

METHANE.

IS IT REALLY A COWCERN?

METHANE IS NOTED AS THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT GREENHOUSE GAS AFTER CARBON DIOXIDE. **WHY?**

Methane oxidizes fairly rapidly in 8-12 years, changing ultimately into (negligible amounts of) harmless CO₂ and water. Carbon dioxide is currently given an estimated mean lifetime of over 100 years.

But a 0.1 ppmv increase in methane levels in the atmosphere has about the same warming effect as a 4.5 ppmv increase in CO₂ levels.

Meaning, the only reason CH₄ levels are as high as they are (about 1.86 ppmv) is because CH₄ emissions are still are very high.

The largest sources of human produced methane are **agriculture, coal, oil, gas and waste.**

And the cows? The beef and dairy cattle industry is one of the main contributors to global greenhouse gases. Methane makes up about half of the total greenhouse gases this sector emits. Cows generate methane in two main ways: through their digestion and through their waste.

Reference: Sea Level Info (2021)