



Methane to Markets

Status of Wastewater Sector

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Status of Wastewater Sector

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- Background
- Summary and Update on Considerations for Incorporating Wastewater
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Sector Overview

- Methane is emitted during the handling and treatment of domestic, commercial, and industrial wastewater through the anaerobic decomposition of organic material.
- Most developed countries rely on centralized aerobic wastewater treatment to collect and treat domestic and commercial wastewater, resulting in small and incidental methane emissions.
- In developing countries with little or no collection and treatment of wastewater, anaerobic treatment systems such as lagoons, septic systems, open sewers, and latrines are more prevalent, resulting in greater emissions.

Background

- Initially raised/discussed at the January 2009 Steering Committee meeting in Mexico.
 - Chile highlighted its current wastewater activities.
 - Steering Committee tasked ASG with developing a scoping paper to assess the potential for including wastewater in the Partnership.
- ASG presented results at the September 2009 Steering Committee meeting.
 - Availability of demonstrated technologies to reduce methane emissions from wastewater treatment.
 - Prevalence in many Partner countries, which represent 70% of global emissions from this sector.
- Based on results, Steering Committee recognized this sector has potential to achieve methane capture and utilization in the near term.

Background (con't)

- Delegates also recognized the interrelationships with work in both the Landfill and Agriculture Subcommittees (i.e., public infrastructure and anaerobic digestion, respectively).
 - Tasked these Subcommittees to consider the issue of wastewater at recent meetings (see slide 7).

- Delegates agreed to establish a Wastewater Task Force to further explore interest among Partners and determine how this sector could best be incorporated in the Partnership.
 - Mexico/United Kingdom volunteered to chair task force.
 - Australia, Colombia, Pakistan, and the United States have expressed interest in participating.

Summary/Update on Considerations for Incorporating Wastewater

- Task Force will consider several options for incorporating the wastewater sector within the Partnership:
 - Creation of a working group within the Landfill or Agriculture Subcommittee that convenes periodically and reports out to Subcommittee.
 - Creation of a new Subcommittee.

Summary/Update on Considerations for Incorporating Wastewater (con't)

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Working Group within Existing Subcommittee</p>	<p>Low incremental increase in administrative costs.</p> <p>Allows for better coordination when there is overlap of either technology options (Agriculture) or policy management structures (Landfill).</p>	<p>Scope of delegate technical expertise is different.</p> <p>Industry/Project Network organizations differ and there would be limited options for co-locating meetings with industry-related meetings.</p> <p>Size of committee might become unwieldy.</p>
<p>New Subcommittee</p>	<p>Allows discussion of targeted approach to municipal wastewater.</p> <p>Easy to co-locate Subcommittee meeting with appropriate industry-related meetings (e.g., WEF, IWA).</p> <p>Allows for more focused interaction among technical/policy experts that are unique to the sector.</p>	<p>Additional incremental burden on Partners to field delegates to participate in another subcommittee.</p> <p>Additional burden on Steering Committee to guide another subcommittee.</p>

Summary/Update on Considerations for Incorporating Wastewater (con't)

- To further inform the Task Force, the Landfill Subcommittee discussed the interrelationship of solid waste and wastewater, and possible inclusion of the wastewater sector under its purview.
 - Might be appropriate given similar publically owned and managed infrastructures.
 - Concern that project development expertise needed within each sector is different.
- Initial response from the Agriculture Subcommittee was not supportive of incorporating this sector under its purview.
- This feedback will be considered by the Task Force going forward.

Summary/Update on Considerations for Incorporating Wastewater (con't)

- Task Force could also explore how the Project Network could best be engaged and the role of international institutions, such as:
 - Water Environment Federation
 - International Water Association
 - Global Water Partnership
 - Water Supply and Sanitation Council
- ASG scoping paper noted these organizations do not include methane mitigation from WWTPs.
- Additional engagement will be needed to learn more about activities and to further define role Methane to Markets might play in this sector.

Items for Consideration

- Task Force Membership
 - Assess and confirm interest among members of the Steering Committee to participate in the Wastewater Task Force.
- Consultation
 - Encourage the Task Force to convene a teleconference among interested Partners in the first half of 2010 and report back on their deliberations.
- Language in the TOR
 - Depending on the Task Force's work, the ASG could work with the chairs to develop language for adding wastewater as a new sector in the TOR or for a placeholder indicating the option to add this later, as was done for agriculture in the original TOR.