

Biogas Subcommittee
15 December 2021
Virtual Meeting

MEETING SUMMARY

Introduction and Purpose:

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Biogas Subcommittee Annual Meeting was held virtually on 15 December 2021. This meeting was open to the entire Biogas Subcommittee and participants included GMI Partner Country delegates, Subcommittee Co-Chairs, Project Network members, and Secretariat staff. Delegates from 14 Partner Countries attended, including Argentina, Canada, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, India, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Serbia, United Kingdom, and the United States. Participants representing Denmark, Fiji, France, Morocco, and Uruguay also attended. Annex I contains the list of participants.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide delegates an overview of GMI's accomplishments and updates about the Biogas Subcommittee, discuss how GMI can support countries in their national commitments to reduce methane emissions, and hear from guest speakers on how their organization plans to partner with GMI and support the Global Methane Pledge. A copy of the final agenda is included as Annex II.

Key Takeaways:

- Next priority for the Subcommittee is to develop an Action Plan for 2022-2025 that identifies measurable activities to advance methane mitigation in the biogas sector and enhance the Subcommittee's collaboration with external organizations.
- GMI has an important role in sharing tools and resources to help Partner Countries meet their individual methane mitigation goals, including those Partner Countries who have signed the Global Methane Pledge.
- Opportunities exist for the Subcommittee to collaborate with external organizations with similar goals for methane mitigation in the biogas sector (for example, The World Biogas Association, The World Resources Institute, and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, among others); now is an opportune time to leverage heightened international attention on methane action and determine how and when this collaboration will take place.

Meeting Minutes:

Introductions and Welcoming Remarks

GMI Biogas Subcommittee Co-Chair, Mr. Nick Elger, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (United States), opened the meeting by reviewing the agenda and introducing the other Biogas Subcommittee Co-Chairs: Mr. Matthew Hamilton, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) (Canada) and Mr. Jorge Hilbert, National Agricultural Technology Institute (Argentina).

Update on GMI Activities

Ms. Monica Shimamura, Director of the GMI Secretariat, gave an overview of GMI accomplishments and updates in the past year. Ms. Shimamura discussed efforts undertaken to renew the Steering Committee leadership and membership, as well as the Steering Committee's current priorities and their relevance to the Biogas Subcommittee. Opportunities for the Biogas Subcommittee included expanding Subcommittee

membership, identifying sector-specific organizations to partner with, and focusing on opportunities to deliver technical solutions to methane mitigation.

Biogas Subcommittee Updates

Mr. Elger reviewed recent updates, including new resources and the development of the Subcommittee Action Plan. He also shared key messages from the Biogas Subcommittee Delegate Workshops that took place in November and December 2021. The Delegate Workshops, in conjunction with the results from the Delegate Survey, will help shape the Action Plan to be developed starting in early 2022.

Global Biogas Opportunity

Mr. Elger discussed the importance of methane mitigation and emphasized the role that biogas plays in helping countries meet the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and the Global Methane Pledge. He reviewed key aspects of the Global Methane Pledge and discussed how GMI can help countries meet their national commitments, citing information exchange between experts, sharing relevant tools and resources, and providing a platform for training, capacity building, and advice to member countries.

GMI Project Network in Action

Mr. Hilbert introduced several Project Network members invited to share examples of how their organization has partnered with GMI to reduce methane emissions. The speakers included Dr. Suneel Pandey with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI); Ms. Mira Radenović with the City of Novi Sad, Serbia; and Mr. Chris Voell with the Danish Trade Council of North America. Mr. Hilbert also facilitated a question-and-answer session after each presentation.

TERI Centre for Waste Management – Dr. Suneel Pandey

Dr. Pandey discussed initiatives that TERI has worked on in conjunction with GMI to reduce methane emissions from solid waste in India. TERI has used multiple GMI-produced tools, including the Solid Waste Emissions Estimation Tool (SWEET), to inform strategic planning in multiple cities across India. Other examples include developing a biogas project database, using biogas for cooling systems to reduce food loss, and organizing a workshop for biogas sector stakeholders in India. Mr. Hilbert asked Dr. Pandey questions focusing on the current state of anaerobic digestion (AD) projects in India and the future potential to expand on those projects. Dr. Pandey noted that the current focus of the government in India is large-scale, centralized AD projects.

City of Novi Sad, Serbia – Mira Radenović

Ms. Radenović began her presentation by sharing information about Novi Sad and their current waste management strategy to meet requirements for biodegradable waste in landfills. Serbia has recently adopted this new strategy to comply with a new European Union directive that requires that only 10% of total waste produced can be disposed of in landfills by 2035-2040. Ms. Radenović then described a composting plan developed by the City of Novi Sad, in collaboration with GMI and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC). Through this project, the city is able to compost 5,000 tons of green waste per year, reducing 367 tons of CO₂ emissions every month.

In response to a question from Mr. Hilbert about plans to capture emissions from the Novi Sad composting plant, Ms. Radenović explained that there are plans to capture emissions which will be used to generate electricity.

The role of Biogas & RNG in the future global energy system – Chris Voell

Mr. Voell provided an overview of the role of renewable natural gas in Denmark's energy system. He also shared information about other biogas-focused organizations operating in Denmark. Lastly, Mr. Voell discussed examples of Denmark and the United States collaborating on energy and sustainability initiatives and provided

suggestions for areas where GMI and Demark can benefit from each other, including knowledge sharing and policy development.

Mr. Hilbert asked about the experience in Denmark regarding high electric tariffs. Mr. Voell discussed current incentives to use renewable natural gas in Denmark and how the private sector is investing in this technology.

Roles of Collaborators to Support Global Methane Pledge

Mr. Hamilton introduced the panelists, Ms. Charlotte Morton with the World Biogas Association, Ms. Catalina Etcheverry with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, and Ms. Katie Ross with the World Resources Institute.

World Biogas Association – Charlotte Morton

Ms. Morton gave an overview of the World Biogas Association and why organic waste is a problem. She then went into detail about the ways that the World Biogas Association supports countries in reducing methane emissions and meeting their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by raising awareness, knowledge transfer, facilitation of partnerships, and training.

Our support to countries & to the GMP – Catalina Etcheverry

Ms. Etcheverry shared a high-level summary on CCAC and their recent report, the [Global Methane Assessment](#), and the conclusions drawn from the report about reducing global methane emissions. She explained how CCAC supports countries in this work through planning and support. Ms. Etcheverry also shared information on the CCAC Methane Flagship and specific [resources developed by CCAC](#) that could benefit participants on the call, including global and regional assessments, reports, and webinars. She finished her presentation by sharing immediate next steps for the CCAC in support of the Global Methane Pledge.

World Resources Institute – Katie Ross

Ms. Ross introduced participants to the World Resources Institute (WRI) and their focus on short-lived climate pollutants, including methane. WRI is focused on encouraging countries to take more drastic actions on methane emissions reduction, specifically the six countries (China, Russia, India, the United States, Brazil, and Indonesia) that make up 50% of global methane emissions. One of WRI's priorities in the near-term will be to support countries as they develop their NDCs and long-term strategies for reducing methane emissions, both of which must be completed by the end of 2022 to comply with the Global Methane Pledge. She emphasized the need to focus on emissions from agriculture and expressed interest in keeping the momentum that comes from meetings such as this one.

Panel Discussion

Mr. Hamilton began the panel discussion by asking panelists how their organizations plan to capitalize on the early momentum surrounding methane mitigation strategies and if they have any actions they plan to take in the near term. Ms. Morton shared that she believes the main focus needs to be standardization for the recycling of organic wastes to AD. Ms. Etcheverry noted that CCAC will have funds to disperse in 2022, and an immediate action for them is to identify projects that can support countries in mitigating methane emissions. Ms. Ross discussed two near-term priorities for WRI, including getting more countries engaged on methane mitigation and scaling up emission reductions projects quickly.

The panelists were then asked to describe the roles of state governments and the private sector in acting on methane. Ms. Ross explained how the private sector often feels limited by the regulatory environment, yet she believes that they are the ones that need to bring more funding “to the table” for methane mitigation projects. She suggested that action is needed on both sides, noting that more attention is needed on partnerships between state governments and private sector organizations. Ms. Morton, speaking from an industry perspective, noted that the private sector needs to standardize the way that it delivers projects. She noted that

the main challenge for anaerobic digestion is that it touches many different areas of government, so if there was a way to create a standardized way of doing things, projects could come to fruition quicker.

Lastly, Mr. Hamilton asked the panelists for specific ideas on how their organizations and GMI should be working together. Ms. Etcheverry suggested that CCAC and GMI continue to collaborate on partnership meetings, as well as demonstrate the way forward for methane action by sharing case studies on GMI's Partner's work across the world. Ms. Morton offered up the idea of a roundtable meeting where partners working in the biogas space can come to share ideas and collaborate.

Next Steps and Adjournment

Mr. Hamilton closed the meeting by sharing next steps for the Biogas Subcommittee and participants. He reminded participants to encourage additional Partner Country delegates and Project Network members working across the three biogas subsectors to join the Subcommittee. He then thanked the speakers for sharing their expertise with the Subcommittee and thanked participants for joining the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

ANNEX I

GMI Biogas Subcommittee Meeting Participants

Mijlad Abdelouahd	Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)	Morocco
Abiodun Abdurrahman	Department of Petroleum Resources	Nigeria
Jessica Blackband	Tetra Tech	United States
Natalia Bourenane	BiogasWorld Media Inc.	Canada
Tomas Bredariol	International Energy Agency (IEA)	France
Alexandre Cabral	Université de Sherbrooke	Canada
Sandra Cavaliere	Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)	United States
Bruce Chisholm	PPI Inc.	Canada
Natalya Druz	Center for the Promotion of Sustainable Development of Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan
Anne Dubois	Geosys	France
Emma Eichelman	Tetra Tech	United States
Nick Elger	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	United States
Catalina Etcheverry	Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)	Uruguay
Tom Frankiewicz	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	United States
Elias Freig	Green Growth Group	Mexico
Andres Guevara	Universidad Técnica de Ambato	Ecuador
Matt Hamilton	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Canada
Jorge Hilbert	National Institute of Agriculture Technology (INTA)	Argentina
Chunyu Liang	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Germany
Sandra Mazo-Nix	Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)	United States
Cathy McGirl	Tetra Tech	United States
Thomas Minter	Malaby Biogas AD Services Ltd	United Kingdom
Claus Mortensen	Food & Bio Cluster Denmark	Denmark
Charlotte Morton	World Biogas Association	United Kingdom
Malvin Nadan	University of Fiji	Fiji
Rajat Negi	HMS Greens	India
Lia Newman	International Energy Agency (IEA)	France
Olatunbosun Obayomi	Bio Applications	Nigeria
Suneel Pandey	The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)	India
Mira Radenović	City of Novi Sad	Serbia
Kabiru Raji	Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation	Nigeria
John Rose	AFP Assets Ltd	United Kingdom
Amy Rowland	Abt Associates	United States
Omar Saffouri	Royal Scientific Society	Jordan
Monica Shimamura	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	United States
Bernardo Tadeo	Full Advantage Philippines International Inc.	Philippines
Andreas Christian Taeuber	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture	Germany
Birgitta Vainio-Mattila	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland	Finland
Chris Voell	Danish Trade Council	United States
Goran Vujic	University of Novi Sad	Serbia
Maria Wellisch	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	Canada

Hussein Zaki
Hennadiy Zhuk

Environment and Climate Change Canada
The Gas Institute of National Academy of
Sciences of Ukraine

Canada
Ukraine



Annex II

GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE
Biogas Subcommittee Annual Meeting
15 December 2021
Virtual Meeting
12:00 – 14:00 UTC

Agenda

7:00 – 7:05	Welcome and Opening of the Meeting; Adoption of the Agenda
7:05 – 7:15	Update on GMI Activities
7:15 – 7:20	Biogas Subcommittee Updates & Global Biogas Opportunity
7:20 – 8:05	GMI Project Network in Action
8:05 – 8:55	Panel Discussion: Role of Collaborators to Support Global Methane Pledge
8:55 – 9:00	Wrap up and Next Steps
9:00	Adjourn