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Climate and Clean Air Action on Solid Waste

The Climate and Clean Air Coalition, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, the ~~Clinton~~ Clinton Climate Initiative, the World Bank, and the Global Methane Initiative announced today that they are all joining forces to work with participating cities and countries to dramatically reduce methane and black carbon emissions from solid waste around the world.

This groundbreaking partnership brings together wide-ranging expertise to help cities on real-world projects to reduce climate pollutants, improve local health and environment, and harness landfill methane as renewable energy. In addition to intensive work with specific cities, the partnership will establish a platform for sharing experiences from one city to others around the world. National governments will contribute by removing barriers and streamlining waste sector regulation.

The waste sector is the third largest man-made source of methane, a greenhouse gas 20 times more potent than CO₂, and municipal waste production is expected to nearly double worldwide by 2025. Over the coming months, the partnership will work with a group of leading cities, including Lagos, Rio de Janeiro, New York, and Stockholm, to design city-friendly strategies for rolling out the initiative.

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton –

Governor of Lagos

C40 Chair, and Mayor of New York City Michael Bloomberg:

“Improving the management of city solid waste, including reducing the release of methane and other greenhouse gases is a top priority of many C-40 cities. The success of this partnership and of our new C40 network will move us a long way toward the greenhouse gas reduction goals we are setting.”

Todd Stern, U.S. Special Envoy for Climate Change – *“This initiative encapsulates perfectly what we’re trying to do with the newly launched Climate and Clean Air Coalition. Countries, cities, the World Bank, and civil society partnering together to make real-world, scaled-up reductions of ‘short-lived climate pollutants,’ which cause over 30% of current warming. With this solid waste initiative, we’re making a big dent into the third-largest source of methane worldwide, and, at the same time, improving the health and environment of local communities.”*

Rachel Kyte