



Don't let opportunity go to waste

Promoting Integrated Resource Recovery Centres in Urban Asia

CARBON FINANCING AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

What is climate change and the Kyoto Protocol?

Growing scientific evidence shows that human activity is increasing the earth's temperature; this is called global warming. Global warming is caused by rising concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, and this is changing the earth's climate. This is called climate change.

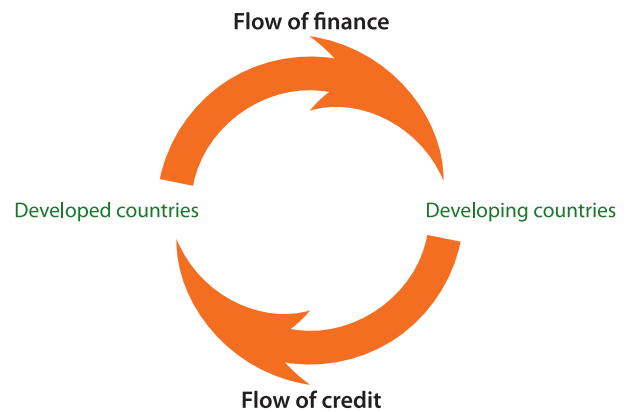
To address climate change, governments of the world adopted the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1994. In 1997, governments adopted the Kyoto protocol that outlined a timetable of greenhouse gas reduction targets. The most important aspect of the Kyoto Protocol is its legally binding commitments for 39 developed countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

What is the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)?

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is a mechanism established under the Kyoto Protocol through which developed countries can contribute towards climate change mitigation and sustainable development in developing countries.

CDM allows developed countries to achieve part of their reduction obligations through investment in emission reduction projects in developing countries. The projects can be implemented wherever the emission reduction can be achieved most efficiently. The aim is to improve the overall flexibility and economic efficiency of obtaining emission reduction.

Greenhouse gas reduction of any CDM project is measured according to internationally agreed methods and are quantified in standard units called Certified Emission Reductions (CERs). These are expressed in tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e). The CERs can be traded and sold on international carbon markets.



Can improved solid waste management contribute to mitigating climate change?

When biodegradable waste is deposited at a landfill, it produces methane. Methane can either be captured or burned to produce energy from landfills or avoided through aerobic composting. Methane is a green house gas 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

Through source-segregation of waste, followed by reusing and recycling of materials and composting of organic waste, greenhouse gas emissions from the solid waste management sector can be reduced significantly.

How can CDM be used for solid waste management projects?

Projects from the waste sector can be registered both as a large-scale and small-scale projects. Small-scale projects can be bundled together using a programmatic approach. Based on the current price of CERs, waste sector projects can recover between 50 to 100 per cent of the capital cost from sale of carbon credits..

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