

Coal Subcommittee Action Plan

Adopted by Subcommittee: 24 September 2018

Introduction

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Terms of Reference (TOR)¹ states that each Subcommittee should develop and execute an Action Plan that aligns with the TOR and current needs of the Subcommittee and Project Network members, as well as GMI’s overarching goals of advancing project implementation, facilitating investment, and creating appropriate policy frameworks that support methane abatement, recovery, and use.

The Coal Subcommittee Action Plan provides a blueprint for the important activities and priorities of the Coal Subcommittee to advance coal mine methane (CMM) projects. The Action Plan recognizes and takes into account the Subcommittee’s work and accomplishments to date, while also acknowledging the dynamic and rapidly changing environment affecting the global energy sector, particularly the coal industry, and also global carbon and environmental attributes markets.

In 2006, the Coal Subcommittee developed an Action Plan for the Subcommittee’s specific activity (the ‘2006 Action Plan’). In 2014, the Coal Subcommittee drafted and adopted a Statement of Purpose which clarified the focus of its work, as well as the roles and responsibilities of Subcommittee and Project Network members. In 2015, the Coal Subcommittee adopted a new Action Plan.² The 2015 Action Plan recognized the necessary evolution of the Subcommittee’s work from a foundational focus on project identification and policy development to identification and dissemination of best practices for effective methane management in coal mines worldwide. The 2015 Action Plan also recognized the Subcommittee’s support for public-private, regional International Centres of Excellence (ICE) on CMM. The ICE model, in concert with dissemination of best practices, is the foundation for a stronger and more sustainable results-driven model for emission reductions. Collectively, the 2006 and 2015 Action Plans and Statement of Purpose were instrumental in providing a framework for the projects and activities of the Coal Subcommittee.

In 2016, the GMI TOR was modified and extended for an additional five years. Updating the Coal Subcommittee Action Plan was discussed at the 24 October 2017 and 18 April 2018 Coal Subcommittee meetings. To better align with the new GMI TOR and more accurately reflect the Coal Subcommittee’s

¹ See: <http://www.globalmethane.org/about/terms.aspx>

² See: https://www.globalmethane.org/documents/Coal_Subcommittee_Action_Plan_Oct2015.pdf

evolving needs, this Action Plan (i.e., the ‘2018 Action Plan’) was developed. The draft 2018 Action Plan was reviewed and adopted at the 24 September 2018 Coal Subcommittee Meeting. Similar to the 2006 and 2015 Action Plans, the 2018 Action Plan will guide the future work and activities of the Coal Subcommittee.

Coal Subcommittee Overview

The GMI Coal Subcommittee focuses on supporting the identification and deployment of practical and cost-effective methane mitigation technologies and practices to reduce or eliminate emissions from coal mines. This is achieved by encouraging collaboration between Partner Countries, Subcommittee members, and Project Network members to build capacity, develop strategies and markets, and remove technical and non-technical barriers to methane mitigation project development. Ultimately, such collaboration can increase environmental quality, improve operational efficiency, and strengthen the economy via the additional methane brought to market.

Since 2004, the Coal Subcommittee has had numerous achievements, as outlined in the table below.

Coal Subcommittee Key Activities (2004 – 2018)

- Hosted meetings and workshops in nearly 16 countries;
- Collaborated to complete country specific Action Plans and Country Profiles for 10 Partner Countries;
- Showcased countless project opportunities and success stories;
- Technological developments at GMI Expos and Partnership wide events;
- Produced widely used CMM country profiles for 37 countries;
- Co published the *Best Practice Guidance on Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines* with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe;
- Developed technical resources and tools;
- Conducted feasibility and pre feasibility studies in Partner Countries and provided technical support for implementation of emission reduction projects.

For a full list of Coal Subcommittee activities and accomplishments, visit the GMI website.

Objectives of the 2018 Action Plan

Cooperative activities and collaboration are key components of the 2018 Action Plan. The Coal Subcommittee will execute the plan in a manner that promotes collaboration among Partner Countries, Subcommittee members, Project Network members, and other organizations that share common goals, including strategic alliance partners like the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). With such collaboration in mind, the Coal Subcommittee’s 2018 Action Plan identifies four main types of activities to undertake:

- (1) Developing overview materials
- (2) Identifying and addressing key barriers to project development
- (3) Identifying country-specific needs and opportunities
- (4) Building strategic alliances and long-term relationships that complement the work of the Coal Subcommittee’s objectives

Each of these four elements is discussed in more detail below.

Each element of this Action Plan incorporates cooperative activities to increase methane recovery and use in the sector as well as outreach to engage Project Network members. Through the Coal Subcommittee’s regular meetings and contacts among Partner Countries and their private sector counterparts through the Project Network, the Subcommittee will continue to pursue cooperative activities on a bilateral or multilateral basis that meet the identified needs and overcome key barriers to CMM project development.

Encouraging private sector organizations to join the Project Network will continue to be a vital component of the Subcommittee’s activities in each of the specific areas identified above. Each country should work to establish open lines of communication with relevant private sector parties to ensure active participation in the ongoing activities of the Partnership. In addition to private actors, non-governmental agencies in GMI countries, regional and multilateral agencies, and international financial institutions have also played critical roles in supporting the Subcommittee’s objectives.

To further the GMI Coal Subcommittee’s objective, the GMI Administrative Support Group (ASG) developed a comprehensive Coal Subcommittee website (<http://www.globalmethane.org/sectors/index.aspx?sector=coal>) with links to key websites and tools to make information accessible to its stakeholders.

Objective One: Development of Overview Materials

Activity	Approach	Indicators for Evaluation	Responsible Party
Prepare value-added informational work products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular updates to the GMI CMM Country Profiles and the GMI CMM Technology Database, and the International CMM Projects List - all available on the GMI website. Regular updates of other tools and resources on the GMI website and Coal Subcommittee webpage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of resources and tools developed or updated Website “hits” on GMI Coal Subcommittee documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GMI Coal Subcommittee

Objective Two: Identify and Address Key Barriers to Project Development

Activity	Approach	Indicators for Evaluation	Responsible Party
Identify legal, regulatory, technical and market barriers to project development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solicit input from Subcommittee members and Project Network members Update White Paper “Legal and Regulatory Status of CMM Ownership in Key Countries: Considerations for Decision Makers” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List and prioritization of barriers Updated White Paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GMI Coal Subcommittee Project Network
Build technical capacity to implement CMM projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarify technical capacity needs with country or region Hold seminars, workshops and/or extended training to facilitate technology transfer on best practices, evolving from a more targeted approach Host delegations for CMM study tours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of training sessions, seminars and workshops directly supported by GMI Number of study tours and number of participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GMI Coal Subcommittee

Activity	Approach	Indicators for Evaluation	Responsible Party
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support information centres or clearinghouses • Participate in and sponsor delegates from Subcommittee members to participate in quality technical symposia • Continue cooperation with the China and Polish International Centres of Excellence 		
Overcome lack of demonstrated feasibility for CMM project development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare pre-feasibility studies in GMI countries • Prepare full feasibility studies in GMI countries • Conduct training on preparation and delivery of pre-feasibility and full feasibility studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-feasibility and feasibility studies delivered • Successful completion of training for the China International Centre of Excellence • Conduct at least one pre-feasibility/feasibility training program per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GMI Coal Subcommittee
Identify financing options and build capacity of CMM project developers to secure finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify sources of finance and engage with financial institutions • Hold project capacity building finance workshops • Create link between prospective CMM projects and sources of finance and investment • Update important tools: the <i>CMOP International Cash Flow Model</i> and the <i>CMM Finance Guide</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of representatives of the financial community at Subcommittee events. • Workshops held • Updates to the <i>Cash Flow Model</i> and <i>CMM Finance Guide</i> • Connections between CMM project developers and investors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GMI Coal Subcommittee • Project Network

Objective Three: Identifying Country-Specific Needs and Opportunities

Activity	Approach	Indicators for Evaluation	Responsible Party
Assist Partner Countries in drafting country-specific Methane Action Plans, or updating existing plans on an annual basis ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide tools and guidance that help Partner Countries identify national level actions, supportive policies, and priority project opportunities Update tools available on the GMI website and the Coal Subcommittee webpage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Plans submitted to Administrative Support Groups for posting on the Subcommittee webpage List of needs and/or wants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GMI ASG, as well as Coal Subcommittee members that can serve as mentors to particular countries

Objective Four: Establish Long-Term Relationships that Promote the Coal Subcommittee Objectives

Activity	Approach	Indicators for Evaluation	Responsible Party
Increase the participation of existing Coal Subcommittee members in GMI activities and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact members about upcoming activities and events Contact GMI Partner Countries to encourage them to nominate Coal Subcommittee members Provide information to members to show that GMI and the Coal Subcommittee provides added value to their methane management efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People contacted compared to people attending meetings Nomination of new Subcommittee members Projects implemented New/updated contact information for individuals interested in joining, along with sector and technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GMI ASG

³ To date, the following Partner Countries have developed Action Plans and these plans are available on the GMI website: Australia, China, Colombia, European Commission, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United States. See: <https://www.globalmethane.org/sectors/index.aspx?s=coal> (under “Plans and Actions”)

Activity	Approach	Indicators for Evaluation	Responsible Party
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey members to identify needs and develop a plan to address survey results Encourage members to provide updates on their methane management activities and Action Plans 	and practices of interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member needs identified and addressed Member updates provided during Subcommittee meetings and webinars 	
Build relationships with non-members and other organizations, with a focus on the finance community and GMI's strategic alliance partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information to non-members that have expressed an interest to introduce them to GMI and the Coal Subcommittee Seek opportunities for members of the finance community to speak at GMI events Engage members of the finance community in Subcommittee activities Co-locate GMI Coal Subcommittee meetings with UNECE Group of Experts beginning in 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of needs New/updated contact information Meetings/workshops that involve the finance community Co-located meetings with strategic alliance partners, where applicable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-Chairs
Collaborate with other GMI Subcommittees to identify crosscutting themes and to maximize synergies between work/efforts, where appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate with other Subcommittees Define cross-cutting themes/ideas Support cross-collaboration at the Global Methane Forum in 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated primary point of contact for each Subcommittee and areas of interest List of cross-cutting ideas/themes and resources from other Subcommittees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-Chairs
Cooperate with the UNECE Group of Experts (GoE) on Coal Mine Methane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold joint meetings where it is in the interest of the GMI Coal Subcommittee and the UNECE GoE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual meetings of the GoE and GMI Coal Subcommittees held together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GMI Coal Subcommittee UNECE GoE Bureau UNECE staff

Activity	Approach	Indicators for Evaluation	Responsible Party
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue cooperation in support of dissemination and publication of “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage & Use in Coal Mines” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-sponsoring, co-organizing or mutual support of GMI and UNECE GoE workshops, scoping missions, training programs, seminars and other activities 	
Support UNECE International Centres of Excellence (ICE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support capacity building of ICE staff to facilitate dissemination of best practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-sustainability of ICEs over time Successful Best Practice workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-Chairs ICE employees

Ongoing or Planned Activities

The table below summarizes ongoing or planned activities (updated, July 2018).

Date	Activity	Anticipated Participants
29-31 August 2018	China ICE Training Session #2 Taiyuan, China	GMI Coal Subcommittee China ICE Staff International and Chinese Experts
24 September 2018	GMI Coal Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland	GMI Coal Subcommittee UNECE Group of Experts UNECE Member States Project Network
25 September 2018	UNECE Group of Experts Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland	UNECE Group of Experts UNECE Member States GMI Coal Subcommittee Project Network
11-12 October 2018	China ICE Training Session #2 Taiyuan, China	GMI Coal Subcommittee China ICE Staff International and Chinese Experts
22 – 26 October 2018	GHGT-14 – Melbourne, Australia	GMI Coal Subcommittee International Experts
12-14 June 2019	8 th International Symposium on Non- CO ₂ Greenhouse Gases Amsterdam, The Netherlands	GMI Coal Subcommittee International experts

Conclusions

The Coal Subcommittee is committed to supporting activities that will help to develop and disseminate information about opportunities for CMM project development and address the key barriers to project development: lack of information, lack of technology and technical knowledge, lack of demonstration for project feasibility, and lack of financing or financing capacity. The Subcommittee will conduct these activities in a way that promotes cooperation among the Partner nations and the private sector Project Network. The Subcommittee will also continue to work to understand the needs and priorities of individual countries within the GMI.

Updating and Adopting the Action Plan

As the priorities of the Coal Subcommittee may change over time, the Subcommittee agreed that the Action Plan should be updated and adopted on a 3-year cycle. Addressing changes in priorities allows the Coal Subcommittee to redirect actions to reflect current conditions, including technical and policy changes.