



May 2016

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## GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE BIOGAS SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

### **I. Introduction**

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) is an international initiative that aims to reduce global methane emissions in order to enhance economic growth, strengthen energy security, improve air quality, improve industrial safety, and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. The GMI Biogas Subcommittee oversees the work of three of the five GMI sectors of involvement:

- Agriculture
- Municipal Solid Waste
- Municipal Wastewater

Prior to 2016 these three sectors operated as independent Subcommittees. Starting in 2016, at the request of the GMI Steering Committee, these sectors will operate as the Biogas Subcommittee to take advantage of common interests and similarities between biogas energy use, the types of wastes managed, waste treatment technologies (specifically with regard to organic waste treatment), and the potential for synergistic projects involving input streams from multiple sources.

This document presents:

- Biogas Subcommittee statement of purpose
- “Biogas” definition as it applies to the GMI Biogas Subcommittee
- Key activities of the Biogas Subcommittee
- Biogas Subcommittee structure and membership

### **II. Biogas Subcommittee Statement of Purpose**

The GMI Biogas Subcommittee will identify and promote areas of bilateral, multilateral, and private sector collaboration on methane abatement, recovery, and use in the areas of agriculture (livestock manure and agro-industrial wastewater and residues), municipal solid waste, and municipal wastewater. It will focus on removing policy barriers to project development and implementation; identifying project opportunities; and demonstrating and deploying technologies. This will be accomplished by building capacity through development of tools, policy guidance, and project development resources at the national, state, and city level within Partner Countries. The Subcommittee will seek work areas on common policies and approaches across the biogas methane sectors, and also should conduct sector-specific work as needed.

### **III. “Biogas” Definition**

As it relates to the GMI Biogas Subcommittee, biogas is the gas that is produced through the anaerobic digestion of the following feedstocks: livestock manure, agro-industrial wastewater and residues, municipal solid waste, municipal wastewater, food waste, and other organics. Biogas is mostly made of methane and carbon dioxide plus small amounts of some other gases. Depending on the feedstock and the method in which anaerobic digestion takes place, biogas contains 50%-75% methane and 25%-50% carbon dioxide. The abatement or capture of methane for energy generation is the unifying force binding all the activities of the GMI Biogas Subcommittee.

#### **IV. Key Activities of the Biogas Subcommittee**

Key activities of the Biogas Subcommittee will include:

- One annual in-person meeting that brings together biogas stakeholders from all sectors and geographic regions. The meeting will be designed to accommodate both technical and policy discussions as well as provide a forum for accomplishing the administrative functions of the Subcommittee. The meeting will include working groups focused on the individual biogas sectors.
- Support GMI countries to develop Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) that include biogas actions.
- Alignment of work across all appropriate biogas sectors with GMI participating partners including policy development, local capacity building, workshops, trainings, conferences, and tools/resources. To the extent appropriate, Biogas Subcommittee members can advise partner initiative members on areas for proposing new activities or seeking funding. Examples:
  - Climate & Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)
  - World Resources Institute (WRI)
  - World Bank (WB)
  - United Nations – Environment Program, Industrial Development Organization (UNEP)
  - Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
  - Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Development or modification of tools to evaluate biogas technologies and facilitate biogas project development.
- Policy guidance (with focus on supporting development of NDCs that include biogas actions).
- Technical guidance for biogas projects and technologies.
- Improvement of the legal, regulatory, financial, institutional, technological and other conditions necessary to attract investment in biogas projects.
- Presentations at conferences, internet-based meetings, and other events to promote development of favorable biogas policies and successful biogas projects.
- Sharing of experience, success stories, and lessons learned from Partner Countries (biogas policies and incentives, technologies, and projects).

#### **V. Biogas Subcommittee Structure and Membership**

The Biogas Subcommittee will be led by up to three Chairs, and up to three Vice Chairs. Additionally, there will be three Subcommittee Technical Leads (Agriculture, Municipal Solid Waste, Municipal Wastewater) who will act as primary technical resources for the Subcommittee leadership and members. Subcommittee membership is open to all GMI Partner Country Delegates, Project Network members, and GMI collaborating organization representatives (e.g., CCAC, WRI, WB, UNEP). Table 1 summarizes the structure of the Biogas Subcommittee, including key leadership position requirements and roles/responsibilities.

The goals of the Biogas Subcommittee structure are to:

- Allow for leadership representation across all critical biogas sectors
- Set a robust management structure
- Provide for institutional leadership and consistency
- Further engage Project Network members
- Foster an open and welcoming forum for exchange of information and ideas.

**Table 1: Proposed GMI Biogas Subcommittee Structure**

<b>Biogas Subcommittee Structure</b>
<p><b>Chairs (Up to 3)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead strategic visioning for GMI biogas methane initiatives and administration of Subcommittee</li> <li>• Must be nominated by a Partner Country</li> <li>• Chosen for two-year term (terms can be extended upon consensus of subcommittee)</li> <li>• Preferably, there will be a Chair to represent each of the three key biogas focus areas of GMI – Agriculture, Municipal Solid Waste, and Municipal Wastewater</li> </ul>
<p><b>Vice Chairs (up to 3)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works alongside co-Chairs and serves as back-up in their absence</li> <li>• Must be nominated by a Partner Country</li> <li>• Chosen for two-year term (terms can be extended upon consensus of Subcommittee)</li> <li>• Would assume Chair role after Vice Chair term is complete (with consensus of Subcommittee)</li> <li>• Preferably, there will be a Vice Chair to represent each of the three key biogas focus areas of GMI – Agriculture, Municipal Solid Waste, and Municipal Wastewater</li> </ul>
<p><b>Subcommittee Technical Leads (up to 3)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act as a primary technical resource to Chairs, Vice Chairs and Biogas Subcommittee</li> <li>• Leads can be a Country Partner Delegate or Project Network member</li> <li>• Preferably, there will be a Subcommittee Technical Lead to represent each of the three key biogas focus areas of GMI – Agriculture, Municipal Solid Waste, and Municipal Wastewater</li> </ul>
<p><b>Subcommittee Membership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open to any and all Partner Country Delegates and Project Network members</li> <li>• Open to include GMI collaborating organization representatives (e.g., CCAC)</li> </ul>