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A spotlight on methane mitigation work taking place in Latin America

An environmental justice perspective

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GAIA is a global network of grassroots and national organizations from 92 countries around the world who are working together on waste and justice. One of our main strategic priorities for the next several years is supporting organizing and policy work for methane reduction.

Our members have deep expertise in the field and are strongly rooted in their communities and countries. Many of them have been working for decades on reducing pollution from organic waste and implementing composting, biogas, and other zero waste solutions. As well as 5 teams that coordinates global policy and campaigns.



Opportunities and challenges in LAC



Latin America is a region where **family farming, agroecology and urban agriculture** can easily gain adherents; there are already strong movements promoting and developing food sovereignty, and ensuring that the soil fertility is preserved



Cities need **an integrated & sustainable solid waste framework** with an emphasis on waste reduction, reuse, recycling, redesign, and **an environmental justice perspective.**



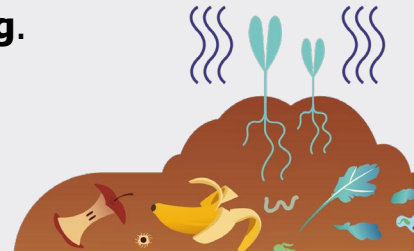
Waste Pickers, community based & civil society solutions and knowledge are strong actors, who already manage organic waste streams



Dumpsites and open burns are a health and environmental hazard. The region has insufficient waste collection, and lacks of technical support and capacity within municipalities.



(Local) Governments are often pressured to invest in **end-of-pipe technologies**, eg WTE, pyrolysis of plastic (chemical recycling), RDF production, etc which pose obstacles to upstream solutions, **contribute to climate change, are expensive and polluting.**



In a region with fast growing population and crises (biodiversity, pollution and climate)

How can we ensure a fair, and sustainable implementation of waste solutions, while not seeing it as a profit driven business?



Lack of alignment



Lack of strategy



Lack of financing



Lack of accountability and alignment with planetary health



Failure to engage issues of justice

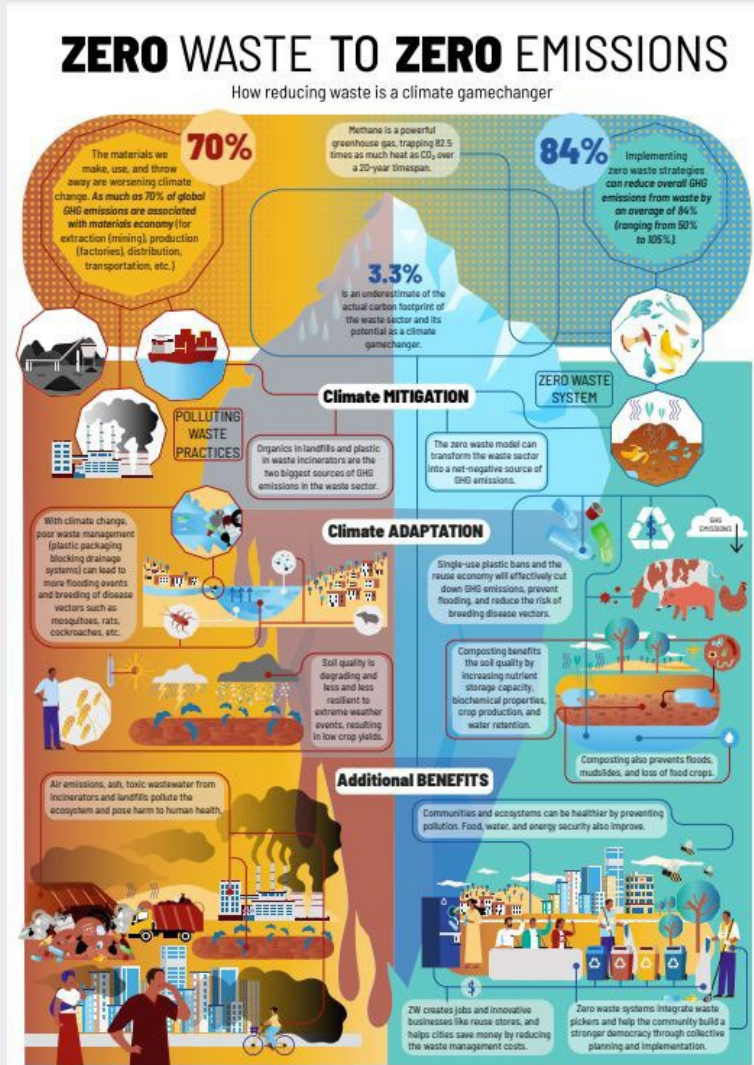


False solutions: waste to energy, pyrolysis, incineration

70% of global greenhouse gas emissions are embedded in the life-cycle of all products.

According to the report, **zero waste** can cut waste sector emissions by an average of 84%

1. Climate **mitigation**;
2. Climate **adaptation**;
3. Additional **societal benefits**



**Environmental
Justice
Principles for
fast action on
waste and
methane**



— Respect planetary boundaries to ensure intergenerational equity



- - - Respect for all waste pickers and waste workers



— Enhance inclusion and build from local knowledge



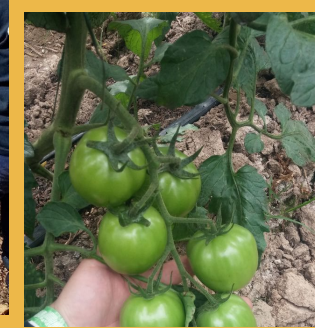
— Respond to pollution and environmental harm with accountability



— Support holistic solutions through systems change

Novos modelos compostagem nas cidades:

integrando reciclagem, agricultura e moradia



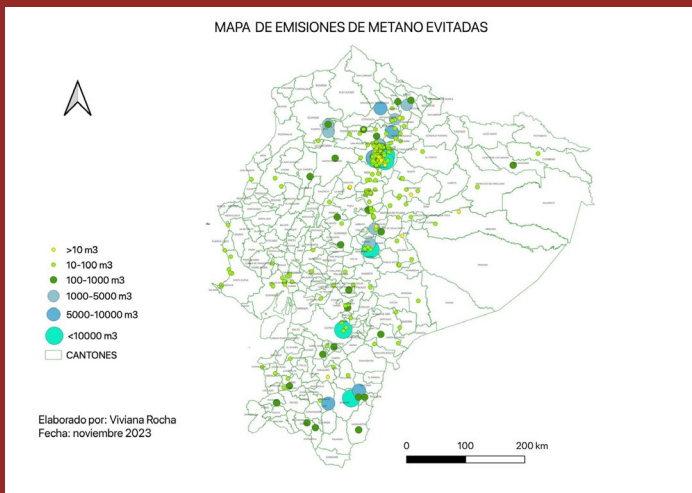
Bogota Waste Pickers Association,
implementing separated collection of
organic waste streams, in Colombia.

8 case studies within Brazil, made by
Instituto Polís, read [here](#)





Composting Network, and methane emissions mitigation mapper, Ecuador
<https://www.alianzabasuraceroecuador.com/residuos-organicos/>



Working on food waste avoidance at street markets in Chile.
 Fundación Basura

<https://www.fundacionbasura.org/ferias-libres-cero-desperdicio/>

Lives por Instagram

Compostaje al sur del mundo

¡Agenda! **Lunes 5 Dic.**

20:00 hrs

- Experiencia en Pucón y Puerto Natales
- Difusión "Kit Turismo hacia Basura Cero"

Advocacy and awareness raising within the tourism sector in southern Patagonia, and Pucón [Fundación Lengua](#), Chile

Perú is working on national strategies, including wastepicker integration, and providing technical assistance to municipalities from Amazonia into the south, Ciudad Saludable

Agroecology and composting schools and advocacy, community lead experiences on food waste and food sovereignty, [CETAAR](#) y [RAPAL](#), Argentina

ABIERTO A LA COMUNIDAD

JAVIER SOUZA
INGENIERO AGRONOMO

TEMA: LITIO AGUA Y AGROECOLOGIA

VIERNES

29 DE SEPTIEMBRE 18 HS

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Moquegua
Tacna
Puno
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Apurímac
Cusco

ZONA 4
Huánuco
Pasco
Junín
Huancaavelica
Loreto
Ucayali
Madre de Dios



Key takeaways



We need to shift finance from Waste To Energy towards **upstream solutions with a zero waste strategy and an EJ perspective**



The EJ principles need to be taken into account: priority to waste hierarchy, **inclusion of waste pickers and local organisations**, no false solutions but **systemic change**



It is important to have financial resources aligned with EJ principles and to **support political opportunities where we already find sparks** at the local/municipal level.



Methane reduction in the region opens up a **crucial opportunity to move towards zero waste models** building on the **work already being done in the region**.



Key to addressing the methane emissions challenge lies in organic **waste diversion from landfills and supporting reincorporation of compost and digestates into productive soils and tackling urban farming, agroecology and food waste avoidance**.



Join us in making change happen!



www.no-burn.org

Methane Matters: read it [here](#)

Zero Waste for Zero Emissions: read it [here](#)

A Key to Rapid Methane Reductions: Keeping Organic Waste From Landfills: read it [here](#)



Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives