



# Methane to Markets

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## Status of Wastewater Sector

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# Status of Wastewater Sector

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- Sector Overview
- Background
- Summary and Update on Considerations for Incorporating Wastewater
- Next Steps and Items for Consideration

## Sector Overview

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- Methane is emitted during the handling and treatment of domestic, commercial, and industrial wastewater through the anaerobic decomposition of organic material.
- Most developed countries rely on centralized aerobic wastewater treatment to collect and treat domestic and commercial wastewater, resulting in small and incidental methane emissions.
- In developing countries with little or no collection and treatment of wastewater, anaerobic treatment systems such as lagoons, septic systems, open sewers, and latrines are more prevalent, resulting in greater emissions.

# Background

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- Initially raised/discussed at the January 2009 Steering Committee meeting in Mexico.
  - Chile highlighted its current wastewater activities.
  - Steering Committee tasked ASG with developing a scoping paper to assess the potential for including wastewater in the Partnership.
- ASG presented results at the September 2009 Steering Committee meeting.
  - Availability of demonstrated technologies to reduce methane emissions from wastewater treatment.
  - Prevalence in many Partner countries, which represent 70% of global emissions from this sector.
- Based on results, Steering Committee recognized this sector has potential to achieve methane capture and utilization in the near term.

## Background (con't)

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- Delegates also recognized the interrelationships with work in both the Landfill and Agriculture Subcommittees (i.e., public infrastructure and anaerobic digestion, respectively).
  - Tasked these Subcommittees to consider the issue of wastewater at recent meetings (see slide 7).
  
- Delegates agreed to establish a Wastewater Task Force to further explore interest among Partners and determine how this sector could best be incorporated in the Partnership.
  - Mexico/United Kingdom volunteered to chair task force.
  - Australia, Colombia, Pakistan, and the United States have expressed interest in participating.

# Summary/Update on Considerations for Incorporating Wastewater

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- Task Force will consider several options for incorporating the wastewater sector within the Partnership:
  - Creation of a working group within the Landfill or Agriculture Subcommittee that convenes periodically and reports out to Subcommittee.
  - Creation of a new Subcommittee.

# Summary/Update on Considerations for Incorporating Wastewater (con't)

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Working Group within Existing Subcommittee</p>	<p>Low incremental increase in administrative costs.</p> <p>Allows for better coordination when there is overlap of either technology options (Agriculture) or policy management structures (Landfill).</p>	<p>Scope of delegate technical expertise is different.</p> <p>Industry/Project Network organizations differ and there would be limited options for co-locating meetings with industry-related meetings.</p> <p>Size of committee might become unwieldy.</p>
<p>New Subcommittee</p>	<p>Allows discussion of targeted approach to municipal wastewater.</p> <p>Easy to co-locate Subcommittee meeting with appropriate industry-related meetings (e.g., WEF, IWA).</p> <p>Allows for more focused interaction among technical/policy experts that are unique to the sector.</p>	<p>Additional incremental burden on Partners to field delegates to participate in another subcommittee.</p> <p>Additional burden on Steering Committee to guide another subcommittee.</p>

# Summary/Update on Considerations for Incorporating Wastewater (con't)

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- To further inform the Task Force, the Landfill Subcommittee discussed the interrelationship of solid waste and wastewater, and possible inclusion of the wastewater sector under its purview.
  - Might be appropriate given similar publically owned and managed infrastructures.
  - Concern that project development expertise needed within each sector is different.
- Initial response from the Agriculture Subcommittee was not supportive of incorporating this sector under its purview.
- This feedback will be considered by the Task Force going forward.

# Summary/Update on Considerations for Incorporating Wastewater (con't)

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- Task Force could also explore how the Project Network could best be engaged and the role of international institutions, such as:
  - Water Environment Federation
  - International Water Association
  - Global Water Partnership
  - Water Supply and Sanitation Council
- ASG scoping paper noted these organizations do not include methane mitigation from WWTPs.
- Additional engagement will be needed to learn more about activities and to further define role Methane to Markets might play in this sector.

# Items for Consideration

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- Task Force Membership
  - Assess and confirm interest among members of the Steering Committee to participate in the Wastewater Task Force.
- Consultation
  - Encourage the Task Force to convene a teleconference among interested Partners in the first half of 2010 and report back on their deliberations.
- Language in the TOR
  - Depending on the Task Force's work, the ASG could work with the chairs to develop language for adding wastewater as a new sector in the TOR or for a placeholder indicating the option to add this later, as was done for agriculture in the original TOR.