

Gas market needs creativity for GHG goals: Panel

The North American natural gas market will need creative methods to achieve corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals, according to a panel of speakers at the Midcontinent LDC Gas Forum in Chicago, Illinois.

The panelist today agreed that GHG reduction targets set by individual gas market participants were achievable but would require creative methods that may yet to be discovered.

Policy makers need to let the market achieve reduction targets in a diversified way, said Dave Janisse, gas supply acquisition manager for Canadian midstream operator Enbridge.

Janisse said gas is critical to electricity generation, and Enbridge has added transparency to the market by incorporating certified natural gas into its portfolio. Enbridge has pledged to achieve net zero GHG emissions by 2050, with an interim target to reduce emissions intensity by 35pc by 2030.

Fellow panelist Catherine Payne, natural gas manager for fertilizer producer CF Industries, said she is encouraged by the creativity of the industry, because decarbonization did not seem possible a decade ago and yet is now on the table. Natural gas is a feedstock for nitrogen fertilizers such as ammonia, urea and ammonium nitrate, and CF is starting to investigate how certified natural gas might fit into efforts to decarbonize its supply chain, Payne said.

"We haven't made any purchases yet, but I wouldn't be surprised if that becomes a part of our strategy moving towards our 2030 deadline," Payne said.

CF Industries has pledged to reduce its carbon emissions intensity by 25pc by 2030 and to be net zero by 2050.

Michelle Carbone, gas supply manager for Nicor Gas, said the Illinois energy utility has made "hard strides" to cut emissions despite unexpected obstacles. "Supply chain issues may delay the targets, but I think its all achievable," Carbone said.

Nicor Gas' parent company Southern Company has pledged to be net zero by 2050.