

Comunidad de Práctica sobre reducción de emisiones de metano de fuentes orgánicas (CdP Met-LAC)/

Community of Practice on reduction of Methane emissions from organic sources (CoP Met-LAC)

Prepared by the LEDS LAC Regional Platform Secretariat, the Center for Clean Air Policy (CCAP) and ImplementaSur, for the Global Methane Hub

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1. Introduction

Methane (CH₄) is a potent greenhouse gas, 86 times more powerful than carbon dioxide at warming the atmosphere over a 20-year time period. According to the Global Methane Assessment (2021), reducing human-caused methane emissions is one of the most cost-effective strategies to rapidly reduce the rate of warming and contribute significantly to global efforts to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C.

Considering the importance of methane emission reduction to achieve climate goals, as well as other environmental, social and economic benefits, 150 countries have joined the Global Methane Pledge, agreeing to take voluntary actions to contribute to a collective effort to reduce global methane emissions at least 30 percent from 2020 levels by 2030, which could eliminate over 0.2°C warming by 2050.

The Global Methane Hub was created with the mission to accelerate action by governments, civil society, researchers, investors and the private sector through the development and implementation of strategies that will catalyze systemic and rapid reductions in CH₄ emissions in the energy, agriculture and waste sectors.

In line with that mission, the Global Methane Hub has provided support to the Chilean organization ImplementaSur and the Center for Clean Air Policy (CCAP) to expand and scale-up to the Latin American Region the Reciclo Orgánicos program, which was successfully implemented in Chile, with support from the Canadian Government cooperation.

Reciclo Orgánicos Latin America has the objective of accelerating implementation of methane mitigation projects in the waste sector, and creating enabling conditions for a sustained expansion of organic waste management technologies that provide important environmental, economic and social benefits. As of June 2023, the project has supported the development of more than 100 project proposals in 6 countries, and the

implementation of 11 projects expected to mitigate 1, 316,313 tons of CH₄ over the next 20 years.

Reciclo Organicos LAC also has the interest of creating a community of practice, raising awareness on concrete actions that can reduce methane emissions, and generating capacities in the region. For this reason, the project partners are collaborating with LEDS LAC, the Regional Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Global Climate Action Partnership (GCAP formerly LEDS GP), to present this proposal to the Global Methane Hub, with the objective of creating a Community of Practice on reduction of methane emissions from organic sources.

The LEDS LAC Platform is a network of organizations and individuals working in the promotion, design and implementation of LEDS in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Platform is led by a Steering Committee formed by representatives of government, civil society and international organizations, and a Secretariat operated by Peruvian organization Libelula Comunicación, Ambiente y Desarrollo. During the strategic planning for the 2023-2025 period, LEDS LAC has identified methane mitigation as a potential new area of work, due to the importance of promoting action through dialogue, collaboration and capacity building.

Through its 10 years of existence, LEDS LAC has developed capacities and instruments to facilitate peer-to-peer exchange and collaboration to promote and support climate action in specific topics, through the creation of Communities of Practice with several partners from international cooperation. The methodology provides general guidelines to organize and conduct activities, but is flexible to accommodate specific requirements and circumstances depending on the topic, the expected results and the participating members.

The proposed collaboration builds on each of the partners' strengths and capacities, combining LEDSLAC's experience in organizing and facilitating communities of practice with the technical knowledge and experiences of the Reciclo Organicos Latin America partner organizations (ImplementaSur and CCAP). The projects that are already supported by Reciclo Orgánicos provide an initial target group and a wealth of lessons learned and good practices to be shared in the new CoP. Additional members and experiences, as well as opportunities to disseminate knowledge and provide technical assistance, can be identified through collaboration with LEDS LAC's Bioenergy Community of Practice.

The Met-LAC CoP will have a focus on CH₄ reduction from organic sources, considering the need and opportunities to support CH₄ emission reduction beyond waste management, with a circular economy approach. With this purpose, the technical expertise of CCAP and ImplementaSur will be complemented by LEDS LAC's Resource Efficiency Working Group, which is operated by Asociación Sustentar, based in Argentina.

2. Objectives and expected results

General objective

The general objective of the Met-LAC CoP is to promote and support the development of public policies, business models and investment projects to reduce methane emissions from organic sources in Latin America and the Caribbean, through exchange of experiences, cross-country and cross-stakeholder dialogue, capacity building and

technical assistance for activities such as avoidance of Food Waste and Loss (FWL), composting, production of bioenergy from organic waste and others, with a circular economy approach.

Specific objectives

- Facilitating exchange of knowledge and experiences among relevant stakeholders.
- Building capacities on policy, business and technical issues.
- Provide support to the development of policy instruments, business models and investment projects.
- Expand the project pipeline of Reciclo Orgánicos LAC.

Participants and selection process

The CoP aims at bringing together representatives from national and local government institutions, private sector companies and organizations, technical agencies, international cooperation and other stakeholders that are key to enhancing the enabling environment and developing sustainable business models for investments in methane-reducing actions and projects.

The target group includes practitioners from ministries of environment, agriculture, energy and other relevant sectors; local governments, companies and private sector associations from the agricultural, agro-industrial, retail and other sectors; academic institutions; international organizations and independent experts.

As an initial target group, the organizations that are part of the Reciclo Organicos initiative will be invited to join the CoP. This will be complemented with an open call through the network of LEDS LAC, BioE CoP, Resource Efficiency Working Group and other partner organizations.

There will be very clear participation requirements, to ensure that participants in the CoP have knowledge and experience in at least one topic related to the CoP's theme. This is key to ensure that everyone in the Community can at the same time benefit and contribute to the learning and collaboration. Applicants not meeting the requirements will be added to a database to be invited to webinars and other activities open to the public, which will be organized with the objective of disseminating knowledge.

Attendance of members to the CoP activities will be monitored and will serve as a criterion to select participants for in-person activities. New members will be admitted throughout the operation of the CoP, as long as they meet the requirements.

Expected results (2023-2025)

- More than 100 practitioners from public, private and civil society organizations in the LAC region have enhanced their knowledge and capacities to develop and apply policy instruments, business strategies, and/or bankable investment projects aimed at reducing methane emissions from organic sources
- At least 10 government agencies have gained capacity to design or revise policy and regulatory instruments with technical assistance from the CoP
- At least 10 investment project proposals have been accelerated or strengthened to reach the next stage of project development with technical assistance from the CoP

3. Methodology

Principles

The work of the CoP will be guided by LEDS LAC´s principles

- Every member is an expert in a topic relevant to the CoP.
- The CoP coordinators are facilitators of exchange and collaboration.
- Avoid duplicating efforts of other organizations or initiatives.

Governance and operational structure

Roles and responsibilities

- Strategic planning, guidance and supervision of the CoPs activities will be in charge of a Steering Committee formed by representatives of LEDS LAC, Reciclo Orgánicos and the Global Methane Hub.
- Day to day operations will be coordinated by a technical team in the LEDS LAC Secretariat. The coordinator of this team will be part of the Steering Committee.
- CCAP, ImplementaSur and the LEDS LAC (through the RE-WG or other instances) will provide technical content for the activities, and technical assistance in response to requests from CoP members.

Financial management

The Global Methane Hub grant will be managed by CCAP, which will transfer resources for the other partners according to the activities and tasks assigned to them.

Activities

The following activities will be developed between July 2023 and June 2025

- Participant selection - July 2023
- Mapping selected member initiatives, and exploring expectations and needs, through an initial survey - First half of August
- Kickoff workshop, back to back with LEDS LAC´s Regional Workshop (August 21, 2023), with the purpose of:
 - Presenting objectives, methodology and survey results
 - Getting to know each other, Building a spirit of community and enhancing contact network
 - Sharing experiences and learnings from Recicla Orgánicos and member organizations
 - Identifying priority topics for exchange and training sessions, and needs for technical assistance.
- A second in-person 2,5 day workshop, focused on exchange of experiences and capacity building, during the second year of operation. Dates to be defined.
- Organization of sessions during LEDS LAC´s Regional Workshops (2023 and 2024) and in other regional and global events, to present the work of the CoP, raise awareness and identify potential new collaborations
- Bimonthly online exchange sessions for members, focused on priority topics, to present case studies, methodologies and tools, beginning September 2024

- Online group discussions for core members interested in specific topics, or subregions (at least one per semester) - Beginning September 2022
- Development of knowledge products (policy briefs, guides, toolboxes) based on the experiences and tools shared in the CoP.
- Technical assistance provided by the partners of RecicloOrganicos and the Resource Efficiency Working Group.
- Creation and maintenance of a dedicated web page for the Met LAC CoP on LEDSLAC's website