



EARTHWORKS

Dedicated to protecting communities and the environment from the adverse impacts of mineral and energy development while promoting sustainable solutions.

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 earthworksaction

 @earthworks

carbon neutral • 100% PCW

September 2026 OGI Surveys – Germany and Netherlands

Background

Earthworks is a nonprofit organization committed to working with frontline communities to address the adverse impacts of mining and energy development on public health and the environment while promoting sustainable solutions. For more than 10 years, Earthworks staff have worked on the ground with local partners across the United States and Latin America using FLIR G-Series optical gas imaging (OGI) cameras¹ to expose harmful hydrocarbon pollution from oil and gas facilities. This extensive field experience and our strong relationships with communities impacted by oil and gas production and processing guides our advocacy and informs our engagement with policy and lawmakers. We strive for reformed policies and stricter rules that put the lives of people before the interests of industry.

Earthworks certified optical gas imaging thermographers obtain professional certification from The Infrared Training Center² and use FLIR GF320 OGI cameras that are specifically designed to visualize gases such as methane, volatile organic compounds including benzene, and heavier hydrocarbons including ethane, propane, and butane.

Our work contributes to publications³ and to investigative journalism⁴ exposing oil and gas industry malpractice, regulatory shortcomings, and the ongoing impacts of oil and gas production and processing on frontline communities.

Findings

In September 2026, Earthworks conducted 52 surveys of 44 oil and gas facilities in Germany and the Netherlands, including Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminals, compressor stations and gas processing facilities, gas storage facilities, oil production facilities, and a number of oil refineries. Hydrocarbon emissions were documented during 17 of 52 surveys and at 13 of the 44 facilities, including at all LNG terminals, 1/3 of compressor stations and gas storage facilities, and at both oil refineries. In some cases, these emissions were the result of routine practices and activities, such as the onsite combustion of gas in engines. In other cases, the emissions indicate possible noncompliance with air quality regulations requiring proper maintenance and

¹ <https://www.flir.com/products/flir-g-series/>

² <https://www.infraredtraining.com/en-US/>

³ https://earthworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/certified_disaster_report_FINAL_04_14_2023.pdf

⁴ <https://abcnews.go.com/US/video/zombie-wells-threat-beneath-113829076>

prohibiting certain activities such as venting. Overall, our findings highlight both the persistence and pervasiveness of hydrocarbon pollution throughout the oil and gas supply chain.

Relevant OGI Evidence

OGI videos demonstrating uncombusted hydrocarbon emissions released from gas-burning engine exhaust stacks on Floating Storage and Regasification Units (FSRUs) at LNG Terminals:

- [Neptune FSRU in Mukran, DE](#)
- [Höegh Gannet FSRU in Brunsbüttel, DE](#)
- [Excelsior FSRU in Wilhelmshaven, DE](#)

OGI videos demonstrating hydrocarbon emissions released directly into the atmosphere due to venting:

- [NETG Elten Compressor Station in Elten, DE](#)
- [Uniper Epe Gas Storage in Epe, DE](#)

OGI video demonstrating hydrocarbon emissions due to a leaking component:

- [Gasunie Exportstation A181 in Zevenaar, NL](#)

OGI video demonstrating hydrocarbon emissions released directly into the atmosphere from a valve on a storage tank:

- [Heide Refinery Tank Farm in Brunsbüttel, DE](#)

OGI video demonstrating hydrocarbon emissions released directly into the atmosphere from a likely unlit flare:

- [ExxonMobil Botlek Refinery in Rotterdam, NL](#)