

Update on Municipal Wastewater Sector

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Update on Municipal Wastewater Sector

- Background
- Wastewater Task Force Activities
- Possible Future Direction
- Next Steps and Items for Consideration

Background

- In 2009, the Steering Committee established a Wastewater Task Force to explore interest among Partner Countries and determine how this sector could best be incorporated within GMI.
- Steering Committee agreed to add wastewater as a focus area within the TOR at its March 2010 meeting.
 - Did not decide how sector might be incorporated into GMI.
- The Steering Committee charged the Wastewater Task Force with developing a set of options and preparing a recommendation for the Steering Committee's consideration in late 2010.
- Wastewater Task Force is comprised of interest Partner Countries including Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Mexico, Pakistan, and the U.S.

Wastewater Task Force Activities

- Wastewater Task Force held first its meeting November 2010 in Venice, Italy in conjunction with Landfill and Agriculture Subcommittee meetings.
- Presentations from experts from Brazil and the Netherlands helped frame discussions about the most effective way to:
 - Focus GMI's efforts in this sector.
 - Overcome obstacles to implementing projects.
 - Encourage greater participation.
 - Leverage existing financial sources or CDM funding.
- Task Force decided to focus on municipal wastewater as a potential GMI sector.
- Discussed possible technical and financial support (e.g., preparing studies, raising awareness, demonstration and pilot projects, best practices manual).

Possible Future Direction

- Task Force developed the following possible recommendations for the Steering Committee to consider:
- **Structure of Wastewater Sector**
 1. Creation of a separate Wastewater Subcommittee
 - a. **Advantages:** Allows for targeted discussions and actions to municipal wastewater initiatives.
 - b. **Disadvantages:** Additional incremental burden to both Partners and Steering Committee to accommodate an additional sector.

Future Direction of Wastewater (con't)

- **Structure of Wastewater Sector (cont.)**
 2. Continue with Wastewater within the landfill Subcommittee for a trial period.
 - a. **Advantages:** Allows for more time to accurately identify the direction and resources needed for the Wastewater sector.
 - b. **Disadvantages:** Scope may not be entirely relevant to all delegate technical expertise and Project Network members. Previous and future actions may get lost or deferred.

Future Direction of Wastewater (con't)

- **Leadership of Wastewater Sector**
 1. Creation of Co-Chairs of Wastewater subcommittee or Wastewater Task Force
 - a. Leadership must be established in order to carry out the functions of either the Wastewater subcommittee or Task Force.
 2. Establishment of Partner Country Engagement Process
 - a. A process to welcome interested Partner countries into either the Wastewater subcommittee or Task Force could be formalized.

Future Direction of Wastewater (con't)

- Newly added Wastewater sector has begun to identify synergies and identify opportunities and obstacles.
- Wastewater sector needs guidance on its organizational structure.
- Partner Country time and resources are needed to have a productive and informative sector.
- Partners need to develop leadership opportunities for the sector and the technical and policy aspects of municipal wastewater in Partner Countries.

Next Steps and Items for Consideration

- **Structure of Wastewater Sector:** What structure does the Steering Committee wish to pursue for the Wastewater sector?
 - Does the Steering Committee wish to task the ASG with the development of an options paper on how to best transition the existing Wastewater Task Force into a more sustainable future structure?
- **Leadership:** Depending on the sector structure as determined by the Steering Committee, are there any countries that wish to Chair the Wastewater subcommittee or wish to lead future efforts under this sector?
 - Are there any Partner countries that wish to participate in either the subcommittee or task force?
- **Charge to Wastewater Sector:** Does the Steering Committee wish to task the Wastewater subcommittee or Task Force to produce product deliverables such as a sector action plan for the wastewater sector?