Vienna: Catalyzing New Partnerships to Address SLCPs

Representatives from 10 cities and 15 different countries came together in Vienna, Austria on October 10-11, 2013 to plan and take new action to address short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) from the municipal solid waste sector.

The Vienna meeting brought together a variety of cities and countries, some that have been participating in the initiative for nearly a year, others that have just joined. More advanced cities, like Cali, Colombia and Viña del Mar, Chile showcased the progress they have made through the CCAC and presented their plans for next steps (see page 2).

New participants, like Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Bangui, Central African Republic; Baranquilla, Colombia; Concepcion, Chile; and Lima, Peru, learned about the first steps for taking action and began to develop tailored strategies for reducing emissions from waste. New mentor cities San Diego and San Francisco jumped into fray, sharing innovative examples and forming city exchange partnerships.

Thank you to all our excellent participants for making the Vienna workshop a huge success!
Expanding in new regions and new exciting partnerships launched

New partners from the African region were well-represented at the workshop, including from Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and the Central African Republic. Representatives emphasized the need for additional focus and action in the region.

With the spark of momentum ignited from the Vienna workshop, Abidjan and Cote d’Ivoire will be incorporating considerations for SLCPs in their integrated solid waste management plans, and offered to convene a regional workshop to further scale up activities. Addis Ababa has completed the city assessment stage and is enthusiastic to develop a work plan focused on a suite of key activities to move up the waste hierarchy.

The Vienna workshop also resulted in two new city exchange partnerships:

- **San Diego** and **Cali**, Colombia will team up to bolster Cali’s efforts in better understanding their waste composition and implementing new organic management practices.
- **Concepcion**, Chile and **San Francisco**, USA will also launch a new partnership to collaborate on the development of sustainable waste management policy, and hope to initiate their exchange in the first quarter of 2014.

The next steps for these partners will be to develop Memoranda of Understanding or Terms of Reference to outline the concrete activities they will be undertaking together, highlighting the ways this cooperation can lead to substantial emissions reductions.

Launch of Knowledge Platform

During the Congress opening speech, International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) president David Newman recognised ISWA’s partnership with the CCAC as “very productive and practical” and he launched the CCAC MSW Knowledge Platform.

The MSW Knowledge Platform, which is the first and only knowledge platform focusing on the linkages between SLCPs and the municipal solid waste sector, will support cities globally to learn about existing and new best practice strategies for reducing methane and black carbon emissions across the waste sector. The Platform facilitates interaction amongst cities and provides access to technical, capacity building, city-exchange, and awareness-raising services offered by the CCAC and its partners.

The platform can be accessed at: http://waste.ccac-knowledge.net/

For more information on the CCAC and the Municipal Solid Waste Initiative, please visit: www.unep.org/ccac
Making Progress

Maria del Mar of Cali, Colombia shared a detailed presentation on how the city is taking strides to reduce emissions from waste through a variety of activities. Currently the city takes most of its 1,800 tonnes of waste generated daily to a landfill 62 km away. The city has developed a plan to begin separating recyclable material generated from households and managing major sources of organic material to reduce the amount of waste taken to the landfill and avoid methane and black carbon emissions. Partnering with the CCAC and the Center for Clean Air Policy, the city is able to quantify the avoided emissions, determine that composting is economically feasible, design a program for managing organic waste, all while incorporating informal waste pickers into the city’s waste management activities, which has additional social benefits.

Andrea Gonzalez of Viña del Mar, Chile shared how her city is putting in place an integrated solid waste management plan with the assistance of the CCAC and the mentorship of Stockholm, Sweden. They are initiating data collection and management strategies, assessing opportunities for diverting waste from landfills, and working collaboratively with the city of Stockholm to assess their plan and identify areas for make improvements. Stockholm has already made one trip to Viña del Mar to better understand current practices and soon Viña del Mar will travel to Stockholm to inform their integrated solid waste management plan. Their partnership emphasizes the role of city experts in developing their own plans and policies, and using consultants for select pieces of work as needed.

The work in Cali and Viña del Mar is designed to align with the concurrent development of national strategies under the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) framework, with the understanding that combining local and national actions could result in greater progress made overall.

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About Us

The Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) is a voluntary, collaborative global partnership uniting governments, intergovernmental organisations, the private sector, and civil society to take fast action to reduce short-lived climate pollutants such as methane, black carbon, and many hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). Ambitious action on these pollutants could slow down the global warming expected by 2050 by as much as 0.5 Celsius degrees, prevent over two million premature deaths each year, and avoid over 30 million tons of annual crop losses by 2030. The CCAC has launched 10 different global initiatives focused on the largest sources of SLCPs – the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Initiative is working to reduce methane and black carbon in partnership with cities and countries around the world.

The CCAC initiative on “Mitigating Short-Lived Climate Pollutants from Municipal Solid Waste” provides a catalysing force to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants across the municipal solid waste sector by supporting cities to undertake a variety of efforts, including capping and closing of open dumps, capturing and utilising landfill gas and ensuring proper waste handling and organics management.

Launched in 2012, the CCAC is now engaging municipal and national governments to develop commitments to reduce cities’ methane and black carbon emissions across the solid waste sector; deploy technical assistance for developing waste management master plans, business plans and action-oriented projects that focus on methane and black carbon reduction and management; identify and promote appropriate financing and regulatory models; and bring cities and countries together to share best practices, highlight success stories and encourage city-to-city mentoring.

The United Nations Environment Programme in Paris hosts the CCAC Secretariat and Ylva Engqvist (Ylva.Engqvist.affiliate@unep.org) is the Programme Coordinator for the MSW Initiative. Please feel free to contact her with any questions about the CCAC or this initiative! Lead Partners in the CCAC MSW Initiative include the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Japan governments, UNEP, the World Bank, and the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA), along with key partners like C40 and the Center for Clean Air Policy.

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