



Greener Landfills

Reducing emissions, meeting local energy needs, and stimulating the local economy

September 2007
Sacramento, California

1. Introduction

Greener Landfills: Reducing emissions, meeting local energy needs, and stimulating the local economy is a joint initiative of **CIFAL Atlanta** (International Training Center for Authorities and Civil Society Leaders), **UNITAR** (United Nations Institute for Training and Research), and **LMOP** (United States Environmental Protection Agency Landfill Methane Outreach Program.) This workshop provides a forum for government officials to share best practices for reducing a their environmental footprint, explore successful public-private partnerships, and stimulating economic growth through landfill gas-to-energy (LFGTE) projects. The workshop, which will take place in California in September 2007, builds on the first 2006 event in LaGrange, Georgia (view: http://www.cifalatlanta.org/workshops/partnerships/06072006/proceedings_landfills.htm) California has been selected as the host state for the 2007 workshop because it has the greatest number of successful LFGTE projects as well as many untapped landfills with LFGTE project potential.

This event will bring together approximately 100 mayors and directors of landfills and public works departments with industry experts to explore best practices for implementing landfill gas-to-energy projects to reduce methane emissions, provide a clean, renewable form of energy, and stimulate the local economy. Participants will explore financing models to increase return-on-investment and promote cost savings, case studies to build community consensus towards sustainable practices, measurements to assess environmental impact, and an overview of LFG technologies and practices. Participants will include 80 U.S. delegates, approximately 40 of which will come from California, and 20 international delegates.

This workshop will include case study presentations by key government officials who have successfully implemented landfill gas-to-energy projects, as well as experts from the private sector and other organizations. The Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from LMOP, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, and UNITAR, all of whom have been instrumental in shaping the agenda to incorporate various perspectives.

2. Background

Ensuring environmental sustainability by 2015 is the seventh goal of the U.N. Millennium Development Goals, as agreed to by 192 countries and by leading development institutions. Local governments are taking an increasing initiative in developing policy to combat climate change, achieve carbon neutrality, and implement sustainable business and growth practices. Over 300 mayors have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement pledging to significantly reduce emission of greenhouse gases by 2012.



Landfill gas-to-energy projects are recognized as one of the single most profitable near-term steps a government can take towards reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Methane, which is over 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide, can be converted into electricity or heat to replace traditional, higher-polluting, energy sources. Energy from landfill gas is a renewable resource that can be sold at a stable lower price to energy sector purchasers.

3. Objectives

The goal of this year's forum *Greener Landfills: Reducing Emissions, Meeting Local Energy Needs, and Stimulating the Local Economy* is to assist participating local governments in achieving the U.N. Millennium Development Declaration on environmental sustainability through the implementation of gas-to-energy projects at local landfill sites. Through the workshop, participants are expected to obtain the following specific benefits:

- Gain the tools to measure the cities' environmental impact, identifying the largest quantity of emissions and areas where cost-effective improvements can be made
- Examine landfill gas-to-energy technologies and project types;
- Explore funding opportunities and financial models to increase return-on-investment and promote cost savings;
- Discuss policy issues and regulatory requirements that impact landfill gas-to-energy projects;
- Build community consensus favoring sustainable practices within government and business;
- Discuss potential frameworks for mutually beneficial public-private partnerships;
- Gain contacts, resources, and best practices for implementing landfill gas-to-energy projects; and
- Formulate an action plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

4. Best Practice Areas

Greener Landfills: Reducing Emissions, Meeting Local Energy Needs, and Stimulating the Local Economy will focus on four strategic areas:

Environment

This track will discuss implications of rising energy prices and climate change on local governments with an emphasis on emission reductions and alternative energy sources. Case studies will explore best practices in implementing policy to reduce a local government's environmental footprint and adapt to predicted energy shortages. Participants will gain tools to determine their actual greenhouse gas emission levels and identify the source of these emissions.

Economic Development

Participants will explore financial models and look into various funding opportunities including public-private partnerships, available grants, and return-on-investment estimations.

Landfill Gas-to-Energy Requirements and Capabilities

Industry experts will discuss various technologies and applications. Participants will look at alternative disposal technologies and practices including bioreactors.



Community Consensus and Capacity Building

This track will explore ways to actively engage the community in efforts to achieve environmental sustainability and to promote successful public-private partnerships. Participants will explore best practices for building the skill levels of policy makers, local government officials and private sector representatives, and citizen groups and to facilitate open dialogue between them. Discussions on policy formation and building partnerships will be the primary focus for this topic.

5. Format

The forum will build on the methodology and knowledge management tool used by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to foster effective best practice sharing among high level city officials and international experts.

Following registration, a self assessment survey will be sent to participants to assess the governments or organization's level of capability in achieving sustainable development and specifically in implementing landfill gas-to-energy projects. This survey will assist the organizers, as well as the participants, in identifying the areas where each participant wishes to expand their knowledge, as well as their strengths and expertise that could benefit other cities.

Results from the self assessment process will then be used to pair delegates at the workshop for best practice sharing through a series of knowledge management exercises that will encourage thoughtful exchange of ideas and practical guidance in priority areas identified by delegates. In addition participants will benefit from high-level key-note plenary talks by city officials and industry experts.

Forum participants will be able to use both the formal sessions and the informal time to learn more from each other about how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide a renewable, alternative energy source, implement landfill gas-to-energy projects, and promote economic development.

6. Outputs

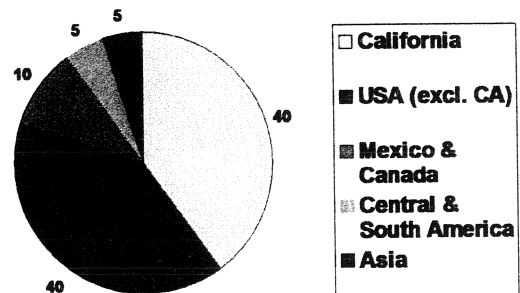
Outputs from the forum will be disseminated in the following formats:

- White paper (online/CD format) containing forum proceedings, speakers notes, power point presentations, etc
- Website with updates and participant details to facilitate post seminar networking

7. Participant Profile

The focus will be on executive level participants. The approximately 100 participants will be comprised of mayors, landfill and public works directors, and industry experts. The invited local governments will be owners of landfills interested in exploring opportunities for landfill gas-to-energy projects.

Approximate Breakdown of Delegates



From: Jennifer Wilson [mailto:jwilson@cifalatlanta.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2007 1:08 PM
To: William Merry
Cc: Brian Guzzone
Subject: Greener Landfills workshop in California

Dear Mr. Merry:

On behalf of CIFAL Atlanta (International Center for the Training of Local Authorities and Civil Society Leaders), and the US EPA's Landfill Methane Outreach Program, I would like to invite you to join the Steering Committee for the upcoming workshop Greener Landfills: Reducing emissions, meeting local energy needs, and stimulating the local economy. The workshop, which will take place in California (date & location to be determined) in September 2007, builds on the first 2006 event in LaGrange, Georgia (http://www.cifalatlanta.org/workshops/partnerships/06072006/proceedings_landfills.htm)

This event will bring together approximately one-hundred mayors and directors of landfills and public works departments with industry experts to explore best-practices in implementing landfill gas-to-energy (LFGTE) projects. The event will focus on the four strategic areas: "Environment," "Economic Development," "Landfill Gas-to-Energy Requirements and Capabilities," and "Community Consensus and Capacity Building."

Due to your expertise in the field and interest in advancing LFGTE projects, we would like to extend to you an invitation to be a part of the Steering Committee to help to implement this program. Steering Committee participation includes such activities as providing input to the development of the technical program and shaping the agenda and with identifying speakers and potential participants. We would ask that you take part in Steering Committee phone calls when possible; these would take place once a month and last for approximately one hour each.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this opportunity. We look forward to your participation. For more information on our program, please feel free to contact me at jwilson@cifalatlanta.org. In the meantime, I will be in touch in the coming days to inquire about your availability.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With kindest regards,

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CIFAL (International Training Center for Local Authorities) is the North American affiliate of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research Decentralized Cooperation Program