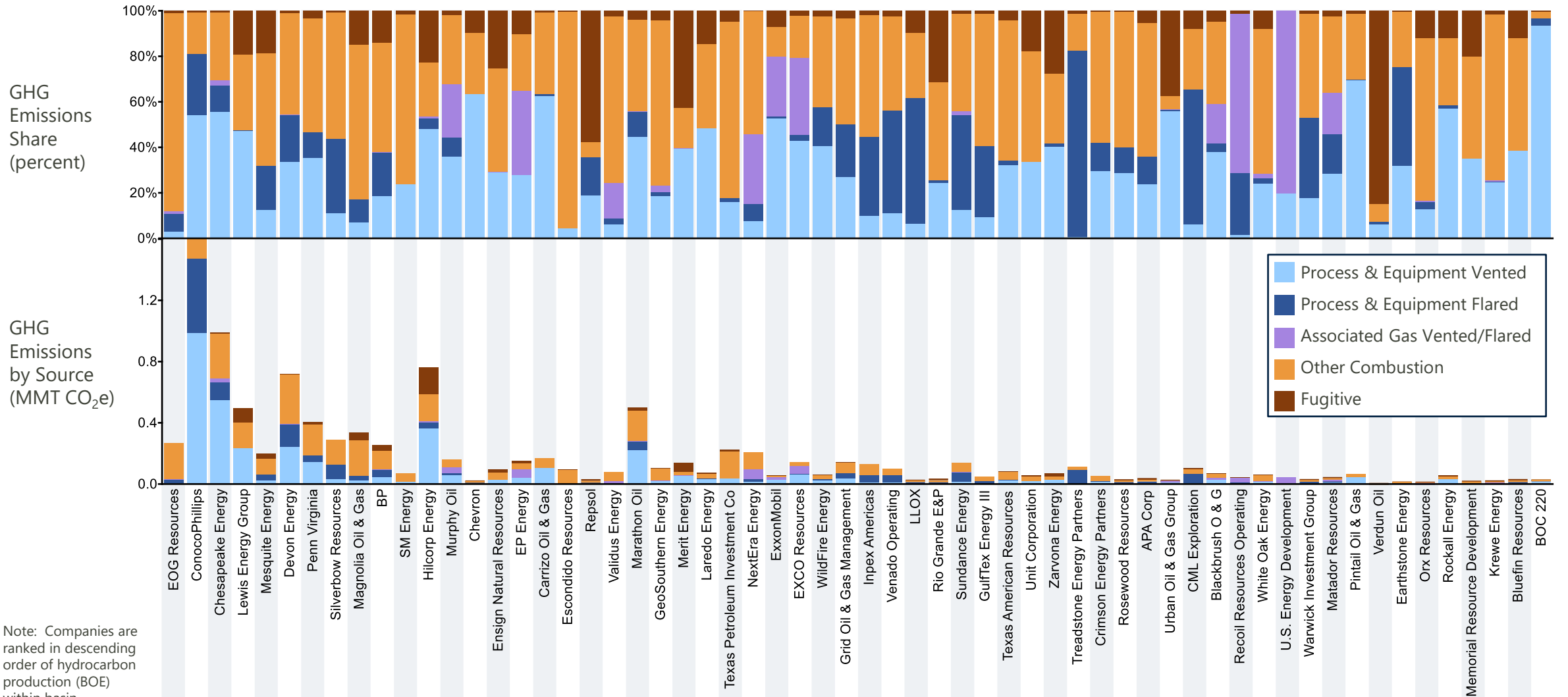


\*Note that some producers in 2021 were not in the EPA database for all three years and may not have data for 2019 and/or 2020.

# Hydrocarbon Production & Emissions (100-year GWP)



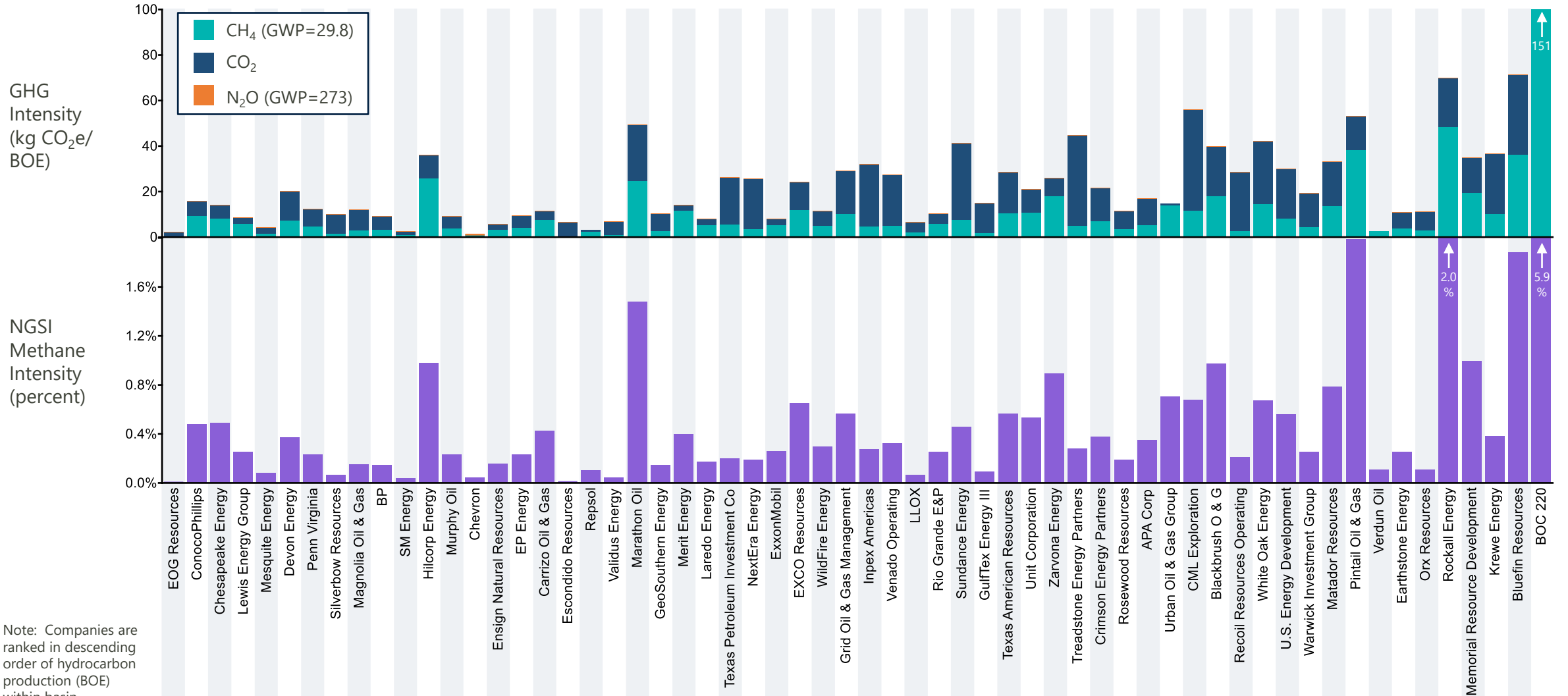
# GHG Emissions by Source (100-year GWP)



Note: Companies are ranked in descending order of hydrocarbon production (BOE) within basin

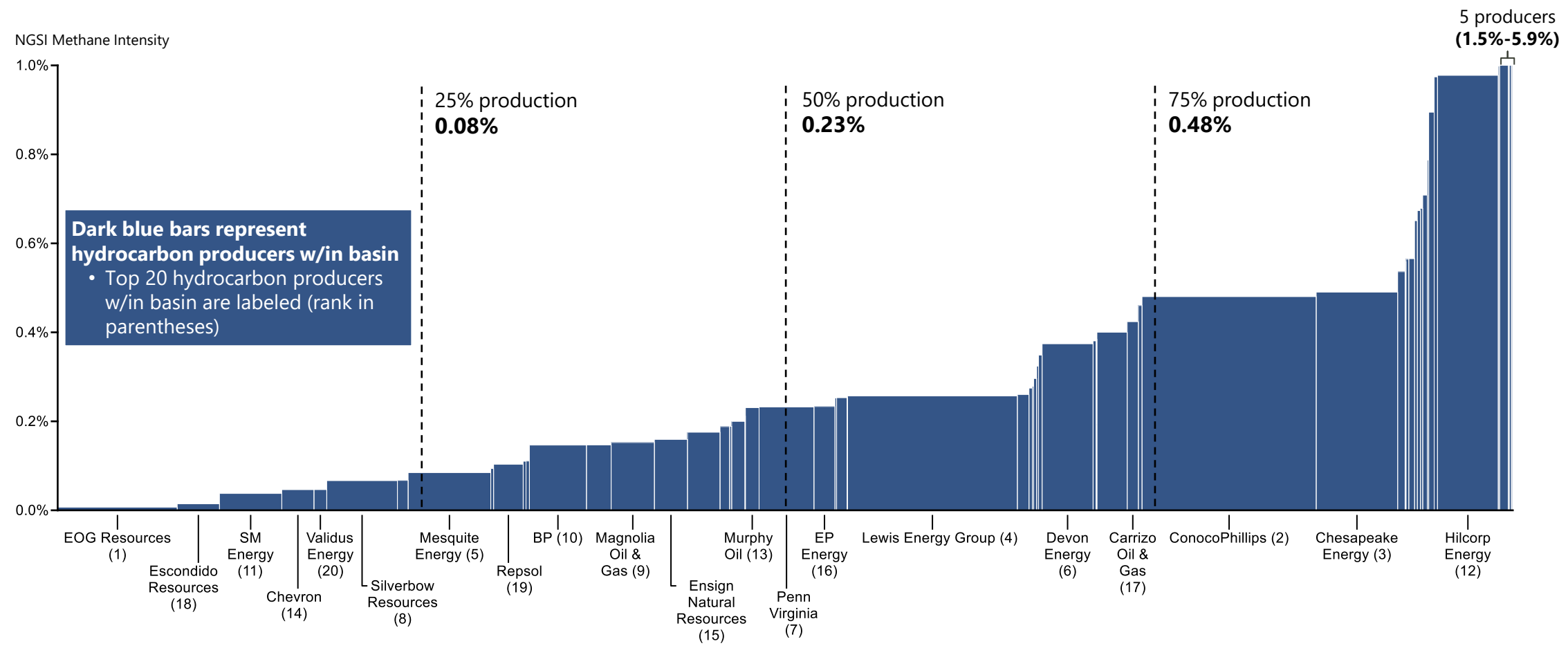


# Methane & GHG Intensity (100-year GWP)



# Total GHGRP Natural Gas Production, by Methane Intensity

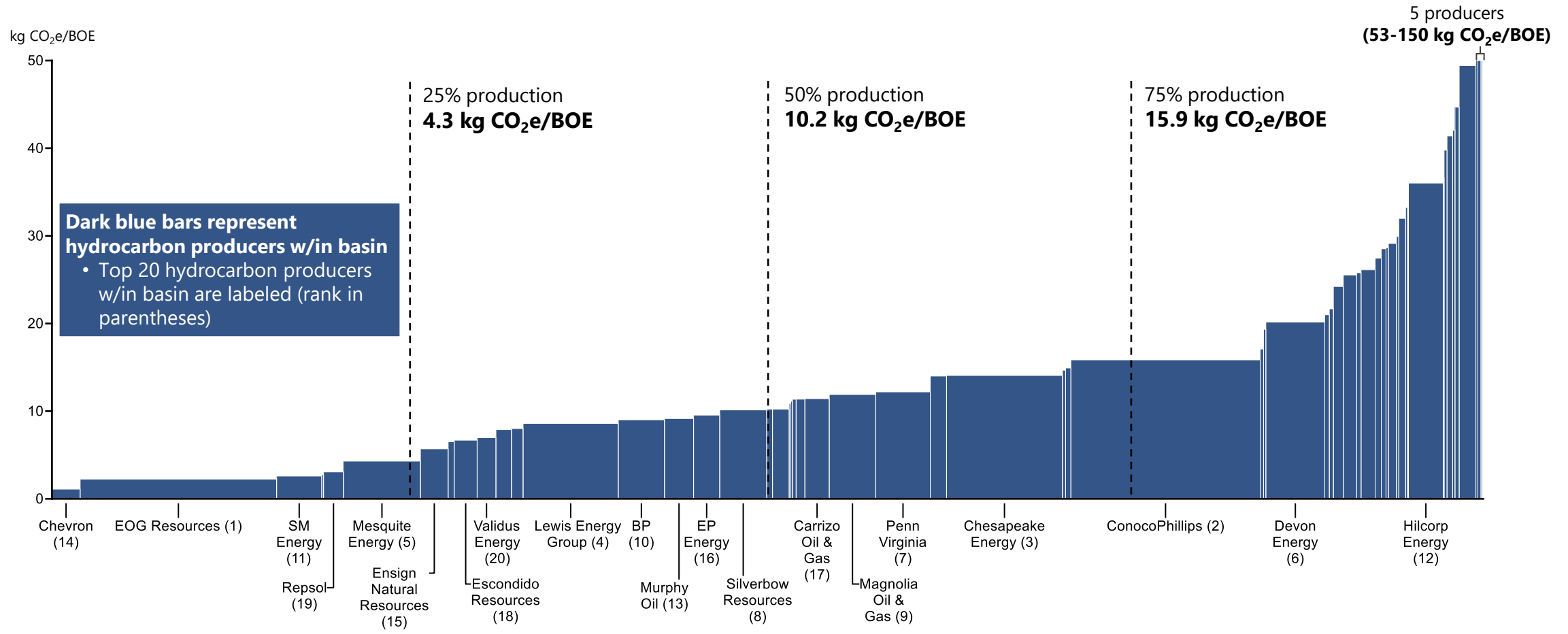
**Natural Gas Production Associated with NCSI Methane Intensity**



Natural Gas Production → Total Gas Production: 2.3 trillion cubic feet

# Total GHGRP Hydrocarbon Production, by GHG Intensity

**Hydrocarbon Production Associated with GHG Intensity**

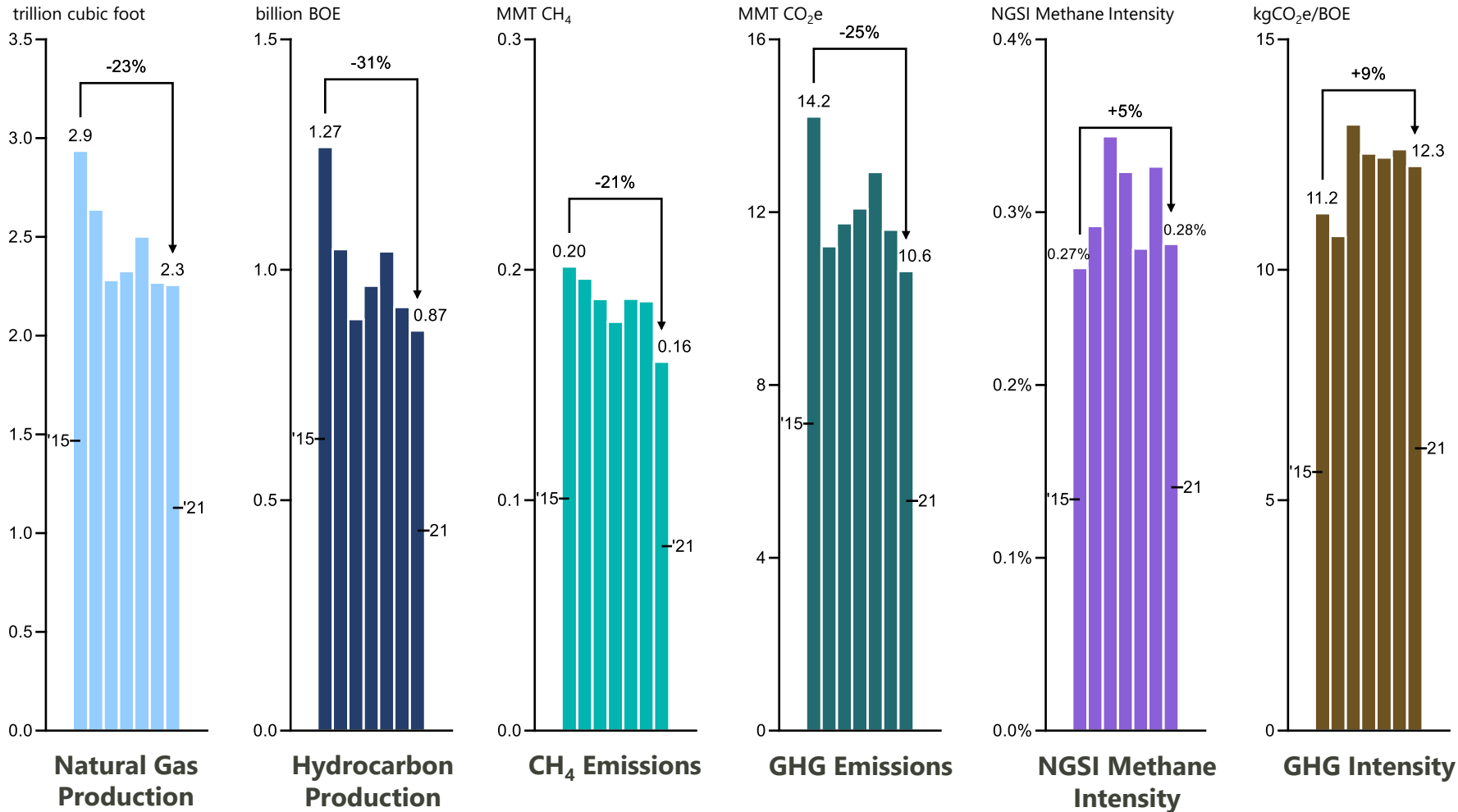


Hydrocarbon Production → Total Hydrocarbon Production: 0.87 billion BOE

# 2015-2021 Trends Analysis: Production & Emission Metrics

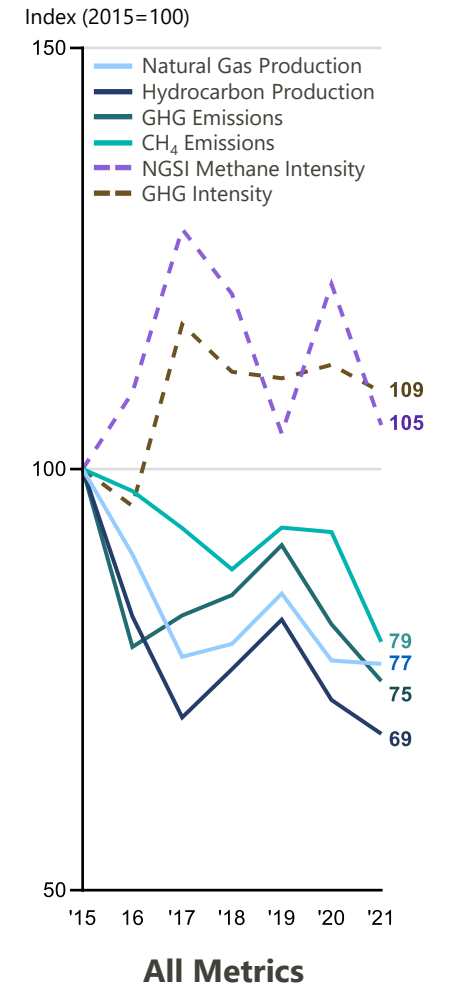
## GHGRP Data Trends, 2015-2021

Gulf Coast Basin



## Combined Data Metrics

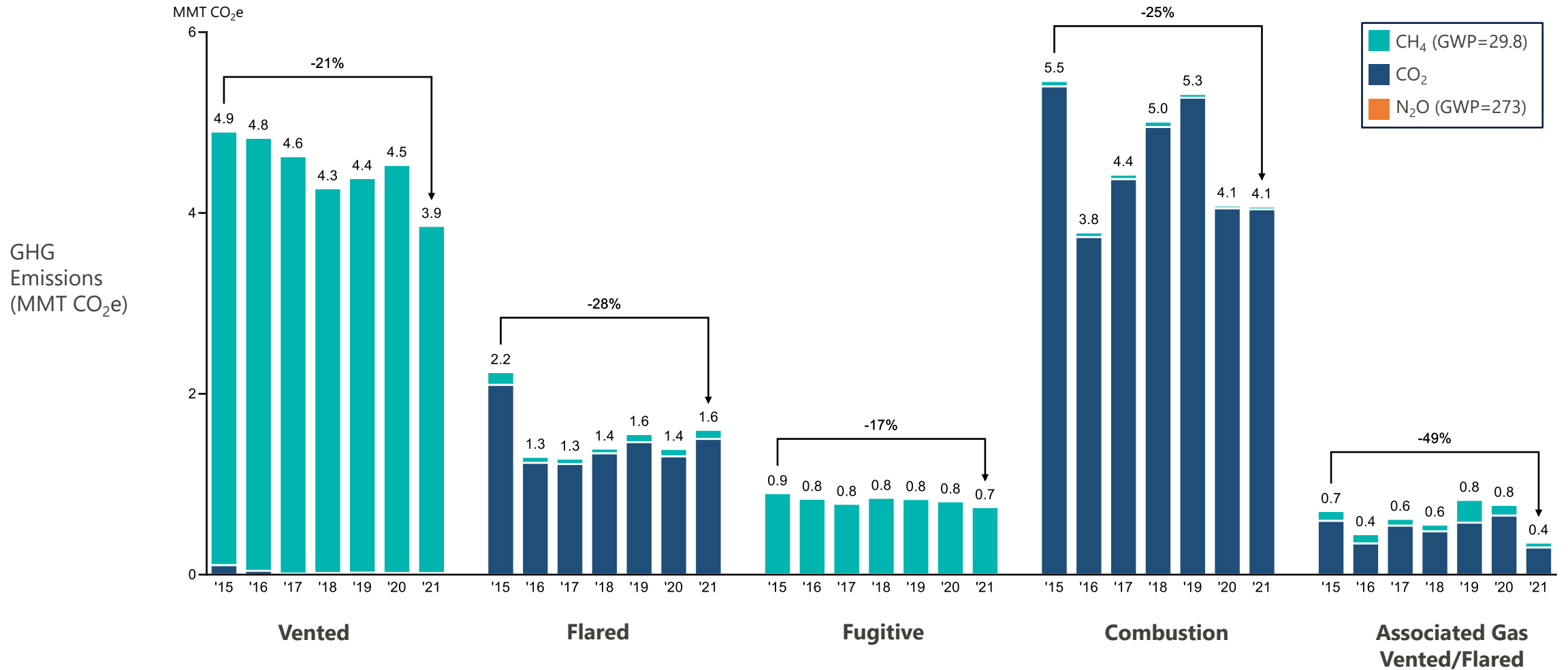
Indexed; 2015 = 100



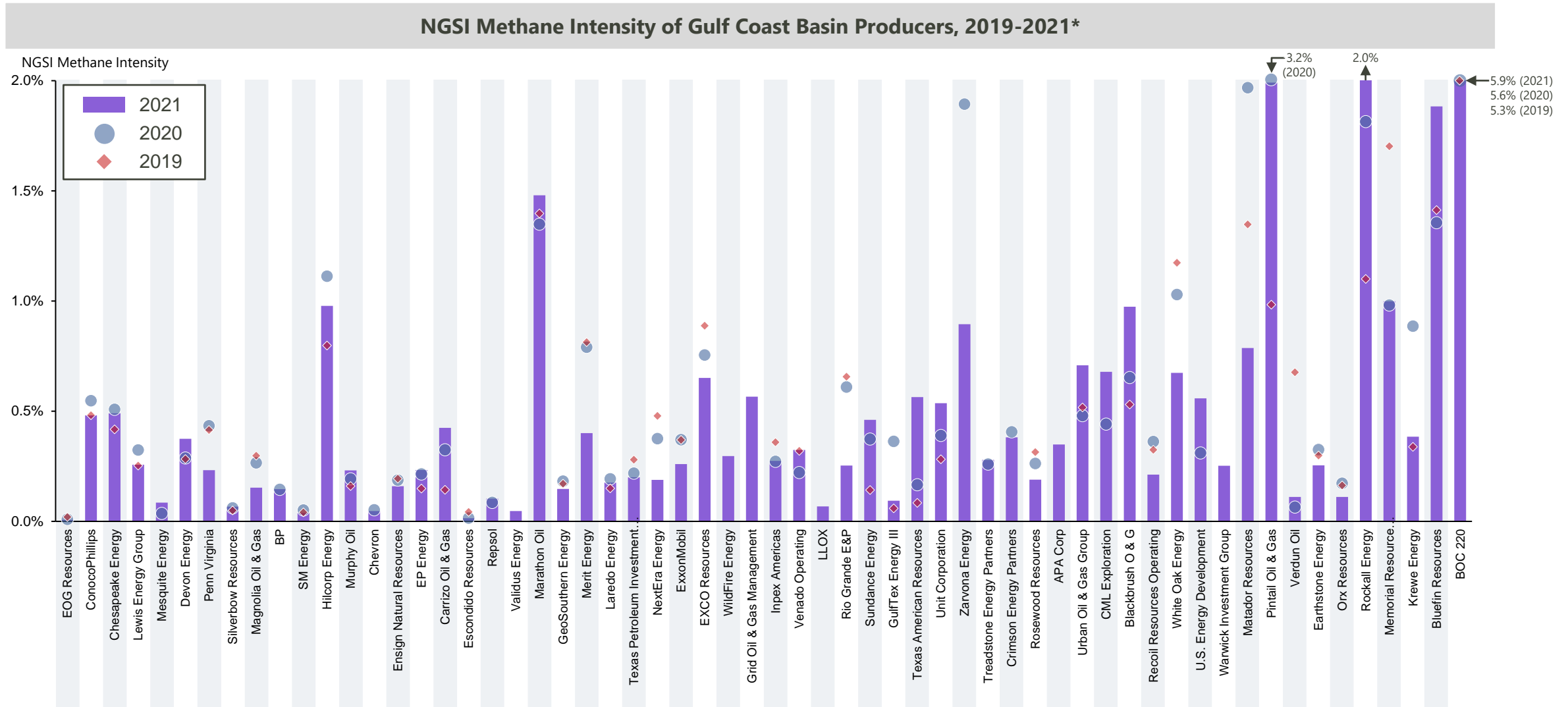
# 2015-2021 Trends Analysis: Emission Sources

## GHGRP Reported Emissions, by Source Category

Gulf Coast Basin; million MT CO<sub>2</sub>e

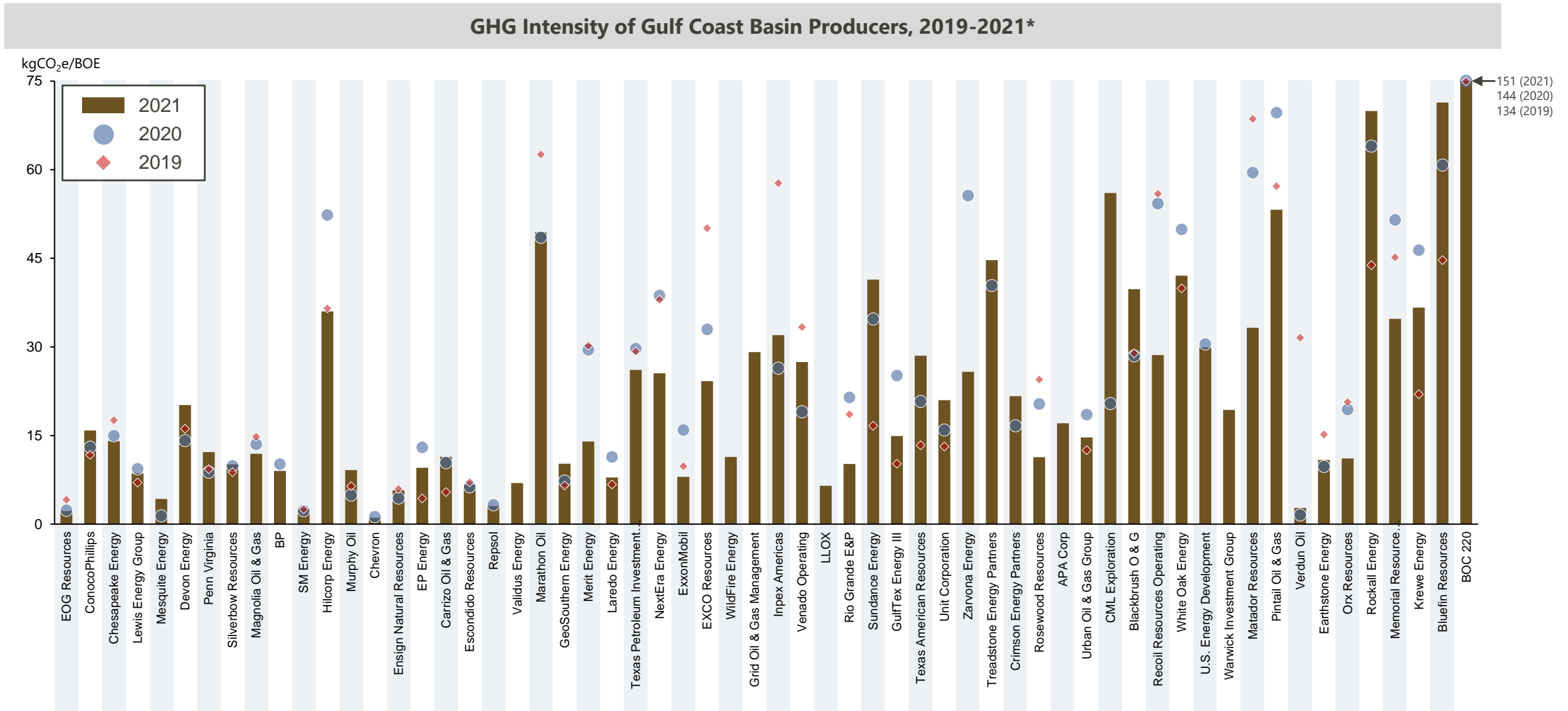


# 2019-2021 Trends Analysis: Change in Methane Intensity, by Top Producer



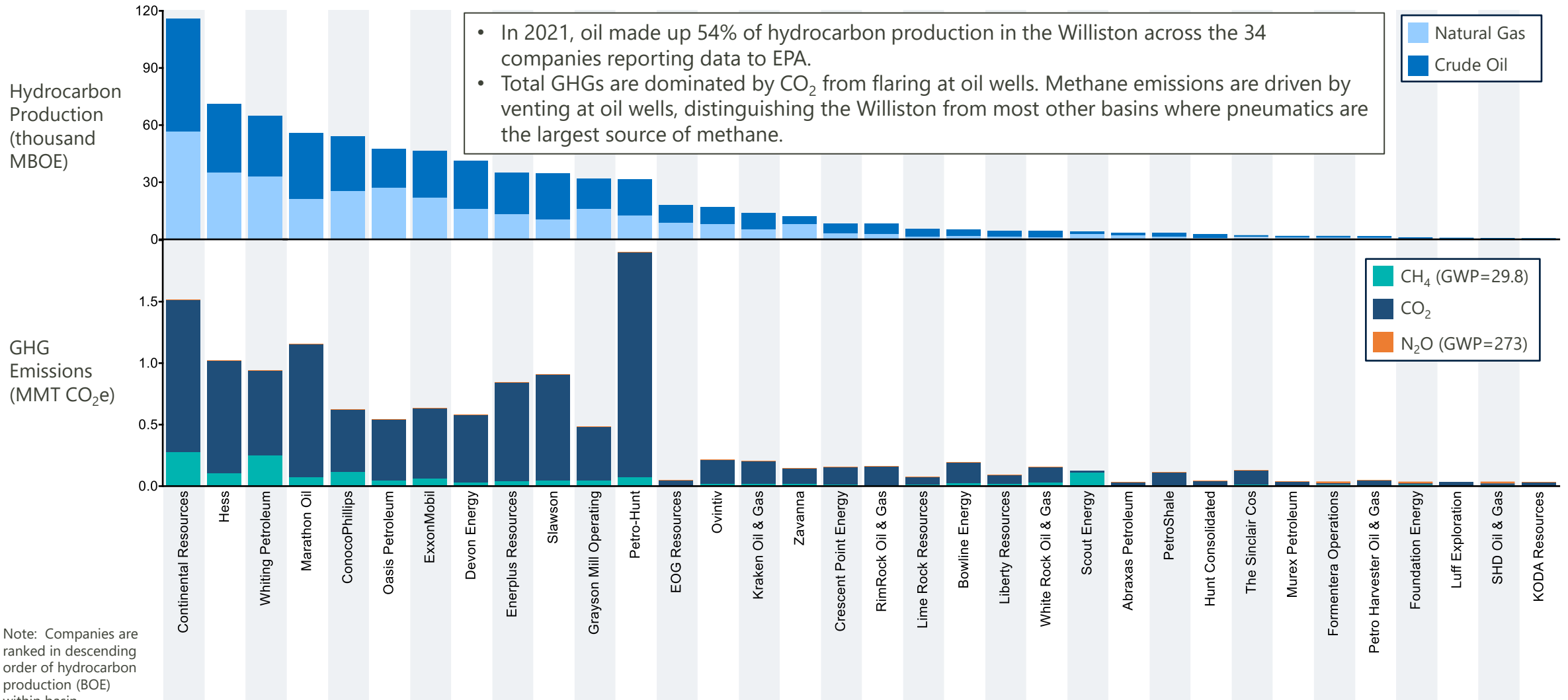
\*Note that some producers in 2021 were not in the EPA database for all three years and may not have data for 2019 and/or 2020.

# 2019-2021 Trends Analysis: Change in GHG Intensity, by Top Producer



\*Note that some producers in 2021 were not in the EPA database for all three years and may not have data for 2019 and/or 2020.

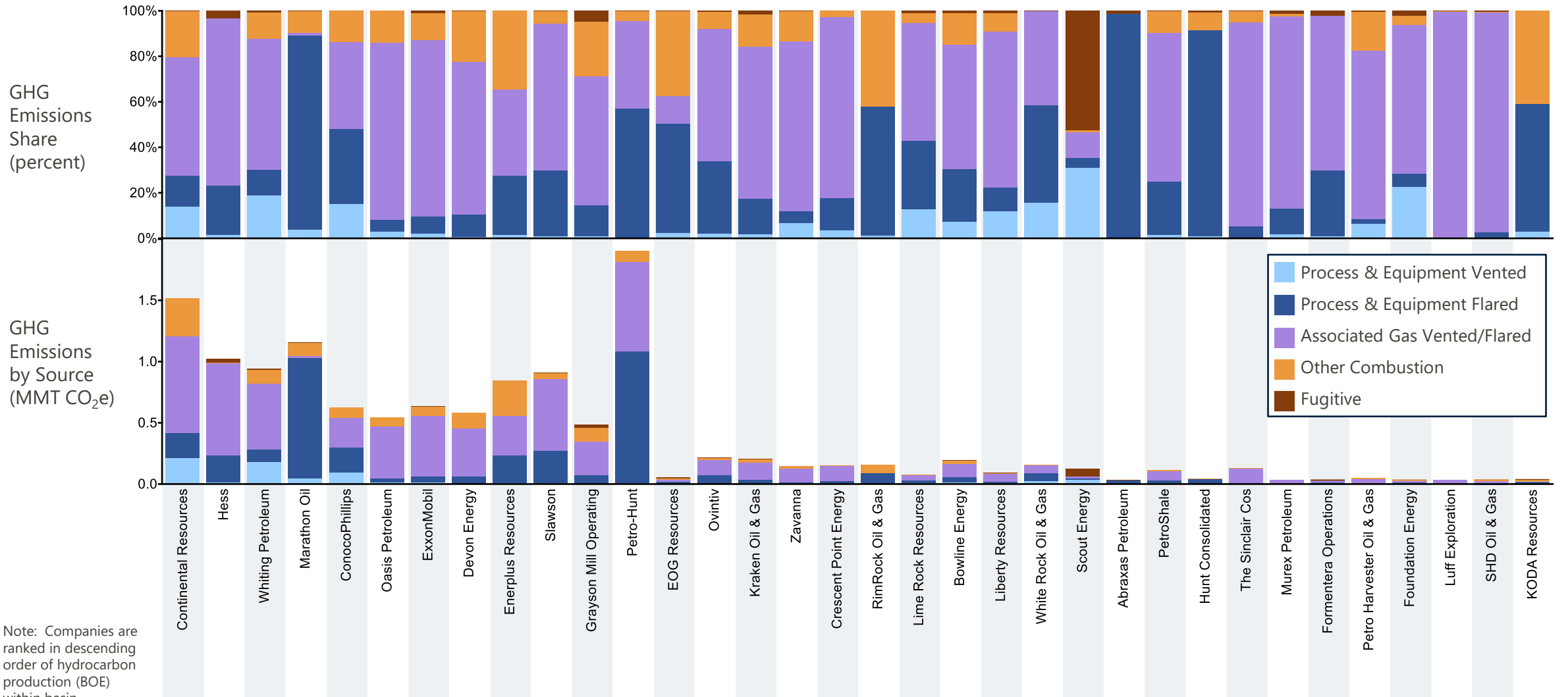
# Hydrocarbon Production & Emissions (100-year GWP)



Note: Companies are ranked in descending order of hydrocarbon production (BOE) within basin

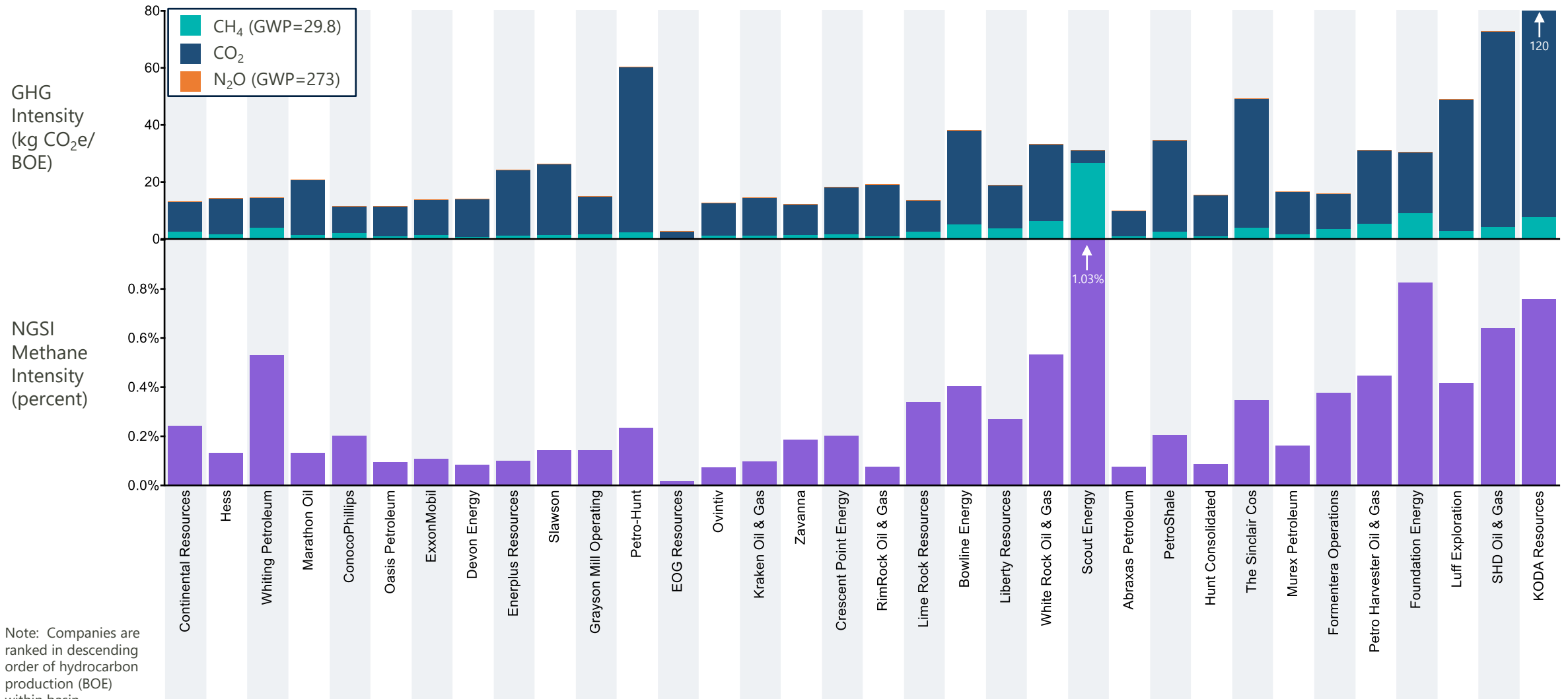


# GHG Emissions by Source (100-year GWP)



Note: Companies are ranked in descending order of hydrocarbon production (BOE) within basin

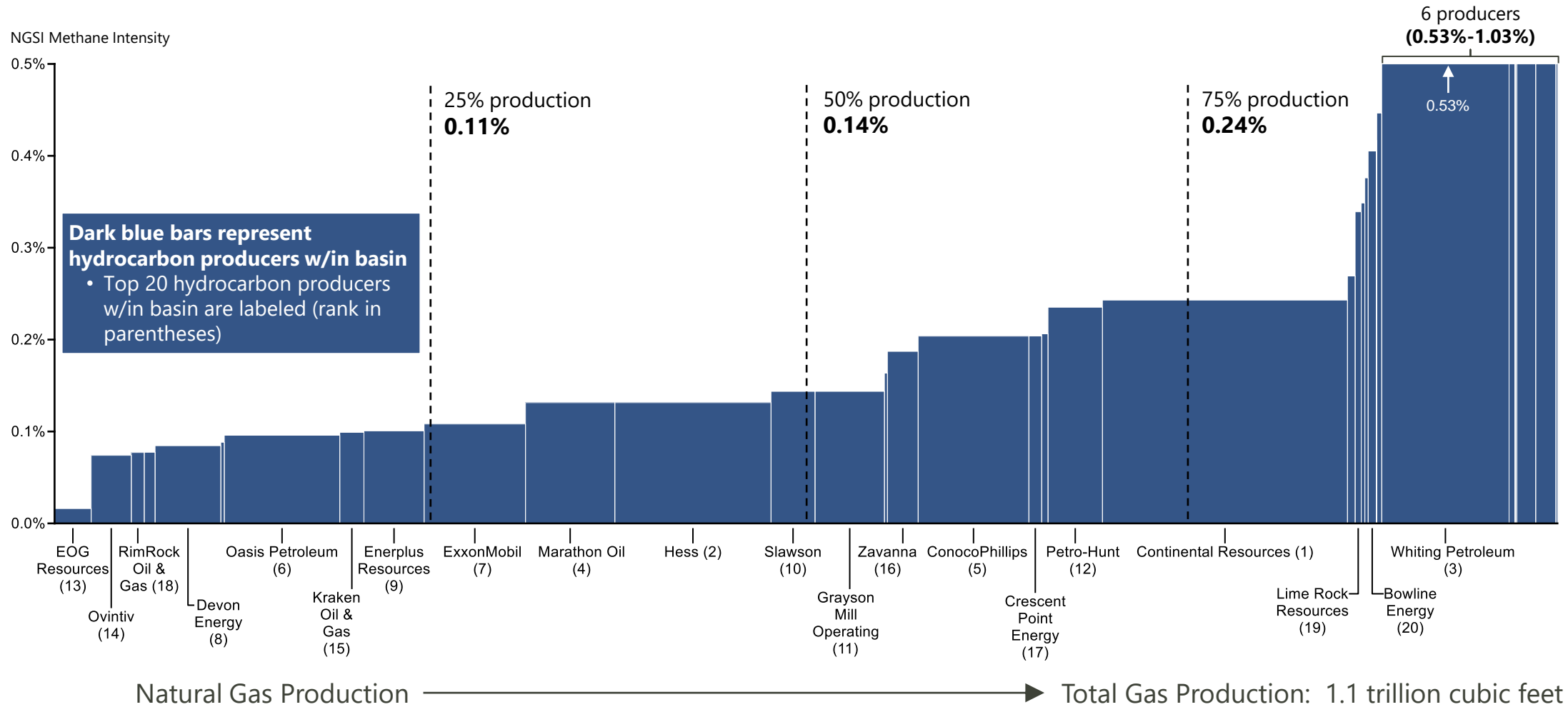
# Methane & GHG Intensity (100-year GWP)



Note: Companies are ranked in descending order of hydrocarbon production (BOE) within basin

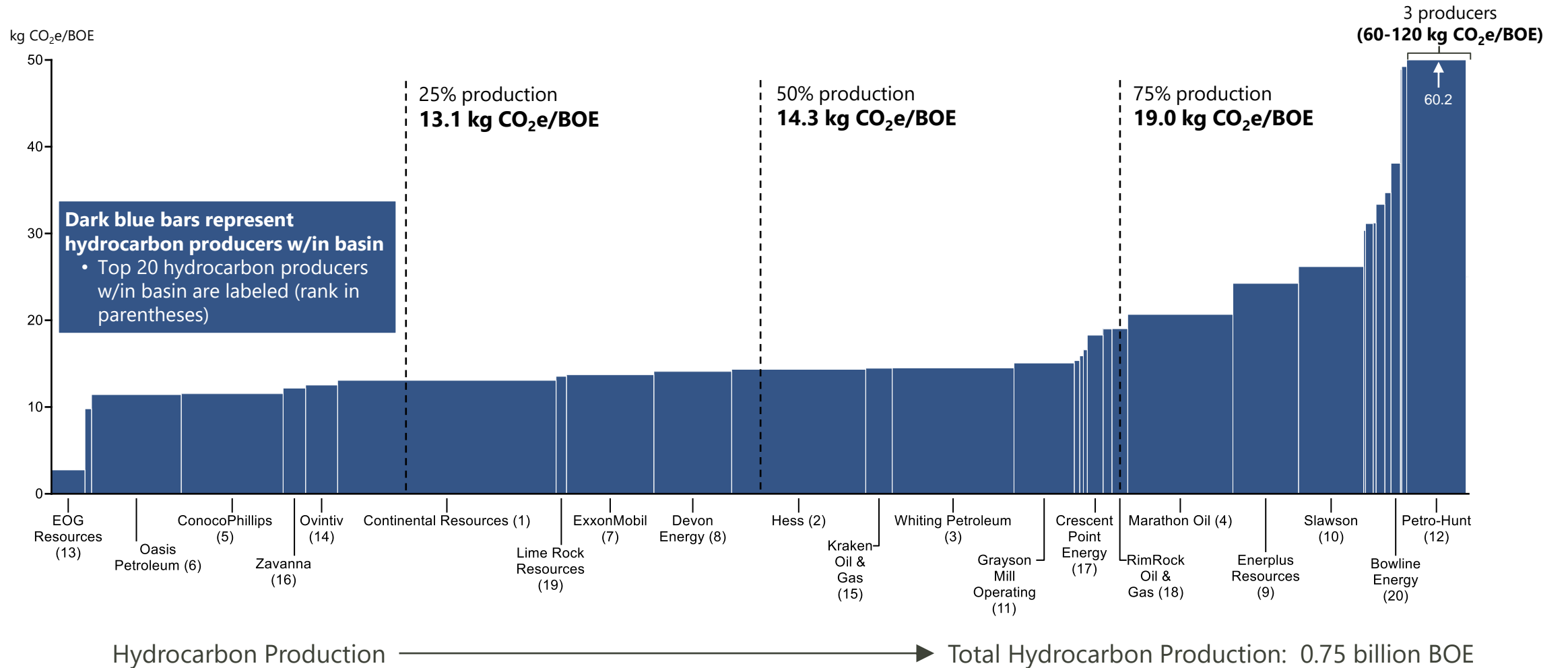
# Total GHGRP Natural Gas Production, by Methane Intensity

**Natural Gas Production Associated with NCSI Methane Intensity**



# Total GHGRP Hydrocarbon Production, by GHG Intensity

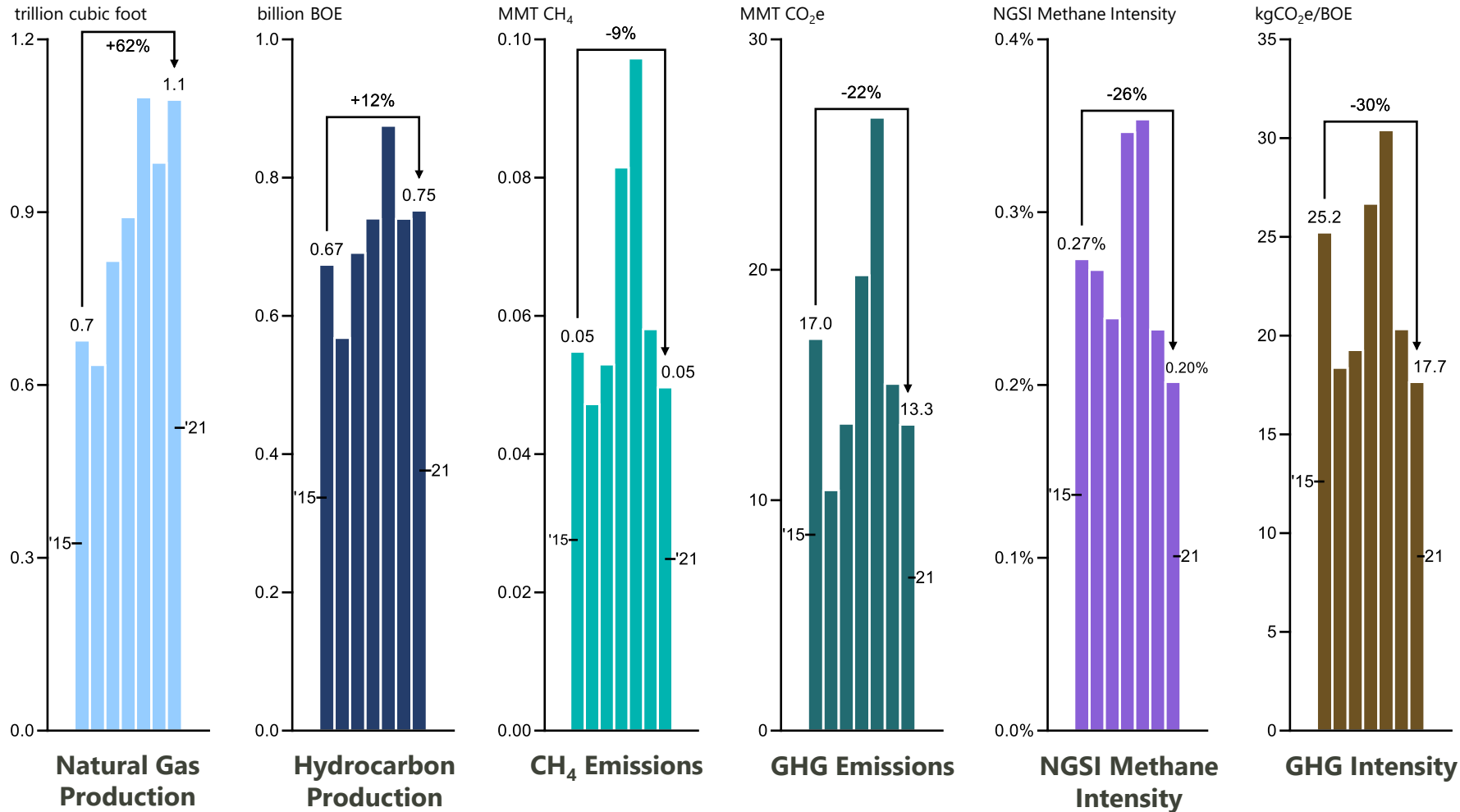
Hydrocarbon Production Associated with GHG Intensity



# 2015-2021 Trends Analysis: Production & Emission Metrics

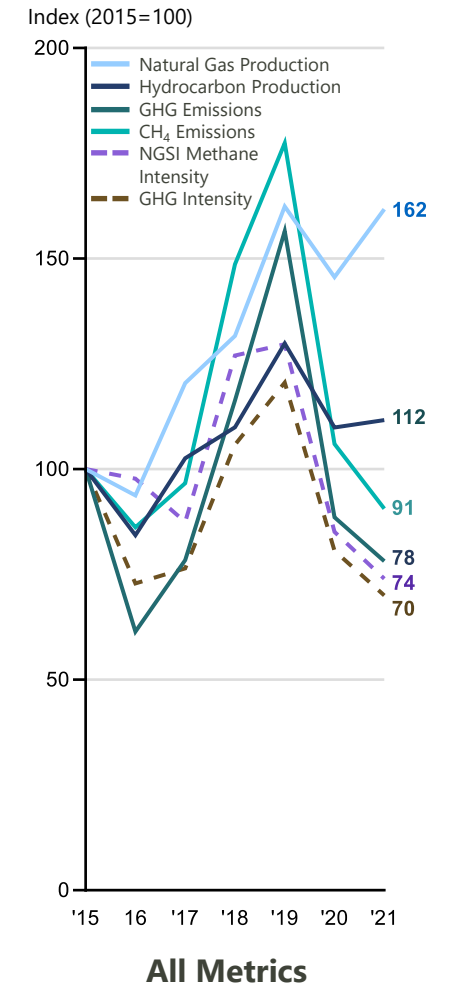
## GHGRP Data Trends, 2015-2021

Williston Basin



## Combined Data Metrics

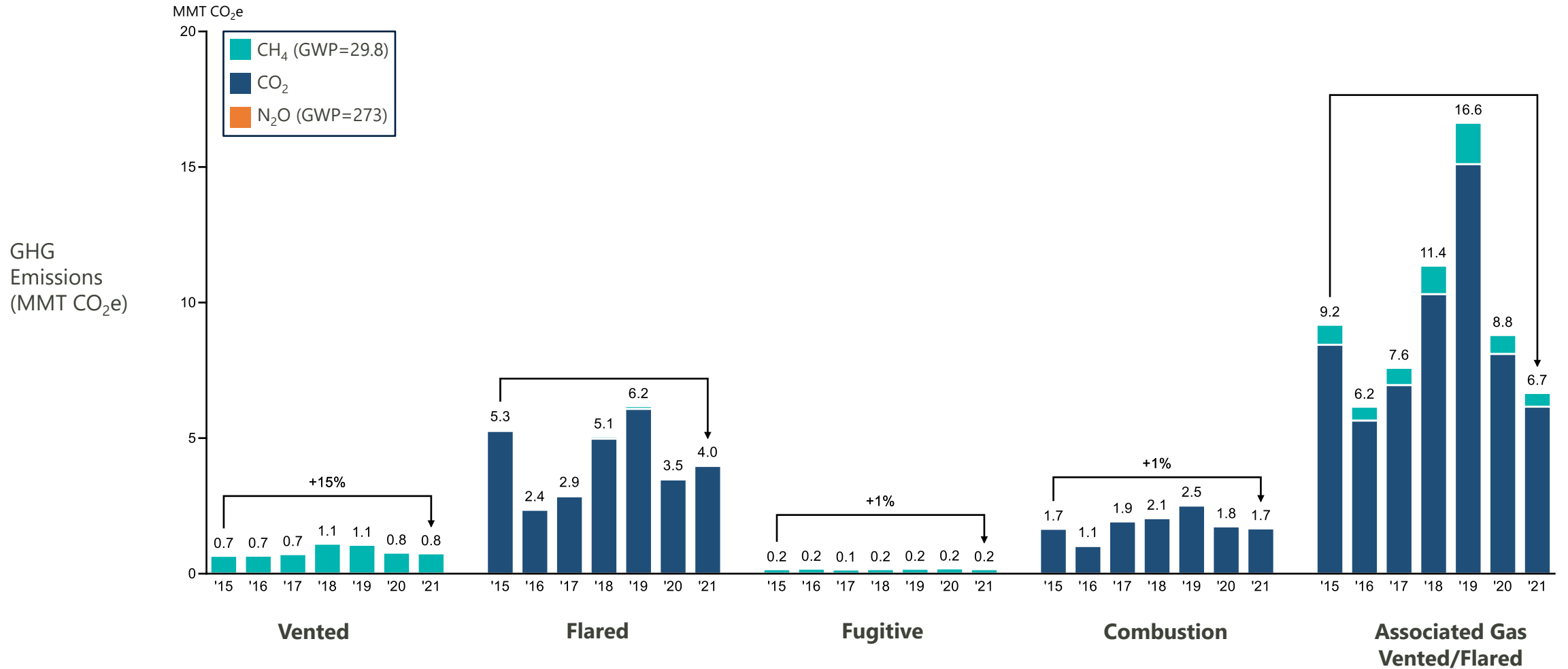
Indexed; 2015 = 100



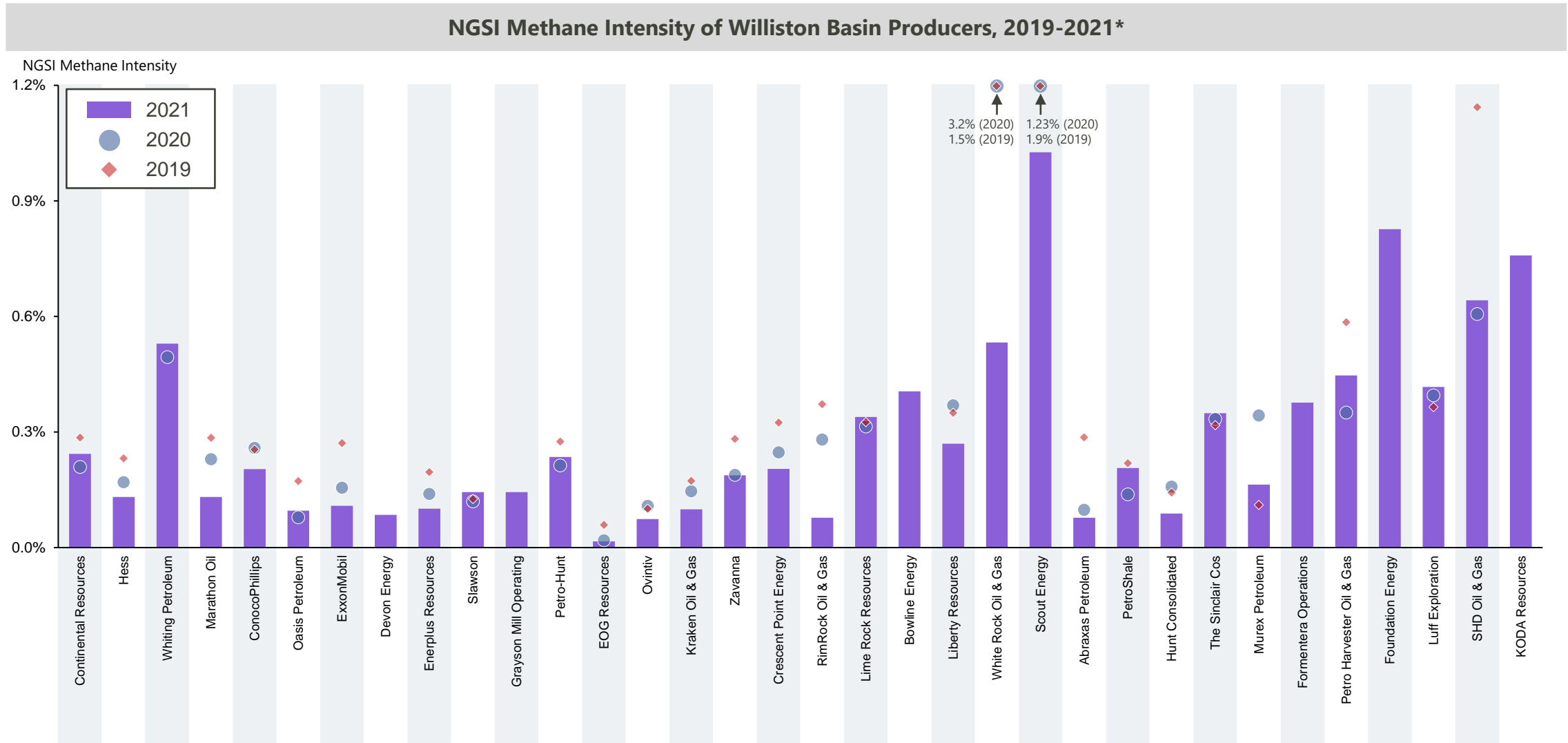
# 2015-2021 Trends Analysis: Emission Sources

## GHGRP Reported Emissions, by Source Category

Williston Basin; million MT CO<sub>2</sub>e

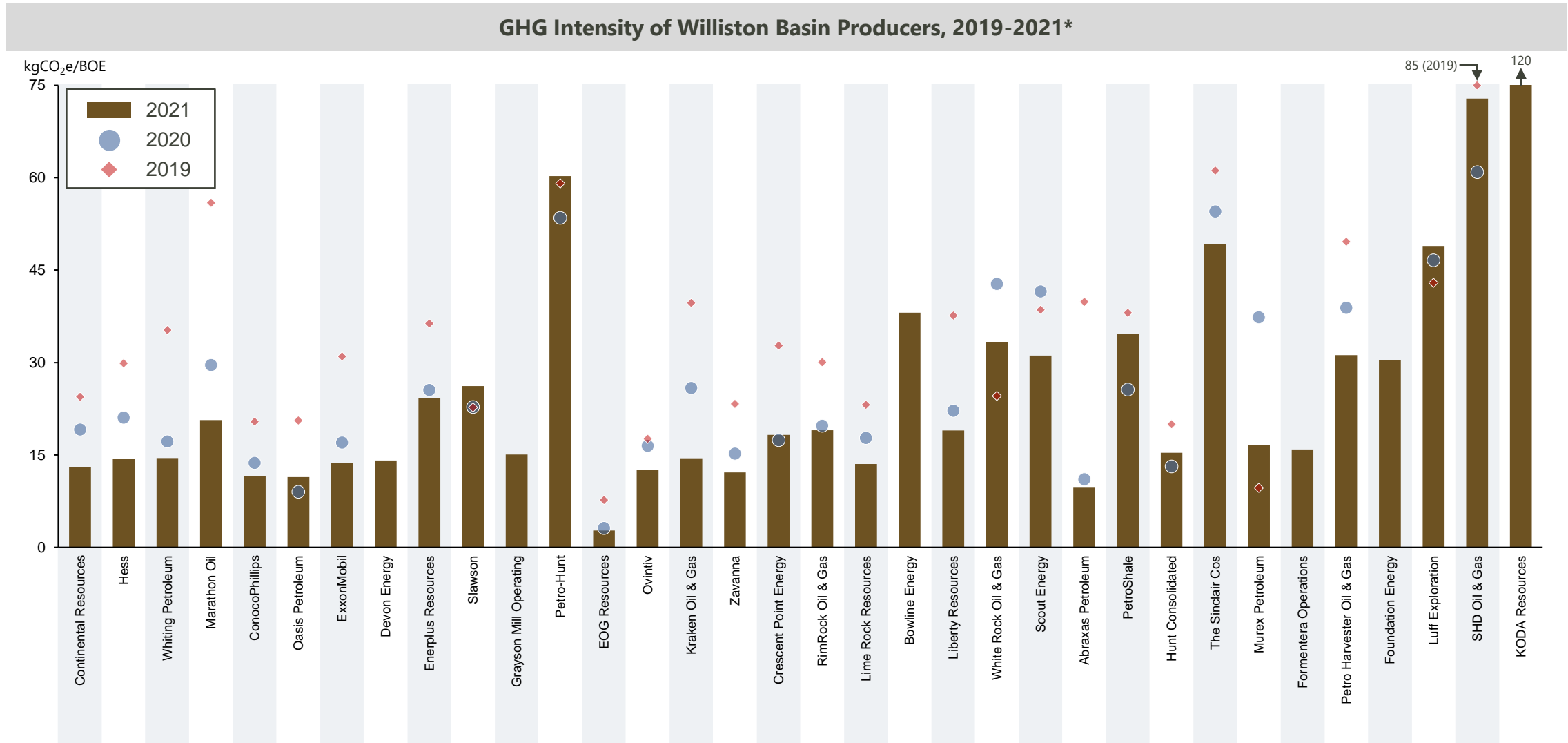


# 2019-2021 Trends Analysis: Change in Methane Intensity, by Top Producer



\*Note that some producers in 2021 were not in the EPA database for all three years and may not have data for 2019 and/or 2020.

# 2019-2021 Trends Analysis: Change in GHG Intensity, by Top Producer



\*Note that some producers in 2021 were not in the EPA database for all three years and may not have data for 2019 and/or 2020.



# Data Sources & Methodology

This section describes the data sources and methodology used in this study. The methodology was developed by ERM with support from Ceres and CATF as part of a scoping study funded by the Bank of America Foundation in 2019. The scoping study included the development of a framework and methodology for using publicly available data, including GHG emissions data reported to and published by the U.S. EPA, to benchmark the production-segment methane and GHG emissions intensity of U.S. oil and natural gas producers. This 2023 report uses the same methodology as the 2022 report.

As part of the scoping study, ERM engaged with and sought feedback from a Producer Review Panel composed of leading oil and gas companies with operations in the U.S. In addition to verifying the approaches and metrics used in the analysis, the Producer Review Panel provided valuable context on the data reported to EPA and recommendations on approaches for presenting the data in clear and meaningful ways. Final decisions on the methodology and the presentation of data were made by ERM.



# Data Sources Used in this Analysis

## U.S. EPA Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP)

EPA's GHGRP is the primary data source for this analysis. The GHGRP requires facilities with GHG emissions greater than 25,000 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e per year to report these emissions and other data to EPA annually (note that EPA uses a GWP of 25 for methane in its threshold calculation). Subpart W of the GHGRP covers most segments of the oil and natural gas supply chains and requires reporting of methane, carbon dioxide, and nitrous oxide. Most emissions are calculated under Subpart W by multiplying company activity data by default emission factors that are applied to all companies; some emissions are based on direct measurements or company-specific emission factors derived from direct measurements.

This report includes emissions reported to EPA under Subpart W from facilities in the oil and gas production segment. Oil and gas production facilities are defined by EPA at the basin level for the purposes of GHGRP. All equipment on or associated with well pads within a production basin that are under common control by a company are considered a single facility. Under this framework, a given company has one production facility per basin, even if it operates hundreds of wells within that basin.

This report does not include emissions from sources in the gathering & boosting segment. Production and gathering & boosting infrastructure may be collocated, and different companies may classify equipment differently in their Subpart W reporting; equipment that one company reports in the production segment another company may report in the gathering & boosting segment.

Subpart W data reported by EPA's [Envirofacts](#) database accounts for all of the production data analyzed in this report, 99.4 percent of the methane data, more than 99.998 percent of the CO<sub>2</sub> data, and all of the N<sub>2</sub>O data. The remainder is based on sources not included in the GHGRP but estimated based on the GHG Inventory, as described on page 75. This report uses the following 2021 Subpart W Envirofacts files:

- "EF\_W\_EMISSIONS\_SOURCE\_GHG"
- "EF\_W\_FACILITY\_OVERVIEW"
- "EF\_W\_EQUIP\_LEAKS\_ONSHORE"
- "EF\_W\_ACIDGASREMOVAL\_UNITS"
- "EF\_W\_CENTRIF\_COMP\_ONSHORE"
- "EF\_W\_RECIP\_COMP\_ONSHORE"

# Data Sources Used in this Analysis (continued)

## U.S. EPA Greenhouse Gas Inventory

EPA's GHG Inventory is an annual report that estimates total GHG emissions from the U.S. economy. The GHG Inventory is not a reporting program and does not estimate emissions from individual companies. Instead, it estimates emissions from major industries, including the oil and natural gas sectors. EPA calculates GHG Inventory estimates using national activity data and default emission factors.

The GHG Inventory estimates emissions from a number of sources that are not included in Subpart W reporting. This analysis calculates company emissions from these sources and adds them to emissions reported under Subpart W using activity data from Subpart W and emission factors from the GHG Inventory. Not all of the GHG Inventory emissions sources that are additional to Subpart W can be included due to lack of corresponding activity data in Subpart W (e.g., the GHG Inventory has a produced water emission factor, but Subpart W does not require reporting of the applicable activity factor).

For some of these sources, the GHG Inventory lists different emission factors for natural gas and oil wells. Subpart W does not distinguish between natural gas and oil wells. This report uses the natural gas emission factor for these sources. The GHG Inventory emission factors are used in conjunction with activity data reported under Subpart W to calculate approximately 0.6 percent of the methane emissions and 0.002 percent of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions analyzed in this report. The GHG Inventory data used in this report are available in the natural gas and petroleum systems methodology annex files:

[https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-02/2022\\_ghgi\\_petroleum\\_systems\\_annex35\\_tables.xlsx](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-02/2022_ghgi_petroleum_systems_annex35_tables.xlsx)  
[https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-02/2022\\_ghgi\\_natural\\_gas\\_systems\\_annex36\\_tables.xlsx](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-02/2022_ghgi_natural_gas_systems_annex36_tables.xlsx)

## EIA Data

As described in the Methodology section below, EIA data on regional natural gas liquid (NGL) production is used to estimate the non-methane and non-CO<sub>2</sub> composition of reported natural gas production. The ratio of NGL production for each region reported to EIA is applied to the unknown component of gas composition for gas produced in corresponding regions. EIA Natural Gas Plant Field Production file is the source of these data:

[https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet\\_pnp\\_gp\\_dc\\_r10\\_mbbbl\\_m.htm](https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet_pnp_gp_dc_r10_mbbbl_m.htm)

Where available or provided, company-specific data were used to estimate the non-methane and non-CO<sub>2</sub> composition of reported natural gas production.

EIA natural gas and oil production data are used in this report to compare hydrocarbon production reported under Subpart W to total U.S. production:

[https://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/ng\\_prod\\_sum\\_a\\_EPG0\\_FGW\\_mmcfc\\_m.htm](https://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/ng_prod_sum_a_EPG0_FGW_mmcfc_m.htm)  
[https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet\\_crd\\_crpdn\\_adc\\_mbbbl\\_a.htm](https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet_crd_crpdn_adc_mbbbl_a.htm)

# Methodology

## Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program Data

This report assigns production and emissions data to individual companies based on the facility owner/operator listed in the GHGRP's "[Reported Parent Companies](#)" database. These data are reported at the basin level; the national level data in this report are calculated by summing basin level data across basins using parent companies listed in the GHGRP. For production facilities with multiple owners/operators, production and emissions are allocated based on each company's percent ownership of the facility.

GHGRP data are based on facility ownership or operating control, not ownership of hydrocarbons. A company's equity share of emissions and hydrocarbons may therefore be higher or lower than reported to EPA and calculated in this analysis. Although most companies report equity production and a growing number report equity GHG emissions, publicly available data do not allow for the application of a uniform equity-based methodology to all of the producers in the GHGRP data set.

## Production Segment Sources and GHGs Covered by Subpart W

Source	CH <sub>4</sub>	CO <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>2</sub> O
Acid Gas Removal Units		✓	
Associated Gas Venting/Flaring	✓	✓	✓
Atmospheric Storage Tanks	✓	✓	✓
Centrifugal Compressors	✓	✓	
Combustion Equipment	✓	✓	✓
Completions/Workovers w/ Hydraulic Fracturing	✓	✓	✓
Completions/Workovers w/o Hydraulic Fracturing	✓	✓	✓
Dehydrators	✓	✓	✓
EOR Hydrocarbon Liquids		✓	
EOR Injection Pumps		✓	
Equipment Leak Surveys/Population Counts	✓	✓	
Flare Stacks	✓	✓	✓
NG Pneumatic Devices	✓	✓	
NG-Driven Pneumatic Pumps	✓	✓	
Reciprocating Compressors	✓	✓	
Well Testing	✓	✓	✓
Well Venting (Liquids Unloading)	✓	✓	

# Methodology (continued)

## GHG Inventory Data

The table at right provides details on the assumptions for calculating emissions from sources using GHG Inventory emission factors, which were used for sources not reported to GHGRP. For compressor blowdowns, compressor starts, pressure release valve upsets, well drilling, and acid gas removal units, emissions are calculated by multiplying the GHG Inventory emission factor by the activity count reported under Subpart W. Only methane emissions are calculated for acid gas removal units as CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are captured in Subpart W.

The number of vessels is not reported under Subpart W. To calculate emissions from vessel blowdowns, the GHG Inventory assumption on the number of vessels located at each well is first applied. This number is multiplied by the reported well count to estimate the number of vessels and this product is then multiplied by the GHG Inventory emission factor to estimate emissions. Emissions from sources calculated using GHG Inventory emission factors are small and generally account for a small percentage of total emissions from a company or basin.

Emission factors for historic years may be updated in each annual GHG Inventory. This report uses the emission factors published in the most recent GHG Inventory (2022 release) each respective year.\*

\*Note that at the time of publication, the 2023 GHG Inventory was not released and 2021 factors were consequently not available; 2020 factors were applied in this report

Emissions Source	GHG Inventory CH <sub>4</sub> Emission Factor			GHG Inventory CO <sub>2</sub> Emission Factor			Activity Factor (unit)
	2018	2019	2020/2021	2018	2019	2020/2021	
Vessel Blowdowns (applies to separators, heater-treaters, dehydrators, and in-line heaters)	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.2	0.2	0.2	Well count from GHGRP; 0.87 vessels/well as per GHG Inventory (kg/vessel)
Compressor Blowdowns	76.8	76.7	76.6	8.5	8.5	8.6	Compressor count from GHGRP (kg/compressor)
Compressor Starts	171.7	171.6	171.4	19.0	19.1	19.2	Compressor count from GHGRP (kg/compressor)
Pressure Relief Valve Upsets	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	Valve count from GHGRP (kg/valve)
Well Drilling	51.3	51.2	51.2	6.7	6.7	6.7	Gas wells completed from GHGRP (kg/well)
Acid Gas Removal Units	598.3	598.3	598.3	Captured in GHGRP			AGRU count from GHGRP (kg/AGRU)

# Methodology (continued)

## EIA Natural Gas Liquids Data

Companies in the oil and gas sector produce oil and natural gas as well as NGLs. NGLs include ethane, propane, butane, isobutane, and natural gasoline. These hydrocarbons are separated from oil and natural gas after production during processing and refining. In the production stage, NGLs are entrained with oil and natural gas and can impact the energy content of the produced hydrocarbons, as they have an energy content that is higher than natural gas but lower than oil.

For the purposes of the calculations in this report, the energy content of the reported natural gas production is adjusted to include the energy content of produced NGLs. The natural gas production data reported under Subpart W includes information on the methane and CO<sub>2</sub> molar content of produced gas but does not include information on other components of the gas. Because the percentage of methane and CO<sub>2</sub> does not add up to 100 percent, a portion of the gas content is unknown. NGLs are commonly coproduced with natural gas and oil and in most cases represent some of the unknown gas composition. This analysis assumes the unknown portion of gas composition is made up of NGLs and allocates it to five individual NGLs based on EIA regional NGL production data. Each NGL is allocated a share of the unknown percentage based on its regional production share. This approach recognizes the energy content of non-oil and non-methane hydrocarbons; because methane emissions are allocated to the natural gas value chain using an energy-weighted gas ratio, the allocation of NGLs affects company methane emissions and methane intensity. This impact is minor for most companies and only significantly impacts companies that report low methane and CO<sub>2</sub> molar fractions.

The regional NGL percentages applied to the unknown gas component are shown in the table to the right. Company-specific data were used where available or provided. It is important to note that nitrogen is also a common component of natural gas and represents a portion of the unknown gas component. However, little public data is available on the nitrogen molar fraction of natural gas produced across the U.S. This analysis assumes that produced gas contains no nitrogen and fills the missing gas component entirely with NGLs. This conservative approach slightly increases the amount methane emissions allocated to the natural gas value chain and methane intensity for most companies.

Region	Area	Ethane	Propane	Butane	Isobutane	Natural Gasoline (pentane plus)
PADD 1	East Coast	0%	36%	64%	0%	0%
	Appalachian	39%	36%	11%	5%	10%
PADD 2	IN, IL, & KY	36%	41%	8%	9%	6%
	MN, WI, ND, & SD	27%	37%	16%	5%	15%
	OK, KS, & MO	45%	30%	10%	5%	10%
PADD 3	LA (Gulf)	41%	32%	11%	6%	9%
	N. LA & AR	20%	31%	13%	10%	25%
	NM	38%	32%	11%	7%	12%
	TX (Inland)	44%	30%	10%	6%	10%
PADD 4 (Rocky Mountain)		30%	35%	14%	6%	14%
PADD 5 (West Coast)		0%	13%	24%	14%	49%

# Methodology (continued)

## Global Warming Potentials

Global warming potential (GWP) is used to quantify the climate impact of individual GHGs relative to CO<sub>2</sub> to allow for the comparison of different gases over different timescales. After conversion using GWPs, emissions are expressed using a standard metric, carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e).

This report uses the 100-year GWPs for methane and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (AR6), which reflect the most recent scientific understanding of the climate impacts of individual GHGs. Both 100-year GWPs include the impact of climate-carbon feedbacks, and the methane GWP includes the impact of CO<sub>2</sub> from methane oxidation.

This report's online database allows users to select IPCC AR6 20- and 100-year GWPs for GHG emission calculations.

**Note that the updated IPCC GWPs in AR6 were released in August 2021. The 2021 version of this benchmarking report, published in June 2021, used GWPs from AR5. While all 2015-2021 data in this report and the accompanying online dashboard use the AR6 GWPs, the methane and CO<sub>2</sub>e data in this written report cannot be directly compared to data in the 2021 written report.**

GHG	Additional Mechanisms	20-year GWP	100-year GWP
Methane (CH <sub>4</sub> )	<b>With climate-carbon feedbacks and methane oxidation</b>	<b>82.5</b>	<b>29.8</b>
Nitrous oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O)	<b>With climate-carbon feedbacks</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>273</b>

Source: [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGI\\_Full\\_Report\\_smaller.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_Full_Report_smaller.pdf)

# Methodology (continued)

## Emissions Source Categories

Emissions sources in this report are grouped into five categories: process and equipment vented (“vented”), process and equipment flared (“flared”), associated gas vented and flared, fugitive, and other combustion. The table to the right shows the assignment of individual emission sources to source categories.

Emissions data on individual sources and their relative contribution to total emissions, by both individual GHG and total CO<sub>2</sub>e, are available at the national, basin, and company level on the Oil and Gas Benchmarking interactive data website.

Source	CH <sub>4</sub> & N <sub>2</sub> O Emissions Category	CO <sub>2</sub> Emissions Category
Acid Gas Removal Units	Vented	Vented
Associated Gas Venting/Flaring	Associated Gas Vented/Flared	Associated Gas Vented/Flared
Atmospheric Storage Tanks	Vented	Flared
Centrifugal Compressors	Vented	Flared
Combustion Equipment	Combustion	Combustion
Completions/Workovers w/ Hydraulic Fracturing	Vented	Flared
Completions/Workovers w/o Hydraulic Fracturing	Vented	Flared
Dehydrators	Vented	Flared
EOR Hydrocarbon Liquids	NA	Vented
EOR Injection Pumps	NA	Vented
Equipment Leak Surveys/Population Counts	Fugitive	Fugitive
Flare Stacks	Flared	Flared
NG Pneumatic Devices	Vented	Vented
NG-Driven Pneumatic Pumps	Vented	Vented
Reciprocating Compressors	Vented	Flared
Well Testing	Vented	Flared
Well Venting (Liquids Unloading)	Vented	Vented
Vessel Blowdowns	Vented	Flared
Compressor Blowdowns	Vented	Vented
Compressor Starts	Vented	Vented
PRV Upsets	Vented	Vented
Well Drilling	Vented	Flared



# Methodology (continued)

## Company Data Revisions

During the development of this report, ERM contacted companies in the GHGRP data set and asked them to confirm their facility-specific data. ERM received responses from several companies stating that the publicly-available EPA database set does not currently reflect their 2021 data. There are two reasons for these discrepancies: 1) The company has resubmitted or plans to resubmit updated data to EPA, or 2) the listed facility parent company does not match actual 2021 facility ownership. Updated data provided to ERM by companies have been included in this report under the condition of company commitments to resubmit the revised data to EPA, if it has not already been resubmitted.

Companies that are known to have resubmitted data to EPA are flagged throughout this report. EPA accepts data resubmissions for historic years at any time, but these changes are not incorporated into the public database until the annual release of new data each October. The revised data included in this report should therefore align with the EPA database when 2021 reporting year data are released in October 2023. Note that EPA may reject or flag resubmitted data. If any of the resubmitted data used in this report is rejected by EPA, report data for those companies or facilities will remain unaligned with the EPA dataset after October 2023.

Changes to facility ownership were made after confirmation of asset transactions. All facility ownership changes were noted by companies whose divested assets were still allocated to them in the current EPA database. Reporting of ownership changes is the responsibility of the new asset owner and it is not clear if all new owners will resubmit data to reflect actual ownership. If they do not, the data in this report will continue to be different from the EPA data set for certain companies after October 2023.

Oil and gas producers that would like to review their company-specific data prior to the release of future versions of this report are asked to contact the report authors.

# Permian Top-Down Studies

Lu Shen et al. "Satellite quantification of oil and natural gas methane emissions in the US and Canada including contributions from individual basins." *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, September 2022. <https://acp.copernicus.org/articles/22/11203/2022/acp-22-11203-2022.pdf>.

Yuanlei Chen et al. "Quantifying regional methane emissions in the New Mexico Permian basin with a comprehensive aerial survey." *Environmental Science & Technology*, March 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.1c06458>.

David Lyon et al. "Concurrent variation in oil and gas methane emissions and oil price during the COVID-19 pandemic." *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, May 2021. <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-21-6605-2021>.

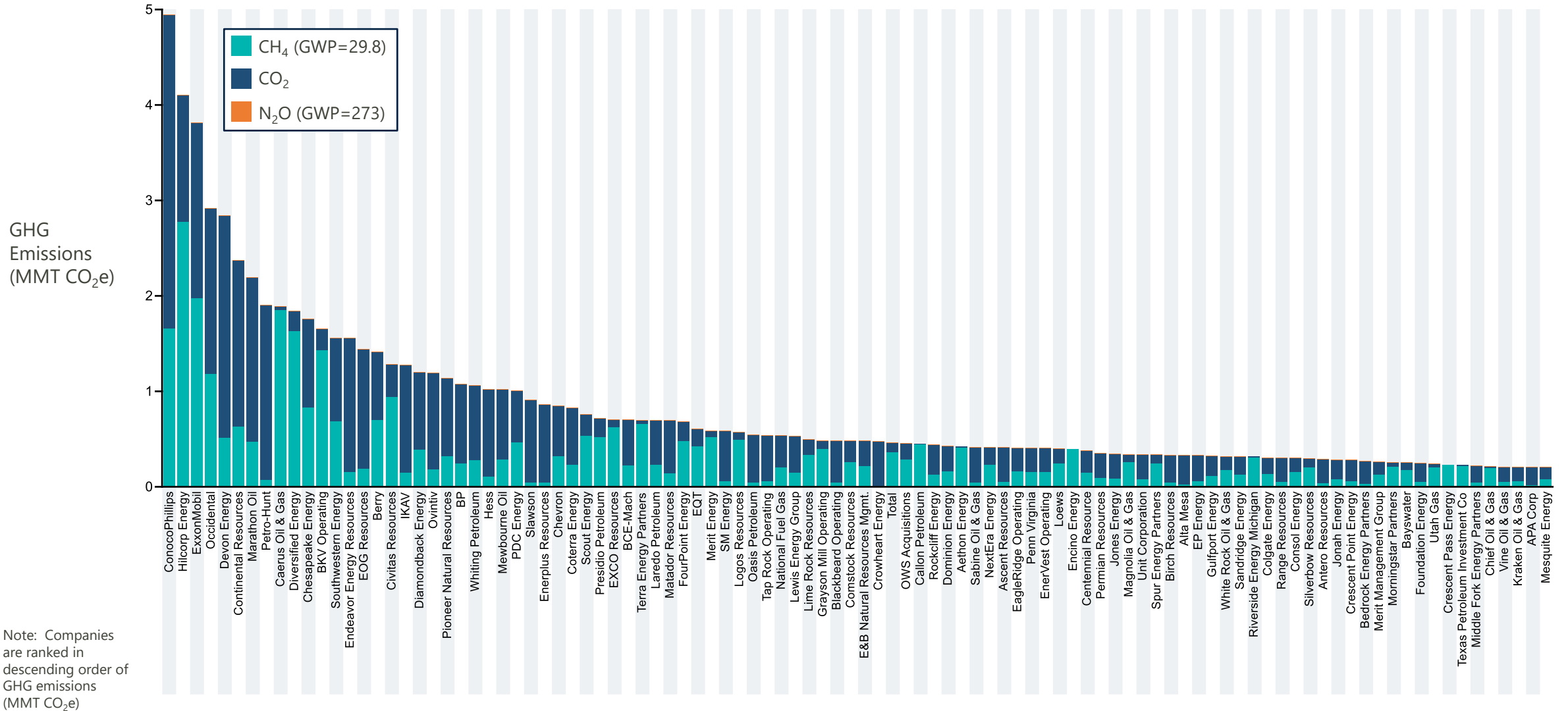
Oliver Schneising et al. "Remote sensing of methane leakage from natural gas and petroleum systems revisited." *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, August 2020. <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-20-9169-2020>.

Yuzhong Zhang et al. "Quantifying methane emissions from the largest oil-producing basin in the United States from space." *Science Advances*, April 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.aaz5120>.

# Appendix



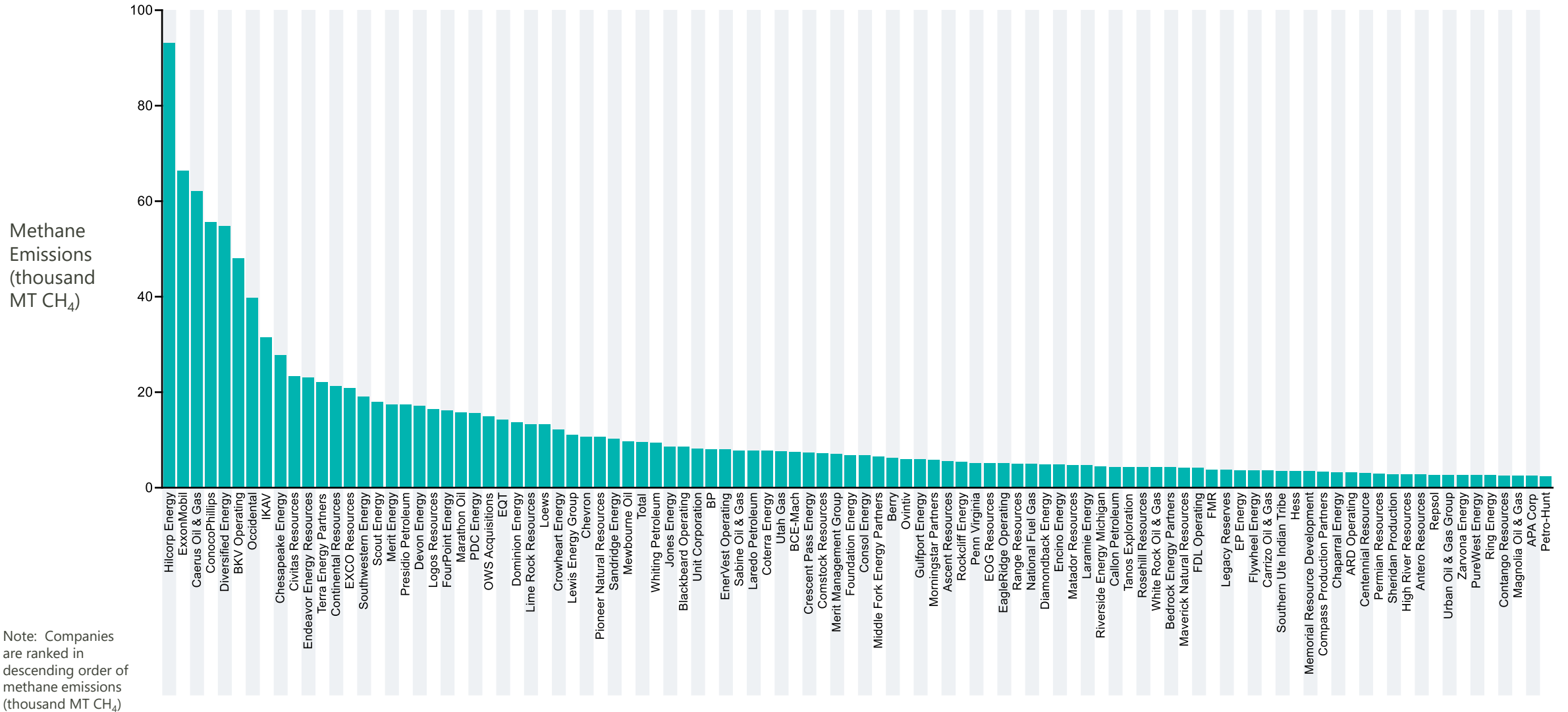
# GHG Emissions (100-year GWP)



# Top 100 Methane Emitters

## Methane Emissions

2021 Data

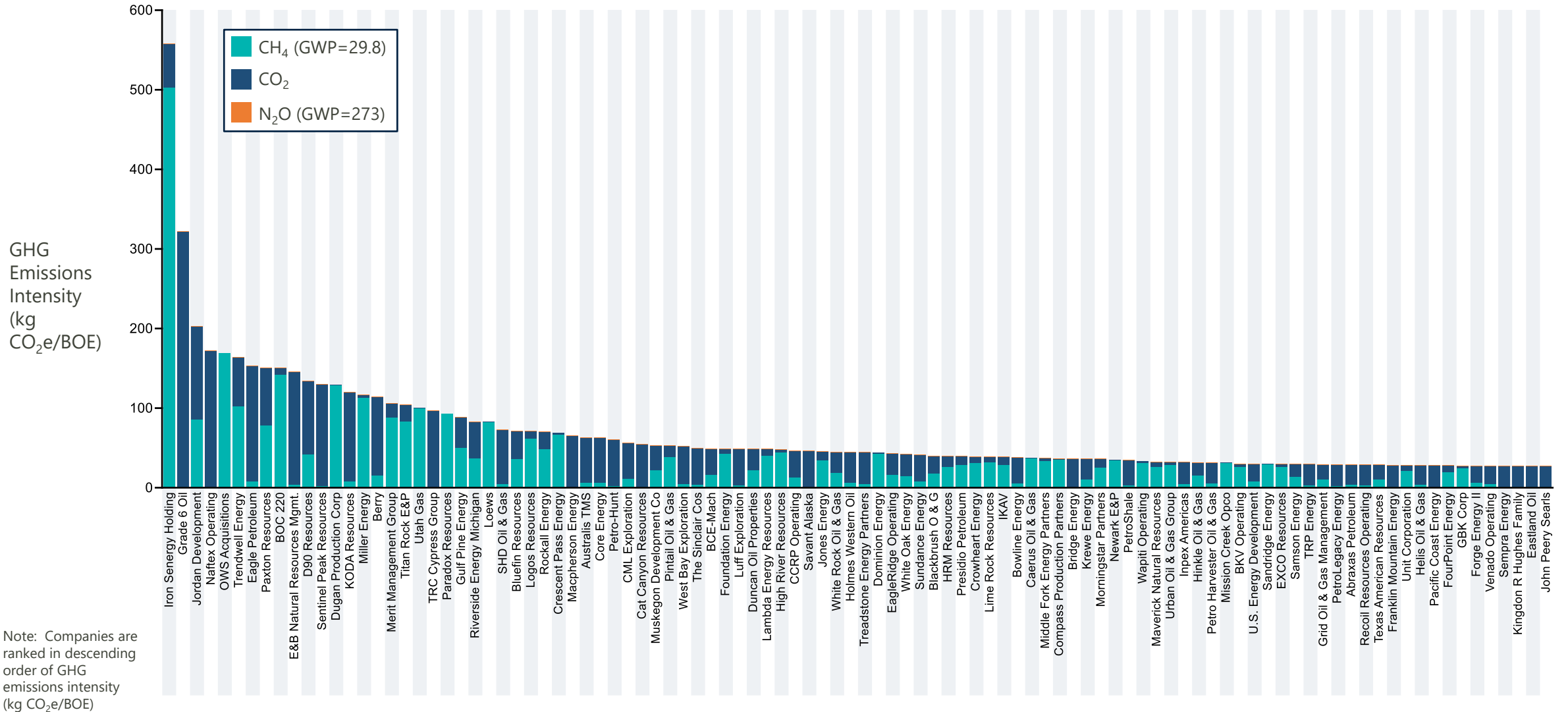


Note: Companies are ranked in descending order of methane emissions (thousand MT CH<sub>4</sub>)

# Top 100 Highest GHG Emissions Intensities

## GHG Emissions Intensity

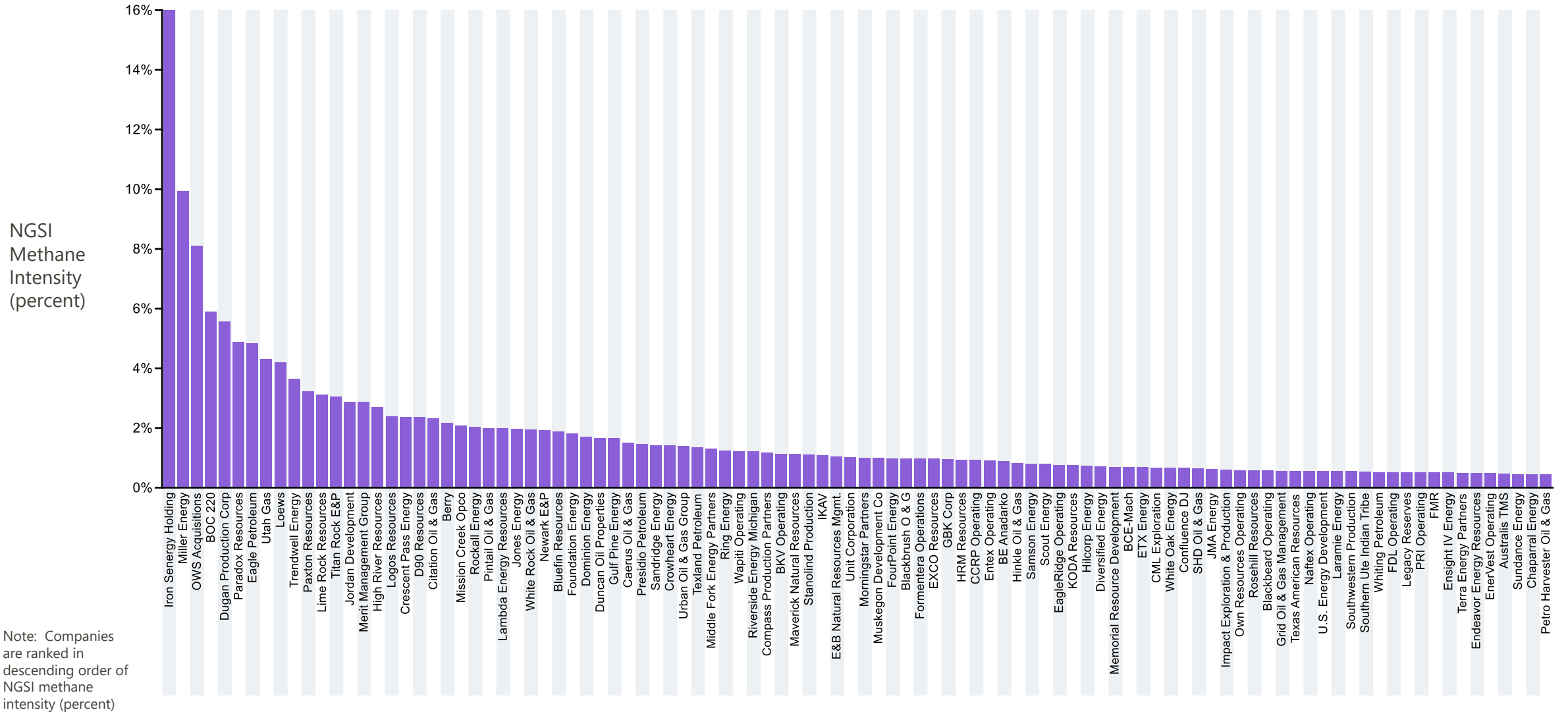
2021 Data



# Top 100 Highest NGSI Methane Intensities

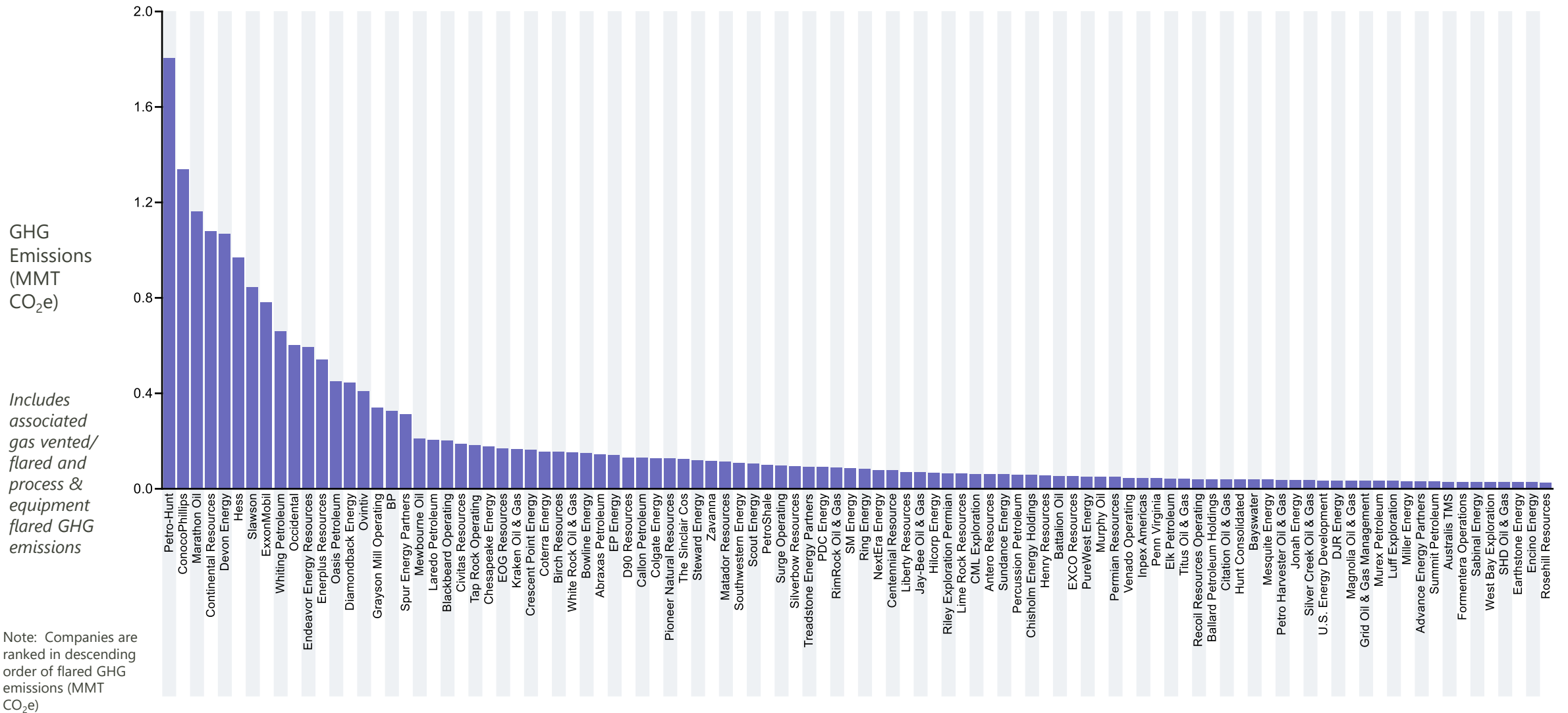
## Methane Intensity

2021 Data



Note: Companies are ranked in descending order of NGSI methane intensity (percent)

# Associated Gas Venting/Flaring and Other Flaring GHG Emissions (100-year GWP)



Note: Companies are ranked in descending order of flared GHG emissions (MMT CO<sub>2</sub>e)

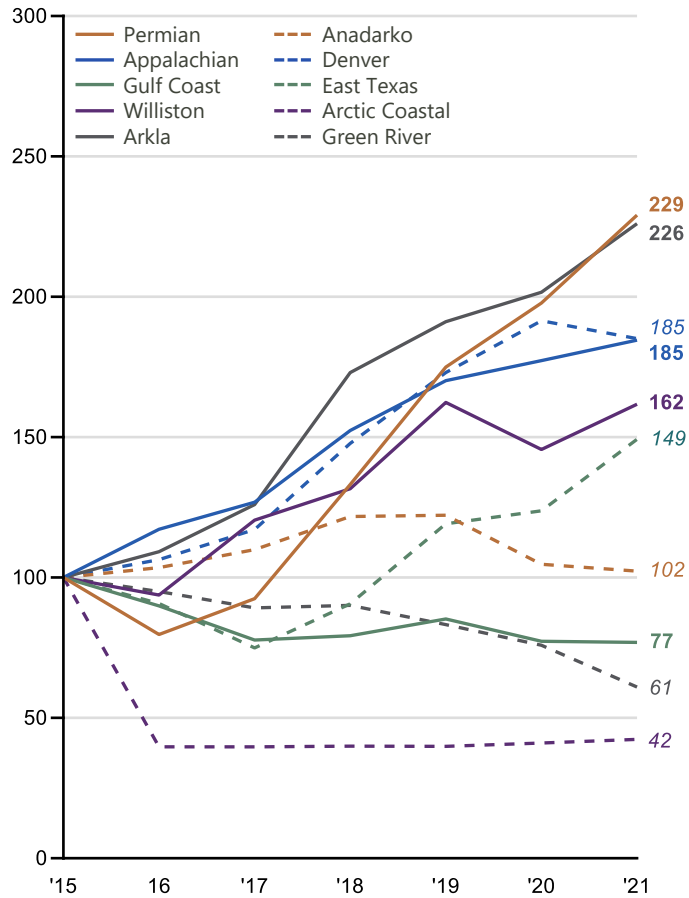


# 2015-2021 Trends Analysis: Production & Emission Metrics of Top 10 Production Basins

## GHGRP Data Trends, 2015-2021

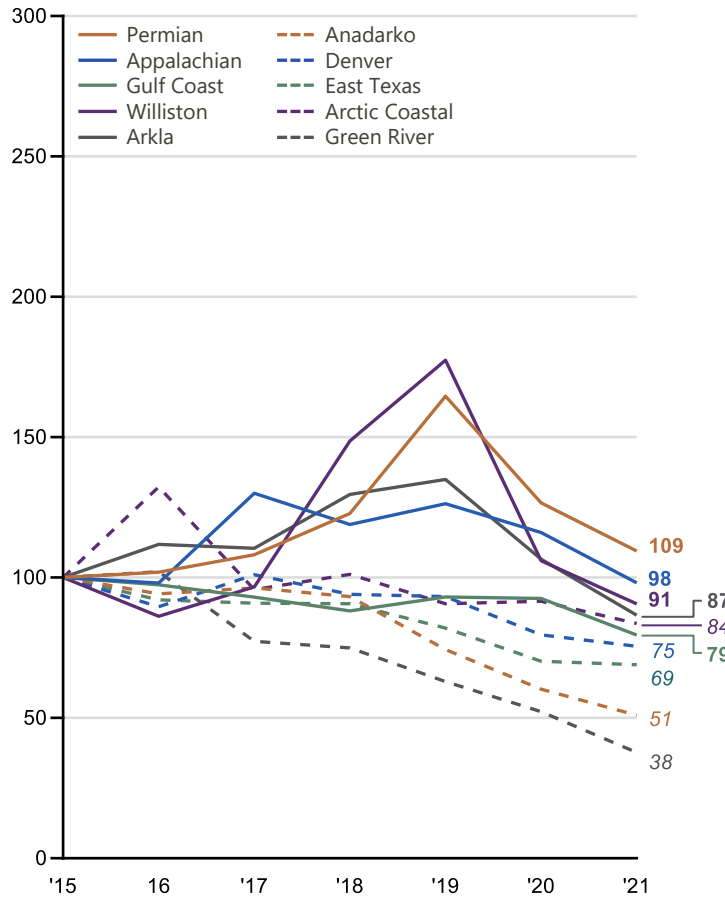
Indexed; 2015 = 100

Index (2015=100)



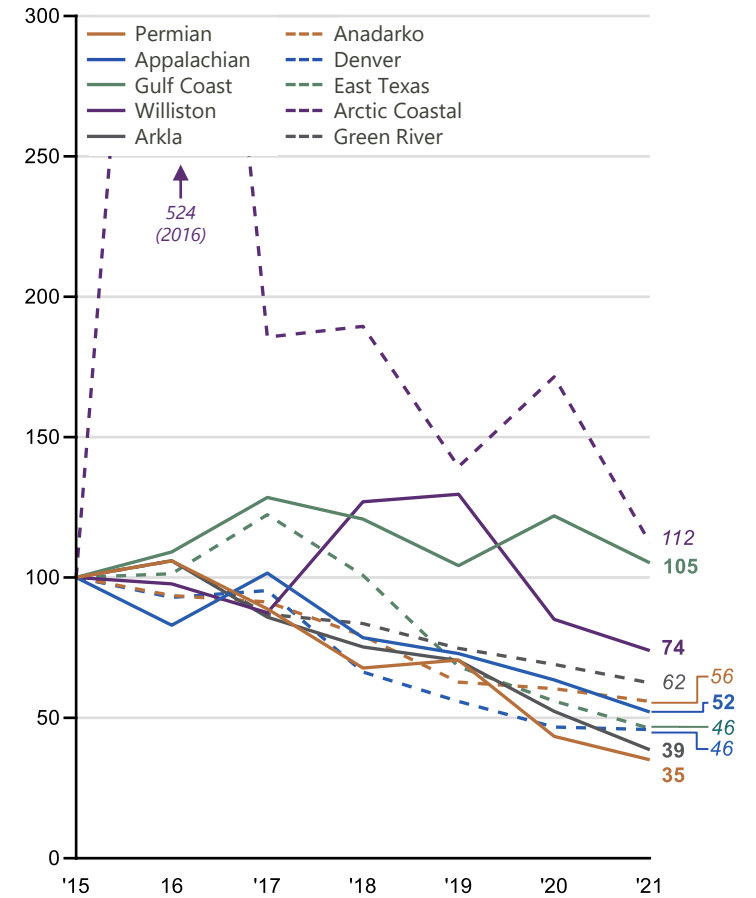
Natural Gas Production

Index (2015=100)



CH<sub>4</sub> Emissions

Index (2015=100)



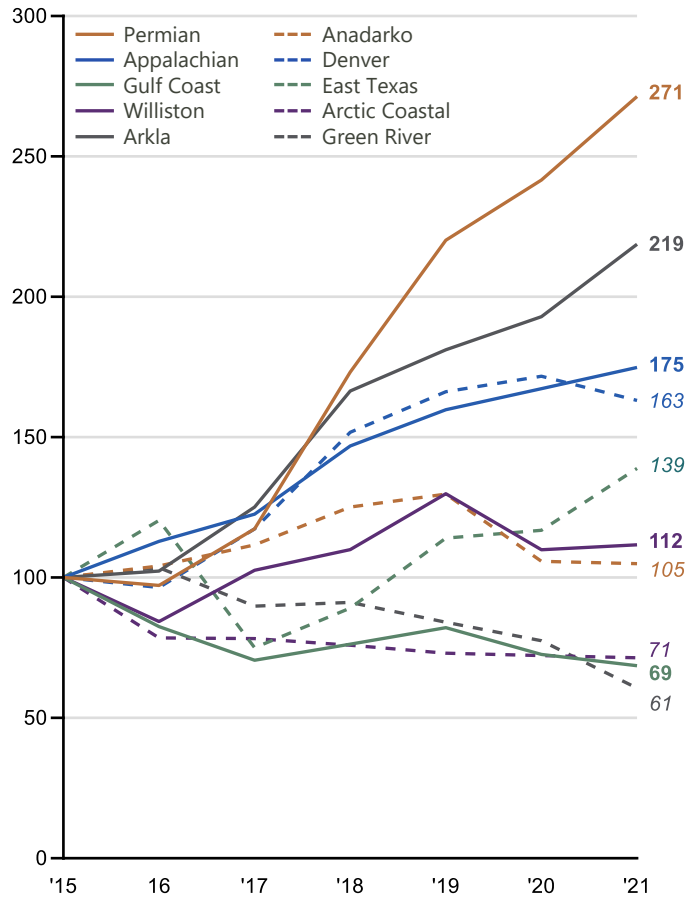
NGLSI Methane Intensity

# 2015-2021 Trends Analysis: Production & Emission Metrics of Top 10 Production Basins

## GHGRP Data Trends, 2015-2021

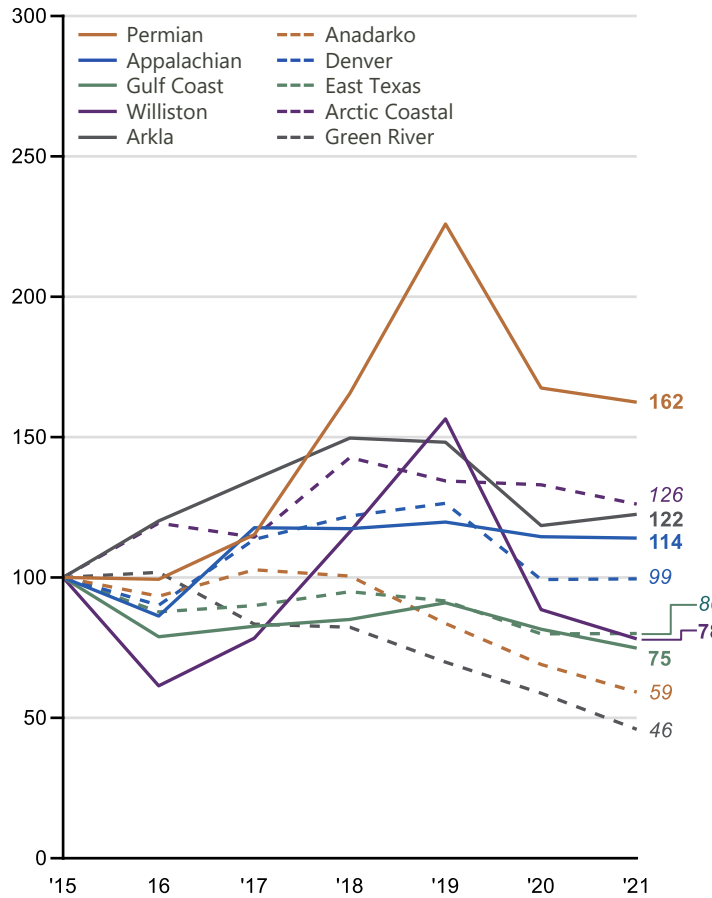
Indexed; 2015 = 100

Index (2015=100)



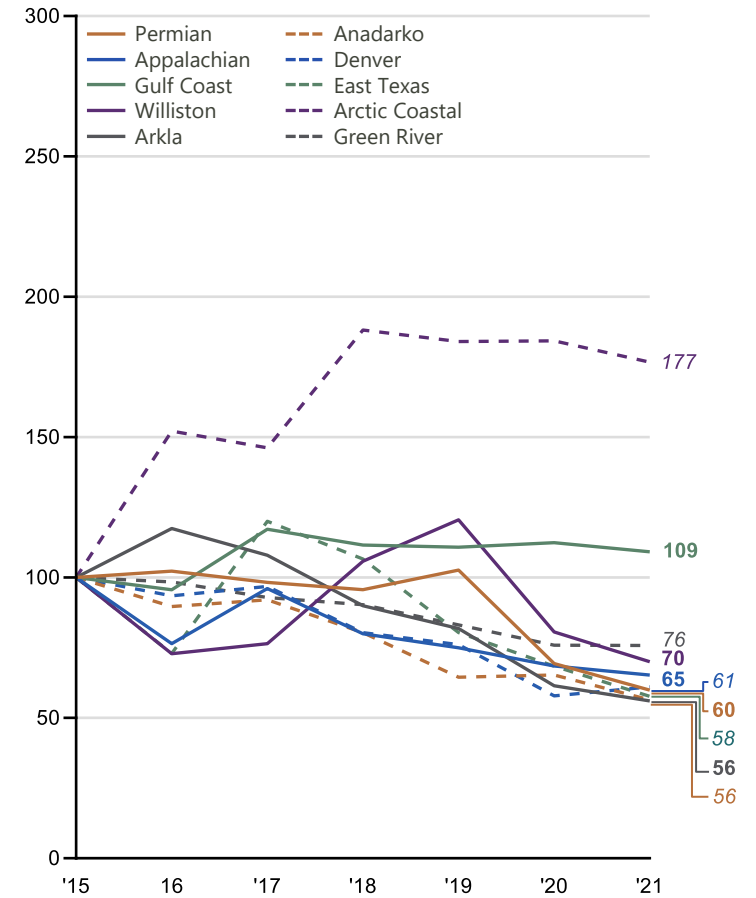
Hydrocarbon Production

Index (2015=100)



GHG Emissions

Index (2015=100)



GHG Intensity