TOP TEN BMPs for Oil & Gas Industry Operators

1. **Reduce Emissions During Drilling**
   - Use Reduced Emissions Completions (RECs), aka Green Completions to capture gas produced during well completions that is otherwise vented or flared. Electricity needed.

2. **Reduce Emissions During Production**
   - Minimize venting and/or use closed loop process where possible during “blow downs.”
   - Convert to low-emitting engines.
   - Tighten connections and replace packing to minimize leaks and fugitive emissions.
   - Use and maintain proper hatches, seals, and valves to minimize air emissions.
   - Reduce emissions of unburned hydrocarbons by routing emissions to flare or combustor or routing dehydrator still emissions to first stage compression.
   - Lower glycol circulation rate to avoid over-dehydrating.

3. **Conserve Water**
   - Utilize on-site water treatment facilities, such as a 3-phase (liquids, condensate, and gas) separator on the flowback fluid.
   - Use carefully planned well completions.

4. **Less Toxic Materials**
   - Substitute organic additives, polymers, or biodegradable additives for oil-based mud to reduce toxicity.
   - Lubricate with mineral oil and lubra-beads instead of diesel oil.

5. **Reuse Resources**
   - Recover and reuse weighting materials and drilling fluids. Waste drilling mud can be reused at other locations for spudding or plugging and abandoning operations.

6. **High Efficiency Equipment**
   - Replace high bleed valves with compressed air electric valves, or low bleed valves.
   - Install or convert gas operated pneumatic devices to electric, solar, or compressed air driven devices or controllers.

7. **Monitoring & Maintenance**
   - Implement a directed inspection and maintenance program to identify fugitive gas leaks from leaking compressors, valves, connectors, seals, and open-ended lines using infrared cameras, organic vapor analyzers, soap solutions, and ultrasonic leak detectors, and measurement devices.

8. **Dust & Tailpipe Emissions**
   - Apply water or chemical treatment, such as magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, lignin sulfonate, or asphalt emulsion.
   - Restrict vehicle speeds to 10 mph on site.
   - Cover or reclaim excavated or inactive storage piles after activity ceases.
   - Eliminate unnecessary vehicle idling.

9. **System Design**
   - Improve operational efficiencies by consolidating production, e.g. operating multiple wells from a production site.

10. **Construction & Reclamation**
    - Use diversion dikes, containment diking, and curbing to reduce exposure of storm water runoff to cuttings and other waste storage areas.
    - Segregate stormwater drainage from liquid storage, loading/unloading facilities, and operations areas from unimpacted areas.
    - Use sediment traps, swales, and mulching during construction activities to reduce loss of sediment and contamination of runoff.
    - Accelerate reclamation of sites.
    - Reclaim disturbances.

For more information on Pollution Prevention and Oil and Gas BMPs, contact:

Utah Department of Environmental Quality
BizHelp.utah.gov
Environmental Hotline: 1-800-488-0145
Pollution Prevention (P2) is about reducing the amount of any hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant released into the environment in order to reduce the hazards to public health and the environment. Pollution Prevention is also about preserving resources through wise use.

The BMPs within this brochure need to be judged on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the conditions, operations, and limitations of each facility. The best time to begin identifying BMPs is before a project begins. Many of these BMPs can help you comply with regulations that are required by law.