With approximately 75% of Latin Americans living in cities, waste production has increased and governments are working to meet the higher demand to properly handle waste. In Latin America, methane (CH₄) emissions from solid waste disposal are projected to increase 18% from 2005 to 2020, and only 23% of collected waste is disposed of in sanitary landfills.

While the average contribution of total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for most developed countries is 2-3%, of the eight MAIN countries, the waste sector contributes an average of 6% of total GHG emissions (with a range of 3-15%).

Dhaka City Integrated Municipal Solid Waste Plan

As the highly dense and urbanized capital of Bangladesh, Dhaka City anticipates generating 4,600-5,110 tons of waste/day by 2015 – a 50% rise in municipal waste from its 2004 baseline of 3,340 tons/day. The city has experienced a number of adverse impacts from improperly managed waste, including the prevalence of diseases, contaminated ground water and poor air quality. With the financial and technical assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Dhaka City designed a Solid Waste Master Plan in 2005 with a target year of 2015.

**Master Plan Impacts:**

The project improved the informal waste sector by improving working conditions of waste pickers and providing training, thereby reducing occupational health hazards.

Using more than 250 trucks 440 containers, the project aims to improve the collection rate to approximately 70% by 2015.

The total investment cost of the Master Plan is estimated at USD 61,982,760 for activities during the next 11 years.
There are three major components of the integrated plan:

1. **Waste Collection**: The city implemented a door-to-door waste collection process using rickshaw vans by micro-enterprises which operate 19 hours a day.

2. **Waste Prevention**: A National 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Law was developed and went into effect in 2009. Minimizing waste in as many stages as possible, it included a landmark policy banning the production, distribution, marketing and use of polythene bags which first went into law in 2002.

3. **Waste Disposal**: The Dhaka City Corporation has plans to construct an expansion to the Matauail landfill and an Amin Bazar landfill site. The controlled landfills will have leachate collection and treatment facilities and the project will also result in the closure of the Berri Band landfill. The total landfill project investment was USD 5,717,770, allocated through Japan Bank of International Cooperation.

### San Francisco’s Recycling and Composting Program

In 2009, San Francisco, California, championed the Mandatory Recycling and Composting Ordinance – the first large scale urban composting program in the US. It requires all residents, restaurants, and businesses to separate waste (recyclables, organic material, etc.) into appropriate color-coded containers provided by Recology, the local waste disposal company. With food scraps, plant trimmings, soiled paper, and other compostables making up more than 36% of the waste going to landfills, the new mandate converts 600 tons of organic waste into nutrient-rich soil compost each day to be used to produce food and wine regionally. Farmers benefit through inexpensive and accessible compost, reduced water usage, economic savings from foregoing expensive petroleum-based fertilizers, and reduced environmental pollution.

In 2008, San Francisco reported a 72% waste diversion rate, helping the city achieve the goals of its Climate Action Plan (reducing GHG emissions 20% below 1990 levels by 2012) and making it one of the most successful waste avoidance programs in the country. The success of the organic waste policy hinged on several factors including:

1. **Aggressive state and local landfill waste diversion goals**: In addition to San Francisco’s Climate Action Plan and Zero Waste by 2020 goals, the city was particularly motivated because the primary trash disposal site, the Altamont Landfill, is expected to reach capacity by 2014. The mandate builds on the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, which required cities and counties to divert 25% of waste by 1995 and 50% by 2000. When it was enacted, California was dumping 90% of its waste into landfills. A key achievement was that it spurred public and private investment in waste management infrastructure and helped reverse the state’s resource conservation patterns.

2. **Public Private Partnership**: Through a strong, sustained partnership with Recology, local rates are structured to provide financial incentives for recycling and composting for both Recology and its customers. Residents pay based on the volume of trash disposed, encouraging composting and recycling while Recology retains its revenues from composting and recycling services, which are tied to ever-increasing annual diversion targets by the city. The company’s deep investment in recycling infrastructure but not landfills also encourages material to move to recycling and composting facilities.

3. **Education and Outreach**: Sustained investment in community engagement and public awareness has ensured significant increases in participation in the compost and recycling program.

For more information, visit [www.ccap.org](http://www.ccap.org) or email Manager of International Climate Dialogues Michael Comstock at mcomstock@ccap.org