

Contemplating our energy future

2023 has now officially been recorded in history as the hottest year that humans have ever measured. In fact, the Copernicus Climate Change Service reported that the average global temperature of the 12-month period ending in January 2024 exceeded 1.5°C above the pre-industrial level. While this may not necessarily be a permanent step over that inflective threshold we set in Paris, it is a worrying indication that we may not be doing enough, quickly enough.

Hearteningly, the world made a historic resolution at COP28 in December 2023 to start “transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner”. Of course, for practical and economic reasons, that transition cannot feasibly happen overnight. However, we need to compensate for the unavoidable interim emissions from fossil fuel use with even more aggressive investment in low-carbon energy and energy efficiency.

According to the International Energy Agency, when you do the climate math, a credible pathway to limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees involves tripling our capacity additions of renewables from 2022 levels by 2030. We need to implement projects to capture around 1.2 gigatonnes of CO₂ by 2030 – this is four times our current target. By the end of this decade – just six years from now – we must make deforestation a net-zero activity, and the methane emissions we generate from our industries need



to fall by 30% to 60%. Last year at COP28, it was determined that we also need to double the annual rate of energy efficiency improvements from 2% to 4% every year until 2030. These numbers may be daunting, but positively, the right conversations are happening among public and private sector stakeholders, and climate action has been promoted on government agendas. However, public education around the gaps that exist and what needs to be done to bridge them must be stepped up, to increase the engagement of citizens and civil society. We need all eyes on the problem.

For this reason, The NGC Group continues to spotlight climate action and sustainability matters through our GASCO News publication. In this issue, we explore some of the topics broached at COP28. To meet our 2030 targets, we will need to accelerate the integration of cleaner fuels and power sources. Biofuels are among the alternative energy options

being considered, particularly for the transportation sector. What are the prospects for this type of fuel and how sustainable is its production? Energy efficiency was signaled as another key area for attention. Improvements in this area will be driven not just by behavioural changes, but innovation and technology. What are some of the advancements in this area, of which individuals should be aware?

With regard to methane mitigation – which needs to be ramped up – what are companies such as NGC doing to support the cause? We highlight our internally developed Operational Excellence App that is helping us keep a closer eye on our network. Then of course, even as we work to bring our bring emissions down through more mindful and sustainable energy production and consumption, the impacts of climate change that are already being experienced must be factored into our energy planning and development. How might climate change affect our energy systems and how do we respond?

Through these and other topics, we hope to build awareness around some important issues, and ultimately drive greater involvement in the mission to create a more sustainable world for all.

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