

Public policy recommendations: Key elements to reduce methane emissions from the waste sector

An adequate management of the organic fraction of waste, which reduces methane emissions, requires multiple enabling factors, as many as those needed for a waste collection truck to work efficiently.



1 Institutional structure
When operating a truck for waste collection, the first thing needed is the vehicle itself. For a solid waste management system, basic institutional arrangements are required, where roles are clearly defined.

2 Strategic planning
The management system requires strategic planning to help guide the efforts of the different actors involved.

3 Sustainable financing
A truck needs an energy source. Similarly, the organic waste management system requires availability of resources to cover the costs of investment, operation, maintenance and improvement.

4 Capacities
The system requires technical and economical capacities to address the organic fraction at the national, municipal, and private sector levels.

5 Effective compliance
The management system of organic waste requires effective compliance on the monitoring, follow-up, control and sanction, to ensure that all stakeholders are complying with the regulations.

6 Active collaboration of citizens
For the management system to work, there is a need to create citizen awareness that generates the active collaboration of the population, both in source separation as well as in supporting waste management projects.

Public Policy Tools



1

Institutional Structure

- Public Policy Governing Body
- Monitoring/Compliance agency
- Regulator of Rates and Quality of Service Provision
- Waste management service providers



2

Strategic planning

- Organic waste recovery goals
- Sector goals for the reduction of methane emissions at the national level
- Municipal level GHG inventories
- Organic waste reduction certifications
- Environmental awards or recognitions
- Requirement of selective collection of organic waste for municipalities
- Tax on sanitary landfills
- Restrictions on the final disposal of organic waste



3

Sustainable financing

- Charges through existing public service bills
- Subsidy systems for service charges
- Gradual introduction of charges
- Structuring funds for investment directed at the municipal level
- Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)
- Guarantees from public development agencies for private bank financing
- Access to international cooperation financing
- Tax exemptions for the purchase of equipment/machinery for GHG emission reduction projects
- Quality certifications for commercialization of compost/digestate
- Establish use of compost/digestate in State procurement processes
- Tax exemptions for compost and digestate



4

Capacities

- Training programs for public officials
- Training programs for personnel of composting facilities
- Programs for the Exchange of Experiences
- Competitive tenders
- Uniform charging structure
- Public contracting standards (pre-established contract models)
- Contracting/bidding frameworks that allow PPPs to be established



5

Effective compliance

- Sanctions for solid waste management service providers
- Sanctions to salaries of the responsible authorities



6

Active collaboration of citizens

- Training and education programs for citizens
- Home Composting Programs
- Programs to promote organic agriculture
- Measures focused on behavioral change
- Obligations to separate organic waste at the source for users
- Charges by volume (bags/labels)
- Charges by volume (containers)
- Charges by weight

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Compliance with landfill gas capture and flaring

- Financing to implement the mandatory capture and burning of landfill gas
- Incentives for commercialization of energy generated by landfill gas
- Green taxes on GHG emitting sources

