

Webinar summary for Regional Workshop “Accelerating Climate Action: Methane Mitigation in Waste Management” (03/05/2026)

Quick recap

The regional workshop focused on accelerating climate action and methane mitigation in the waste sector, bringing together government representatives, experts, and international organizations from the Americas. Participants discussed policy approaches, financing mechanisms, and technologies to reduce methane emissions from landfills and organic waste. Keynote speakers shared insights on regional cooperation, measurement and monitoring of emissions, and strategies to mobilize finance and incentives for mitigation efforts. The workshop highlighted innovative solutions and the importance of sustained investment and continued regional collaboration to achieve methane reduction goals.

Summary

Regional Methane Emission Mitigation Program

Isabelle introduced the meeting and provided guidelines for participants, including the use of microphones and interpreters. She acknowledged the traditional territory of the Algonquin people in Ottawa, Canada. The meeting focused on landfill mitigation in the Americas, highlighting innovative policies from countries like Chile, Mexico, Brazil, and the Dominican Republic. Jordi presented a new regional cooperation program adopted by Latin American and Caribbean countries to reduce methane emissions from waste. The program aims to reduce methane emissions by 30% by 2040, with intermediate goals set for 2020 and 2030. It includes actions to strengthen legal frameworks, improve institutional capacity, and expand financing for methane mitigation. The implementation will be led by a coalition of countries and non-governmental entities, with support from the UN Environment Program.

Carbon Mapper Remote Sensing Presentation

Tia Scappelli, Waste Lead at Carbon Mapper, presented on the organization's work using remote sensing technologies to detect and quantify methane and CO₂ emissions from large sources like landfills. She explained how Carbon Mapper's satellite data can be used for direct mitigation by operators and for indirect mitigation through policy and best practices. Tia emphasized the importance of making the data accessible to stakeholders and invited participants to reach out for collaboration opportunities.

Landfill Emissions Measurement Technologies

Tia explained the challenges of measuring landfill emissions compared to oil and gas, highlighting the complexity and variability of emissions from landfills. Dave presented ground-based measurement technologies, including drones and walking surveys, and discussed a controlled release experimental facility in Canada used to test these technologies. Roland shared insights on methane measurement methods in Latin

America, emphasizing the need for accurate methodologies to validate carbon reduction projects and improve waste management practices.

Methane Mitigation Strategies Discussion

The meeting focused on methane mitigation strategies, with Roland discussing measurement techniques for developing countries and Andres presenting Chile's approach to carbon neutrality by 2050. Chile has established carbon budgets for sectors like waste management, with the Ministry of Health tasked to develop a climate action plan. The country is exploring various instruments such as carbon markets, Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, and international cooperation to achieve its methane reduction goals. The discussion highlighted the need for robust monitoring systems and the importance of implementing practical solutions while continuing to develop more advanced technologies.

Biogas Energy Generation Operations

Andrea Biglino, representing CONSORSIO SANTA MARTA, described their waste management operations in Chile, which handle 80% of municipal waste and 20% of industrial waste. Since 2013, they have been generating energy from biogas produced in their landfill, with 10 motors generating 20 megawatts of electricity that is injected into the national grid. The company has reduced over 3.2 million tons of CO₂ equivalent through methane capture and destruction and is planning to install battery storage systems this year to address grid connection issues and improve energy efficiency.

Organic Recycling Climate Program

Gerardo presented the Reciclo Organicos program, which aims to help countries achieve international climate goals, particularly reducing methane emissions. He explained that the program, launched in Chile in 2017 with Canadian government support, has expanded to work with over 25 countries and identified 190 potential emission reduction projects. Gerardo emphasized the need to balance short-term implementation of projects with long-term regulatory changes, highlighting that the program has made significant progress in advancing methane mitigation practices in Latin America.

Climate Action and Waste Management

The meeting focused on climate action and waste management, with Ana presenting on the Global Food Bank Network's efforts to prevent food waste and reduce methane emissions. She highlighted their work in reducing food waste and its impact on climate change, as well as their participation in carbon markets and financial instruments. Marisa then discussed California's greenhouse gas reduction grant programs, which fund various initiatives to reduce waste and emissions. The conversation ended with

Martina Otto, head of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, emphasizing the need for integrated methane mitigation in national climate strategies, strengthened coordination across government levels, and mobilization of finance at scale for waste infrastructure and circular economy solutions.