WELL-MANAGED CITY WASTE
WITH CLIMATE AND HEALTH
BENEFITS

INITIATIVE

Our Municipal Solid Waste Initiative enables cities, with the support of their regional and national governments, to reduce air pollution and climate emissions, including short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs).

This delivers local environmental, economic and health benefits, while at the same time helping to reduce the rate of warming in the near-term.

WHY WE DO THIS WORK

Municipal solid waste is the third largest source of anthropogenic methane emissions globally. It is also a significant source of black carbon, contributing to local air pollution.

For many cities, the growing waste burden is becoming increasingly difficult to manage, and is leading to deleterious impacts on human health and the environment.

The waste problem is most severe in urbanizing regions and developing countries, where collection and disposal services do not exist or cannot cope with increasing amounts of waste.

HOW WE WORK

Our group of experts and policymakers assist governments to develop waste management plans, assessments, feasibility studies, and identify financing options. We tailor our approach to a city’s needs with a mix of:

• Technical assistance, training and capacity building
• Tools to identify locally-suited solutions and track emissions
• Peer-to-peer learning and city mentoring.
• Information exchange to share best practices and successes

Our open-access “Knowledge Platform” provides resources such as case studies and guidance documents.

AREAS OF FOCUS:
PROVEN SOLUTIONS THAT WILL REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM THE SECTOR AND LEAD TO CLEANER, MORE SUSTAINABLE CITIES:

METHANE
Minimizing food waste sent to landfills

METHANE
Capturing landfill gas for energy

BLACK CARBON
Promoting alternatives to open waste burning prevention
In Kenya, we supported the development of a National Solid Waste Management Law that will create an enabling national framework and facilitates country-level waste regulation and practices.

In Nairobi we have implemented activities that will generate a range of environmental, economic, and public health benefits.

For example, we set up an exchange programme with eThekwini (Durban), South Africa, to learn about their waste management.

This prepared the city to implement practical steps, including the use of cover material, and training for uncontrolled pickers and site operators. The city is making preparations to close and rehabilitate its open dump.

GLOBALLY, AN ESTIMATED
40% OF WASTE IS OPENLY BURNED, RELEASING HARMFUL DIOXINS, FURANS, AND BLACK CARBON INTO THE ATMOSPHERE.

EXAMPLE OF OUR WORK IN NAIROBI, KENYA

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PROGRESS

30 city baseline waste assessments and 16 city waste management work plans completed

5 training and networking events attended by 70 cities total

Created the City Assessment Tool, OrganEcs - Cost Estimating Tool for Managing Source-Separated Organic Waste, Solid Waste Emissions Estimation Tool, Landfill Gas Project Screening Tool, and financing assessment tools

HOW CAN YOU HELP

Many cities are seeking our assistance to replicate this work. With your funding we can help more cities and countries develop SLCP-mitigating waste management plans.

Funders and organisations are also encouraged to engage with us to implement the plans we support through development cooperation partnerships.

Created a results-based funding mechanism for Penang, Malaysia that is being adopted elsewhere