Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) Best Practices for Biogas Projects

Part 3 in the Global Methane Initiative's MRV Webinar Series



24 May 2023 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM EDT (UTC -4)

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Speakers







Nick Elger Program Manager Climate Change Division U.S. Environmental Protection Agency **Gerardo Canales** Executive Director ImpelmentaSur **Zach Eyler** Vice President Ruby Canyon Environmental



MRV Best Practices and GMI's Policy Maker's Handbook for MRV – Nick Elger



Best Practices for Measurement and Reporting– Gerardo Canales



Best Practices for Verification – Zach Eyler



Closing Remarks and Key Takeaways – Nick Elger



Q & A

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Agenda



Global Methane Initiative (GMI)

What is the Global Methane Initiative?

GMI is an international public-private partnership focused on reducing barriers to recovering and using methane as a valuable energy source.

How does GMI help Partner Countries develop and implement methane mitigation solutions?

GMI provides cost-free technical support to deploy methaneto-energy projects around the world.

> What sectors does GMI focus on?

Biogas (agriculture, municipal solid waste, wastewater)



Oil and Gas

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methane recovery and use

GMI Partner Countries represent approximately 75% of methane emissions from human activities.



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Why Focus on the Biogas Sector?

- Biogas sector accounts for approximately **20% of global anthropogenic methane emissions**
- Biogas projects can help capture and use the methane and provide benefits for climate change mitigation, energy generation, and public health

Example of Biogas Projects



Overview of MRV of Biogas Projects

MEASUREMENT

Tracking and documentation of data and information on GHG emissions and emissions reductions from a project. This can involve:

- Direct monitoring of emissions (e.g., using biogas flow meters)
- Modeling (e.g., using emissions factors and activity data to estimate emissions)
- Or a combination of both

REPORTING

Disseminating measured GHG emissions and emissions reduction data and information using standardized methods and formats.

VERIFICATION

Independently assessing reported GHG emissions and emissions reductions, typically through an independent, third-party verification body.

International Level Meet international reporting obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) and track global emissions and emissions reductions. **Top-down** National Level Provide a picture of national emissions, allow for the identification of high-emitting sectors, and enhance mitigation targets. **Organizational and Facility Level** Facilitate policymaking by providing emissions and emissions reductions data at different resolutions. **Project Level** Assess impacts of mitigation projects, track progress toward mitigation targets, and meet stakeholder demand for public disclosure of information **Bottom-up**

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purpose of MRV

Policy Maker's Handbook for Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) in the Biogas Sector

Purpose

- **High-level resource** on guiding principles for conducting emissions MRV for the biogas sector
- **Support decision-makers** in incorporating project-level MRV into national-level frameworks and objectives

Scope

- **Biogas sector:** agriculture, municipal solid waste, and wastewater
- **Project-level activities** (e.g., anaerobic digestion projects and landfill gas projects) rather than broader-scale MRV
- **Type of MRV:** MRV of emissions and mitigation actions

Approach

 Draws on technical guidance and tools from existing protocols (e.g., IPCC, EPA AgSTAR, California Air Resources Board) and knowledge from an expert review process



Prepared by the United States Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of the Global Methane Initiative

EPA Document Number: EPA 430-B-21-002

Uses of Project-Level MRV Data

To develop national inventories:

- Many governments use Tier 1 methods in the biogas sector.
- Project-level MRV data can be used to advance from Tier 1 to Tiers 2 and 3 by:
 - Refining methane recovery estimates
 - Developing country-specific emissions factors
 - Improving activity data
- To enhance mitigation targets in nationally determined contributions (NDCs)
- Contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals
- Increase access to external funding sources



Best Practices for Measurement

Develop a measurement plan

- A measurement plan provides facility personnel with key steps to collect and manage greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction data.
- Key elements of a measurement plan include:
 - An overview of the facility and operations
 - Roles and responsibilities of facility personnel
 - A description of GHG mitigation project/activities
 - GHG mitigation project measurement, including data to be collected, onsite equipment used to collect data, data collection process, etc.
 - GHG emissions reduction quantification methods and equations

Tip:

A measurement plan should be updated periodically to account for changes in facility or project activity or emissions estimation methodologies

Best Practices for Measurement

Quantify Emissions Reductions

- Establish a business-as-usual emissions baseline as a reference for estimating emissions reductions.
- Emissions can be estimated:
 - **Before project implementation (ex-ante).** Estimates based on modeling assumptions can be used in feasibility assessments or project proposals.
 - After project implementation (ex-post). Estimates based on real measurements from the project site tracks mitigation progress.
- Quantify GHG emissions **annually**.
- See **Exhibit C.1.** of the Handbook for a full list costfree of biogas project emissions quantification tools



Best Practices for Reporting

Report emissions and emissions reductions data

- Project operators can report emissions and emissions reductions data to:
 - National government agencies, as required under national GHG emissions reporting programs
 - Local governments, as required for developing municipal emissions inventories
 - Voluntary programs (e.g., Carbon Disclosure Project)
 - Financial institutions or carbon offset program administrators
- The type of information to be reported, the level of detail, and the frequency of reporting will vary depending on the reporting program.

Tip:

Required information includes:

- Project name and contact information
- Project location
- Baseline emissions
- Time period of emissions reductions
- Proposed improvement
 plan

Best Practices for Verification

Verify emissions and emissions reductions

- GHG data and information should be verified by a third-party, accredited verification body to increase reliability.
- Verification should be conducted to a verification standard and criteria.
 - Verification standards for biogas projects are listed in **Exhibit A.3.** of the Handbook
 - Two common criteria when conducting verifications are materiality and level of assurance
- Verification may occur every other year, or every three years.

Verification process:

 Assessment of project boundaries, documentation checks, onsite inspections

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Q3

- Review of measurement and metering methods and equipment
- Assessment of data collection and management systems
- Independent calculations of emissions reductions

Policy Maker's Handbook for Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) in the Biogas Sector



Download the Handbook:

https://globalmethane.org/resource s/details.aspx?resourceid=5182

🧥 Global Methane Initiative (GMI Join Our Mailing List 🦸 🖉 🛅 Search Q About GMI Sectors Partner Countries Project Network Technical Topics & Resources Events & Activitie Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of Methane: **Biogas Sector** Measurement From a bottom-up perspective, the most important component of MRV is the measurement of data. This core component provides the basis for claiming emissions reductions from the action(s) taken Use established methodologies and tools Develop a measurement plan Using established methodologies – such as those based on IPCC GHG inventory guidelines – is considered a best practice. GMI provides several tools and The main activity for measurement is the resources for measuring emissions and emissions reductions for the biogas sector. Links to these tools and resources are provided below. and implementing a comprehensive me of key steps, including defining what da Keep accurate records and project documentation how data are checked for accuracy, and addition to emissions reductions data, it is important to document Choose a method for quantifying emi Methodologies used to quantify emissions reductions Methane emissions reductions should b · GHGs included in the project's scope reductions can be quantified using ex-ar Activity data and how they are measured · Ex-ante quantification involve · Baseline and any other underlying assumptions reductions. These estimates are · Sources of uncertainty of error. Data sources • Ex-post quantification is based · Any data gaps associated with the period for which biogas mitigation efforts are quantified measurement is often required offsets protocols). Resolve data gaps and identify accurate data substitutes Monitoring and data collection equipment will often fail or have interruptions during a monitoring period. Frequently, emissions mitigation programs will have specific requirements and methods to substitute for missing data. Without specific guidance, projects should seek to use methods that are reasonable, supported by other data during the measurement period, and are conservative in nature

IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories include methods for resolving data gaps using techniques such as overlap, surrogate data, interpolation, and trend extrapolation.

Visit the MRV Resource Center: https://globalmethane.org/mrv

Best Practices for Measurement and Reporting Lessons Learned from the Reciclo Organicos Program



Gerardo Canales Executive Director ImplementaSur

OUR PURPOSE

We contribute to the design and implementation of sustainable and climate-resilient practices. We approach climate change with a systemic vision to transform its challenges into value-creating opportunities.



Creating value from climate change

DIAGNOSIS

We develop indicators that allow organizations to identify their vulnerability to climate risks.



STRATEGY

We build a detailed action plan with the most appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures for organizations to manage climate-related risks.

IMPLEMENTATION We give technical assistance in designing business models, financing schemes, and public policy for mitigation and adaptation measures.

OUR EXPERIENCE

+ 15 countries + 50 clients +150 projects



Public and international cooperation





MRV in Chile

Reciclo Orgánicos Program and MRV Protocols developed Blockchain Applications

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1. MRV IN CHILE



MRV in Chile

Reciclo Orgánico's MRV



MRV in Chile



By 2022, there were 13 MRV initiatives implemented or under development in Chile:

- 3 classified as emissions initiatives.
- 5 classified as mitigation action initiatives.
- 5 MRV systems that address both emissions and mitigation actions.

Emissions: Emissions systems consider the monitoring of GHG emissions with a certain scope.

Mitigation actions: Mitigation action systems track mitigation, that is, the progress and/or effectiveness in the implementation of mitigation actions.

MRV in Chile: examples



HuellaChile Carbon Management Program

System that recognizes the calculation, report and management of GHG in projects and organizations of the public and private sector.

> **Type of MRV:** MRV System

Energy Project Savings Certification (CAPE)

This program seeks to facilitate the reporting of energy results and GHG mitigation results obtained after the implementation of an energy project whose objective is to reduce energy consumption. The certification is designed for companies, institutions and organizations.

> Type of MRV: Emissions

Reciclo Orgánicos

MRV Protocol for Composting, Anaerobic Digestion and Landfill Gas Capture of the Reciclo Orgánicos Program

> **Type of MRV:** Mitigation actions

2. RECICLO ORGÁNICOS PROGRAM AND MRV PROTOCOLS DEVELOPED

Implemen





Reciclo Orgánicos Program



- This Program was promoted by the of the Environment of Chile and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Canada.
- The Program considered an investment of 7 million Canadian dollars over a period of 5 years (March 2017 – March 2022)
- It is focused on accelerating actions that help Chile achieve its NDC goals for the waste sector.
 - Website: www.reciclorganicos.com



Reciclo Orgánicos – Waste Sector MRV Protocols



Landfill Gas Capture and Destruction Protocol

Organic Composting Protocol Anaerobic Digestion of Organic Residues Protocol

Reciclo orgánicos – Waste Sector MRV Protocols



Landfill Gas Capture and Destruction Protocol

Organic Composting Protocol Anaerobic Digestion of Organic Residues Protocol



The scope of this protocol includes the following activities:

- Diversion of eligible organic residue streams to an Anaerobic Digester from the following types of facilities:
 - Landfills.
 - Other waste disposal sites.
- In the case of manure diversion, the eligible facilities are uncontrolled anaerobic management systems including:
 - Anaerobic treatment system with a retention time greater than one month.
 - Anaerobic lagoons with at least 1 (m) of depth.

Anaerobic Digestion of Organic Residues Protocol



SSR Diagram - Project





SSR Diagram - Baseline





Anaerobic Digestion of Organic Residues Protocol The methane capture and control system shall be monitored with measurement equipment that directly meters:

- The flow of biogas delivered to each destruction device, measured continuously and recorded every 15 minutes or totalized and recorded at least daily, adjusted for standard temperature and pressure.
- The fraction of methane in the biogas, measured no less than once for every threemonth period (i.e. a 12-month reporting period should contain no less than 4 methane concentration measurements).



Eligible Destruction Devices

Biogas Destruction Device	Biogas Destruction Efficiency (BDE _{DD})
Open Flare	0.96
Enclosed Flare	0.995
Lean-burn Internal Combustion Engine	0.936
Rich-burn Internal Combustion Engine	0.995
Boiler	0.98
Microturbine or large gas turbine	0.995
Upgrade and use of gas as CNG/LNG fuel	0.95
Upgrade and injection into natural gas transmission and distribution	0.98



3. BLOCKCHAIN APPLICATIONS

MRV in Chile Reciclo Orgánico's



GHG QUANTIFICATION PROTOCOL ROAD TESTING

- A road test of two of the protocols (landfill gas and organic digestion) was undertaken at two different facilities in Chile.
- In addition to road-testing the GHG quantification protocols, the opportunity was also taken to demonstrate the development and implementation of the DigitalMRV system.







Overview of Copiulemu Landfill DigitalMRV System: <u>https://digitalmrv.io/overview</u>













Options to Enhance the Use of GHG Methodologies



A framework document, providing all policy decision surrounding the use of the GHG methodologies could be developed.

The framework would provide clarity for the potential users on the GHG quantification for their projects and the creation of GHG emission reduction units.

Potential Next Steps



- 1. Development of a GHG Framework
- 2. Development of additional GHG Quantification Protocols for other high priority sectors identified in Chile's NDC. Developing GHG Quantification Protocols could improve the accuracy of the National Inventory Report
- 3. Ongoing monitoring and quantification of GHG emission reductions at the two existing facilities and potential to increase capacity building related to MRV for greenhouse gas reporting
- 4. The potential to deploy the DigitalMRV System at other facilities that are eligible to use the quantification approaches defined in the three GHG Quantification Protocols or other developed GHG Quantification Protocols

Potential Next Steps



- 5. Allow for trading of the emission reductions quantified at these various facilities, as high-integrity internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMOs), under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, supporting global mitigation objectives or to use these emission reductions to meet the Chilean obligations under their NDC.
- 6. The possibility to increase data confidence (QA/QC) and transparency when reporting:
 - GHG emissions and GHG emission reductions to the NDC Registry
 - GHG emissions for the National Inventory

I recycle organics, and you?...



Thank You!



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Best Practices for Biogas Project Verification

Zach Eyler



Vice President

Ruby Canyon Environmental, Inc.



About Ruby Canyon Environmental





- Founded in 2005 and acquired by TÜV SÜD Americas in December 2022
- Provides impartial, 3rd party assurance to clients for GHG emissions reporting and GHG reduction projects (carbon offsets)
- Completed over 1,500 assurance engagements worldwide since 2009
- Experience in numerous sectors and project types including a focus on methane capture (coalmine, landfill, livestock, wastewater)
- Work in both compliance and voluntary programs
 - Compliance: California, Oregon, Washington, California LCFS
 - Voluntary: American Carbon Registry, Climate Action Reserve, Verra VCS, The Climate Registry, CDP, Gold Standard

Verification Overview

The Basics

- Provides assurance on methods used to quantify emission reductions and adherence to program rules.
- Serves as a process to improve MRV for biogas projects.
- Verification frequency varies by program, but an initial verification early in the project's lifecycle is recommended.
- A physical site visit to the project is often required for the initial verification but can vary on future verifications.
- While it can be seen as a partnership, verification is not consulting – it is a third-party engagement provided by an impartial verification body (VB).

Verification Overview

Criteria and Standards

Verification is conducted to specific standards

- 14064-3:2019 Greenhouse Gases Part 3: Specification with Guidance for the Verification and Validation of Greenhouse Gas Statements
- Under a carbon credit program standard such as American Carbon Registry, Climate Action Reserve, Verra VCS, Gold Standard, CDM

Verification is conducted to set criteria

- Materiality: The threshold used to identify information/data that, if omitted or misstated, would significantly misrepresent GHG emissions. +/-5% is common amongst all programs.
- Level of assurance: The degree of confidence in the data reported. Levels of assurance typically used are reasonable and limited, with all carbon credit programs requiring reasonable.
- All standards and criteria should be agreed upon before beginning verification activities.



Verification Process

Step-by-Step

*** * ***

Verification Activity	Description
Receive initial GHG data and documentation	The project submits GHG data and documentation to the verification body. This could include information on the baseline emissions scenario, measured data, equipment information, or QA/QC documentation.
Verification body strategic analysis	The verification body conducts an analysis of the project regarding the criteria, scope, and complexity of the verification. The verification body considers the project organization, management, and communication structure. The strategic analysis helps to inform the more detailed risk assessment.
Verification body risk assessment	The verification body identifies areas related to GHG emissions or other requirements of the applicable program that pose risk to GHG emissions. The areas are reviewed for each type of risk (inherent, control, detection) and a discussion of why the risk exists is completed. All areas of risk must be addressed to complete the verification.
Create/modify risk- based verification plan and evidence gathering plan	A verification plan and a evidence gathering plan are developed based on the risk assessment and strategic analysis. The verification plan is standard across projects, but the evidence gathering plan will vary from project-to-project.
Review GHG data and documentation	The verification body reviews all provided GHG data and documentation and documents this review.
Visit facility/project	If required, the verification body will visit the project or facility to review GHG sources, measurement equipment, and data-recording equipment; and interview personnel.
Findings - clarifications or corrective actions	The verification body will provide findings to the project as a result of its review. Depending on the nature of the findings (material versus non-material), some errors will need to be corrected to complete the verification while others could potentially be ignored.
Findings - receive additional data and documentation (if needed)	The project or facility will provide the verification body data and documentation to address the findings.
Risk assessment revision and evidence gathering plan modification (if needed)	Based on the new data and documentation, the verification body will review the risk assessment and modify the evidence gathering plan. This additional review could lead to additional findings.
lssue verification opinion	Once all findings are closed, the verification body will complete the process and issue a verification opinion. The opinion will note the criteria and scope of the verification, as well as the confirmed emissions value.

Site Visit Example Topics



Source: BioCycle

Review baseline scenario

- Livestock: What was manure operations/management before digester operation?
- Landfill: Was gas managed at all or destroyed prior to installation of the landfill gas collection system ?

Review data management

- How is data recorded?
- Review information control systems
- Trace data from source to final calculations

Review monitoring equipment QA/QC

- Calibrations
- Ongoing checks and procedures

Tour the project

- Inspection of GHG Sources, Sinks, Reservoirs (SSRs)
- Fossil fuel or electricity consumption
- See monitoring equipment (SNs, location)
- See data collection equipment

Common Issues

Typical Problems and Errors

- Use of wrong emission factors in calculations
- Unit conversion errors in calculations
- Too many calculation spreadsheets making it difficult to trace data
 - Example: "Black box" calculator tool
- Spreadsheet functionality
- Not following manufacturer specifications for QA-QC
- Not having an internal QA-QC program for calculations
- Lack of source documentation
 - No animal counts for livestock population

Sample Findings Document

Issues Log version:	2.0							
Project Name:	Cows Biogas Project							
Project ID:	ABC12							
Client	Dairy Farm							
Corrective Action Request, Non-Material Finding, Additional Documentation Request, or Clarification Request ID#	Finding	Section of Methodology	Client response	RCE response	Open or Closed			
CAR 1	Incorrect data substitution is utilized for the engine flow meter from April 2-8, 2020.	Appendix D	Revised calculation provided.	Data substitution is now correct.	Closed			
NM 1	Data typos found in December 2020 Herd Data: -Flush Open Lots 0-6: Data entered 1596 -Flush Open Lots 0-9: Data entered 4	5.1	Typos corrected. Flush Open Lots 0-6: Updated Data Entered 156 Flush Open Lots 0-9: Updated Data Entered 204	The typos have been corrected.	Closed			
NM 2	The annual baseline lagoon cleanout in September is not reflected in the calculation tool.	5.1	Corrected this data inaccuracy.	The clean out has been added.	Closed			
				1				
ADR 1	Please provide a comparison of electricity generated vs. consumed to confirm Project emissions are zero.	5.4	Electricity invoices have been provided showing that exported electricity exceeds electricity consumed onsite	Invoices provided and confirmed electricity generated is greater than what is consumed.	Closed			
		1						
CR 1	For the venting event, please clarify why for the calculation of the max biogas storage, 395 ft is used for width when it appears to be 345 ft. Also please clarify the source of the 15 ft used for the depth of the lagoon.	5.2	The typo has been revised to be consistent with the width of the pond. The height is conservatively calculated based on estimates provided by the design engineers, which has been forwarded as an email attachment.	Confirmed.	Closed			

Keys to Verification Success

Follow the Principles

Revisiting three of the original MRV principles...

- (1) Completeness: Projects should have access and be able to provide documentation and data for ALL relevant aspects of the project and program to the verification body
 - Take away: Implement a measurement plan to ensure that data and documentation is recorded, saved and organized.
 - (2) Transparency: Verification body needs to be able to trace all information sources, data, and calculations
 - Take away: Design the project calculations with transparent data and equations as well as traceable back to the original data source.
 - (3) Accuracy: Emission reduction calculations are correct within a defined materiality threshold and must be corrected if errors are detected.
 - Take away: Develop an internal QA-QC system for calculations and data.

Keys to Verification Success

Communication is Key



- Clearly define the expectations and responsibilities for all parties when initiating the verification activities
- Present documents and data in an organized manner
- Provide responses to verification body questions and requests in a timely manner
- View the verification process as a means to improve a project's MRV system
- Use an accredited Verification Body to ensure a high-quality review

Thank you!





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Key Takeaways



- GMI's Policy Maker's Handbook for Measurement, Reporting, and Verification in the Biogas Sector offers guidance for MRV in the biogas sectors. **Download on** globalmethane.org/resources.
- The anaerobic digestion MRV protocol of the Reciclo Orgánicos Program is an excellent case study of MRV for biogas projects
- The keys to verification success include following the original MRV principles and clearly communicating the verification process

Part 1 and 2 of GMI's MRV Webinar Series



Measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) involves collecting and tracking greenhouse gas emissions data, reporting data in a standardized format, and verifying data for accuracy and completeness.



3

MRV for biogas projects is critical for building national inventories to meet transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement.

Measurement is the most important component of MRV. There is a growing wave of **methane-detecting satellites** and **data platforms,** such as Waste Methane Assessment Platform and Carbon Mapper's data portal.



GMI's Policy Maker's Handbook for Measurement, Reporting, and Verification in the Biogas Sector offers guidance for MRV in the biogas sectors.







Enter your questions in the Q&A box!

Thank You!



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The slide deck and webinar recording will be made available on GMI's website.