



National Methane Forum

within the framework of the project "Cooperation in solving the problem of Reducing Methane Emissions in Kazakhstan," sponsored and supported by the U.S. Diplomatic Mission in Kazakhstan.

Astana city, July 5, 2023.

The [Eurasian Business Forum "Green Energy & Waste Recycling Forum" \(GEWR'23\)](#) was held in Astana on July 4-5. The organizers, represented by the Kazakhstan Association for Waste Management "KazWaste" for the seventh time gathered experts and professionals on their platform to discuss industry issues, exchange ideas and search for solutions. The Center Cooperation for Sustainable Development in the Republic of Kazakhstan (hereinafter - the Center), with the financial support of the Diplomatic Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Kazakhstan, decided to participate in the National Methane Forum to discuss the achieved results of the project **"Cooperation in solving the problem of reducing methane emissions in Kazakhstan"**.



The Methane Forum created a valuable platform for dialog, exchange and action to protect the climate and improve air quality by reducing methane emissions. The event was held in person and virtually, demonstrating the global

interest in the forum topic. Stakeholders from government, private and industrial sectors, as well as development banks and non-governmental organizations participated in the forum.

The Forum discussed the most important key points, that methane is one of the main greenhouse gases contributing significantly to global warming. Experts noticed that methane is present in the atmosphere in smaller amounts than carbon dioxide and its potential to influence the greenhouse effect in a short time is much higher. Hence, reducing methane emissions is an important factor to reduce global warming and fight climate change. Expert opinions converged on the topic of methane emission reduction, which is directly related to sustainable development. Reducing methane emissions can reduce air pollution, improve water and soil quality, and reduce negative impacts on human health and ecosystems. Actions to reduce methane emissions can also contribute to other priorities such as food security, sustainable agriculture, waste management and improved energy efficiency. For example, implementing agroecosystem management practices can simultaneously reduce methane emissions and increase crop yields.



During the National Methane Forum, participants noted the importance of reducing methane emissions, as well as Kazakhstan's accession to the Global Methane Agreement and developed the following recommendations:

- ✓ call on the government of Kazakhstan to actively work on the development and implementation of policies aimed at regulating methane emissions and contributing to the fulfillment of global climate commitments by amending legislation on methane carbon credits in the emissions trading system, as well as Kazakhstan's accession to the Global Methane Commitment;
- ✓ conduct monitoring and inventory of methane emissions in sectors of the economy, especially agriculture and waste management, including wastewater treatment plants to determine the potential and subsequently to apply measures to reduce methane emissions;
- ✓ support the development and implementation of offset projects related to methane emissions to generate carbon units and use them to offset liabilities;
- ✓ cooperate with international organizations and banks to attract investment and support projects to reduce methane emissions, in particular support for small and medium-sized businesses implementing alternative energy generation technologies in agriculture, waste management and coal mining;
- ✓ to create an interdepartmental working group of experts on reduction of methane emissions in Kazakhstan, as well as on the issues of COC waste treatment under the Council on Transition to a Green Economy to raise pressing issues and necessary actions of certain authorized and executive bodies to promote the problem of methane emissions.



The Center has good reasons to believe that in the near future Kazakhstan will join the Global Methane Commitment and promote initiatives to reduce methane emissions into the environment.