



The international online space for global participants to collectively assess, address, and celebrate the advancements of methane reduction with Environmental Justice in the waste sector.

Hosted by GAIA, 27 January 2026



WELCOME!



House Rules

- ❑ **Choose your language:** French, Portuguese, and Spanish interpretation is available. Click the language button at the bottom of your Zoom.
- ❑ **Rename yourself:** Change your display name to your language, name, organization, country.
 - Example: SP - Mariel Vilella - GAIA - UK
- ❑ **Show your face:** If you can, please keep your camera ON
- ❑ **Bring yourself in:** Stay present, engage, contribute, assuming the best intention in everyone.

MODERATOR



SUMANA NARAYANAN

Deputy Director for Programs

GAIA AP

What is this space about?

- ❑ One of GAIAs main strategic priorities is supporting **organizing and policy work for methane reduction with EJ**, currently thriving in many countries/cities/communities.
- ❑ The GAH is an online space to collectively **assess, address, and celebrate** the advancements of waste methane with Environmental Justice and support the implementation of the **Global Methane Pledge** in alignment with EJ principles.
- ❑ An **open space** to support all those working to this agenda and share **expertise, strategise, celebrate and ultimately hold an accountability space** for environmental justice in the intersection between waste and climate.

Agenda for today

- ❑ **Welcome and introductions**
- ❑ **Zero Waste Financing**
- ❑ **Case Study: Zero Waste Financing (India)**
- ❑ **Case Study: Zero Waste Model (Philippines)**
- ❑ **Funding Climate and Zero Waste Work in Asia**
- ❑ **Zero Waste Transition Fund**
- ❑ **Panel Reaction**
- ❑ **Q&A**
- ❑ **Closing**



YOBEL NOVIAN PUTRA

Global Climate Policy Officer
GAIA



T.K. SUJITH

Secretary,
Cherthala Municipality, Kerala, India



RAP VILLAVICENCIO

Program Director
Mother Earth Foundation. Philippines



SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

EDEL GARINGAN

Deputy Director for Organizational
Development
GAIA Asia Pacific



MARIEL VILELLA

Climate Program Director
GAIA Global



SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

SPEAKER



YOBEL NOVIAN PUTRA

Global Climate Policy Officer
GAIA

Financing Zero Waste
Gaps & Opportunities



Financing gaps and opportunities

Global Action Hub on Waste Methane and Environmental Justice
Scaling Community-Based Zero Waste Solutions
27th January 2026

Yobel Novian Putra - Global Climate Policy Officer



We are in a crisis of climate and waste



- But we can turn it into an opportunity....



Waste is a problem – and it's also resource

Methane on the spotlight of climate finance



Since 2021 at COP26, the launch of the launch of **the Global Methane Pledge** has brought 150 countries to commit to reducing methane emissions.



LOW Methane Partnership launch at COP 28 in 2023 aiming to mobilise USD 10 B to reduce waste methane in 40 jurisdictions.



COP29 Declaration on Reducing Methane from Organic Waste: signed by over 45 countries*

**still open for countries to sign -*



COP 30 was a step forward! Alignment amongst all stakeholders inclusion on pathway to reduce waste methane

*** Including inclusion of waste methane in NDC3.0*

COP 30 as a step forward

key specific moments



Waste Picker Spoke at a High-Level Ministerial: No Organic Waste

Alignment in a lot of side events / spaces on zero waste & environmental justice



First Composting Operation with Waste Picker Cooperatives in Belém: they treated source-separated food waste from the COP 30 venue



Recognition of waste pickers and environmental justice in the climate space (Mitigation Work Programme)

US\$1.9 trillion

Total Climate Finance

US\$29 billion

Climate Finance for the waste sector

US\$13.7 billion

Total methane abatement finance

US\$6.1 billion

Methane abatement finance for the waste sector
(including solid waste and waste water sub-sector)

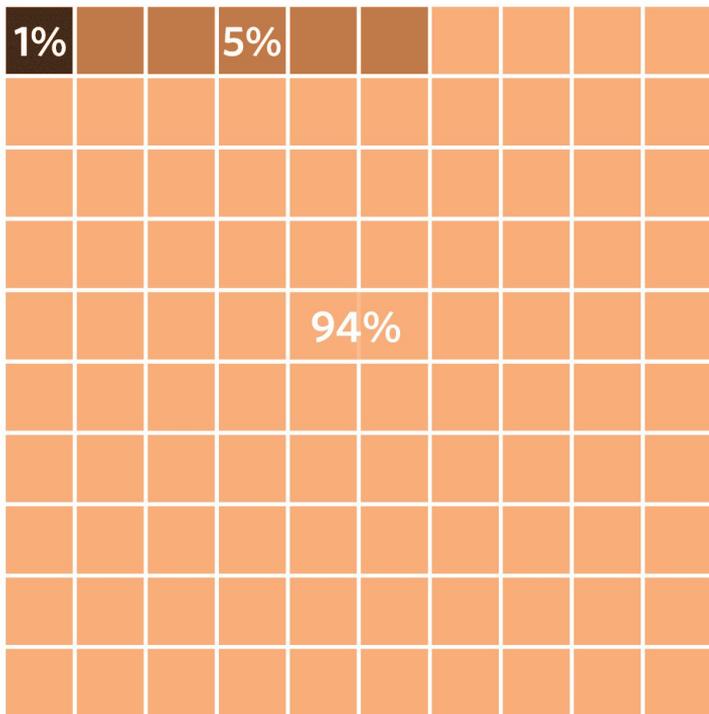
US\$4.1 billion

Methane abatement finance
for the solid waste sub-sector

Chronic Underfunding: Amount of Climate Finance for Solid Waste Sector

Less than 0.2% of climate finance goes to the solid waste sub-sector

Source: Climate Policy Initiative, 2023 & 2025



Source: Landscape of Methane Abatement Finance 2023

● **US\$3.86 billion (94%)**

WTE incineration

● **US\$223 million (5%)**

LFG capture and anaerobic digestion

● **US\$22 million (1%)**

Organic waste management



**Organics management only receives
0.00116% of total climate finance**

Europe: WTE is not 'sustainable'



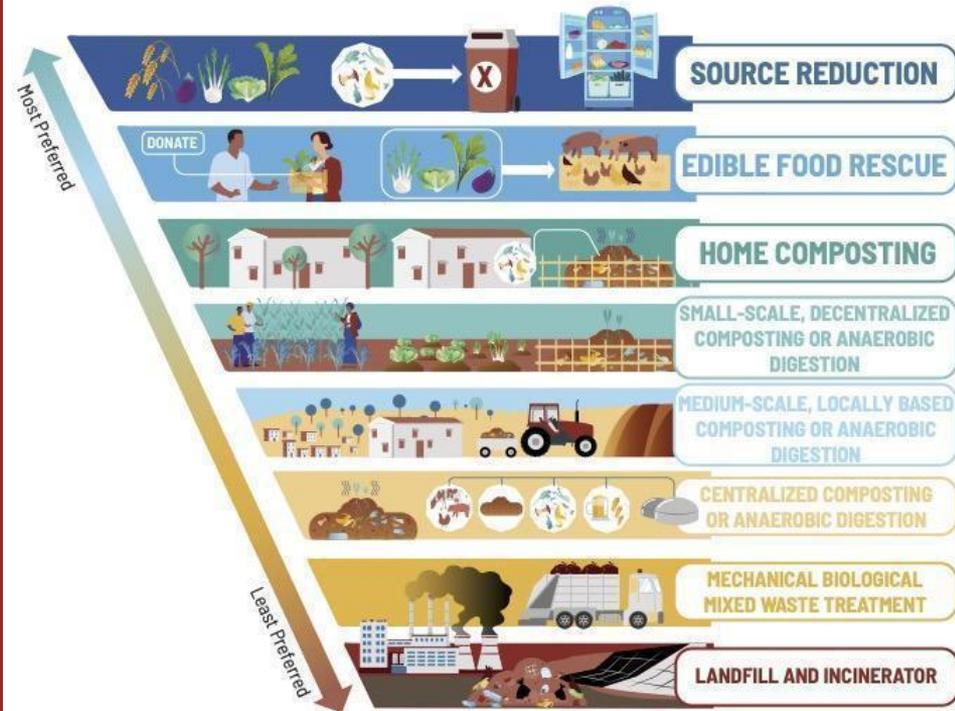
Waste-to-Energy is incompatible with climate mitigation: the EU takes a stand

- The EU excluded WTE incineration from the new EU Sustainable Finance Taxonomy to protect targets on circular economy and climate change.
- BBC research: WTE incineration is now the dirtiest source of energy in the UK
- **Denmark**: Parliament agrees to reducing 30% incineration capacity, equivalent to 7 incinerators.
- **Norway**: coming to terms with failed waste policy

Financing Zero Waste = higher impact, lower investment



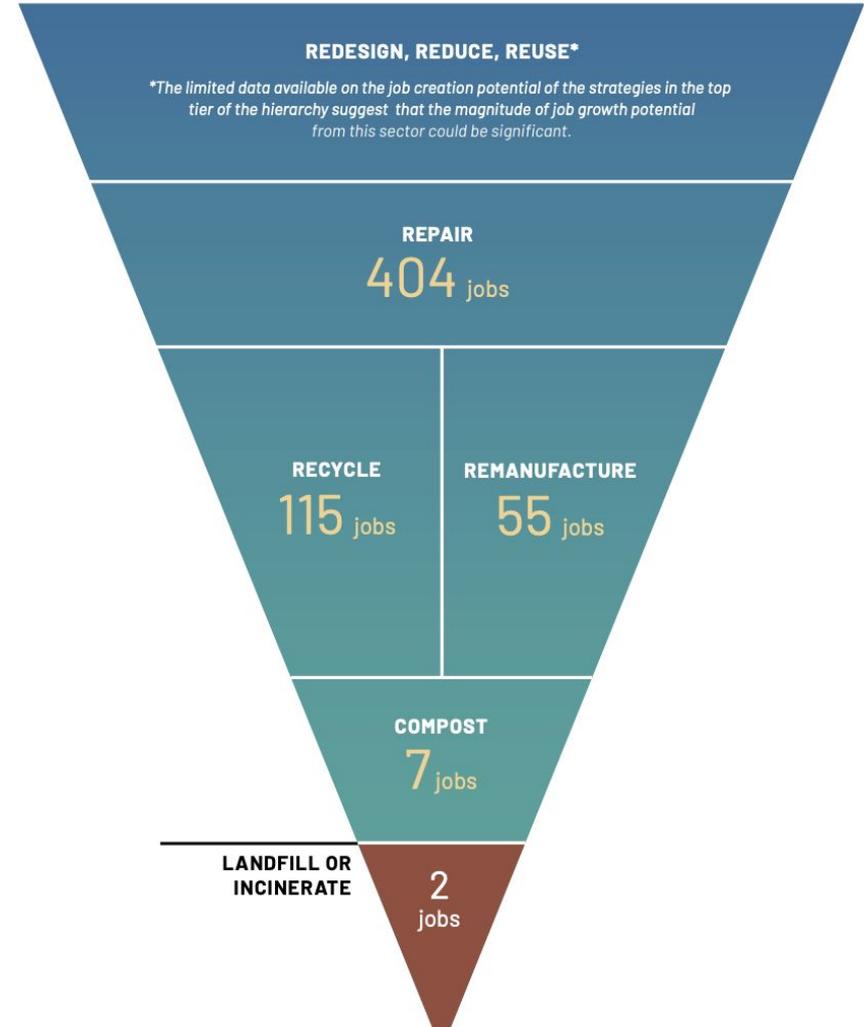
- Waste methane emissions can be reduced by 95% thanks to composting, bio-stabilisation and biologically active cover for dumpsites in the waste sector.
- Waste segregation and composting alone can reduce methane from landfills by 62%.



Investing in Zero Waste Creating More Local & Green Jobs

- **Composting alone create an average of 7 jobs / 10,000 TPY***
- **In a decentralized systems, key beneficiaries are local communities and waste workers**, often who are already part of the informal sector
- **Zero waste creates up to 200 times more jobs per ton** of waste than landfilling or incineration

**around 27 tonnes/day; with less mechanization*



Waste Pickers and Community Groups

as waste service providers

- 15 to 20 million workers globally
- 4 million in formal employment
- Most waste pickers are women
- Work in dumpsites/landfills
- Operating without social protection, recognition, or fair compensation.

Global South realities

**Source-separated
waste collection
and treatment
is a major gap**

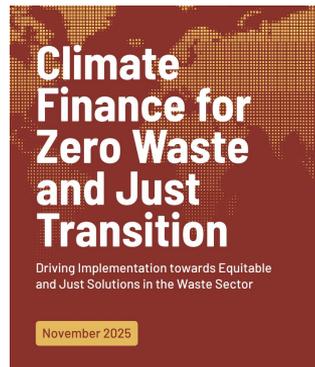
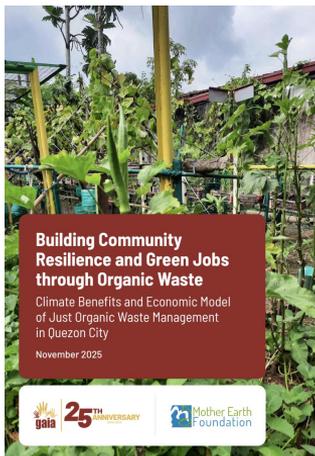




Financial Analysis of Solid Waste Management Business Models

Case Studies in Indonesia and Brazil

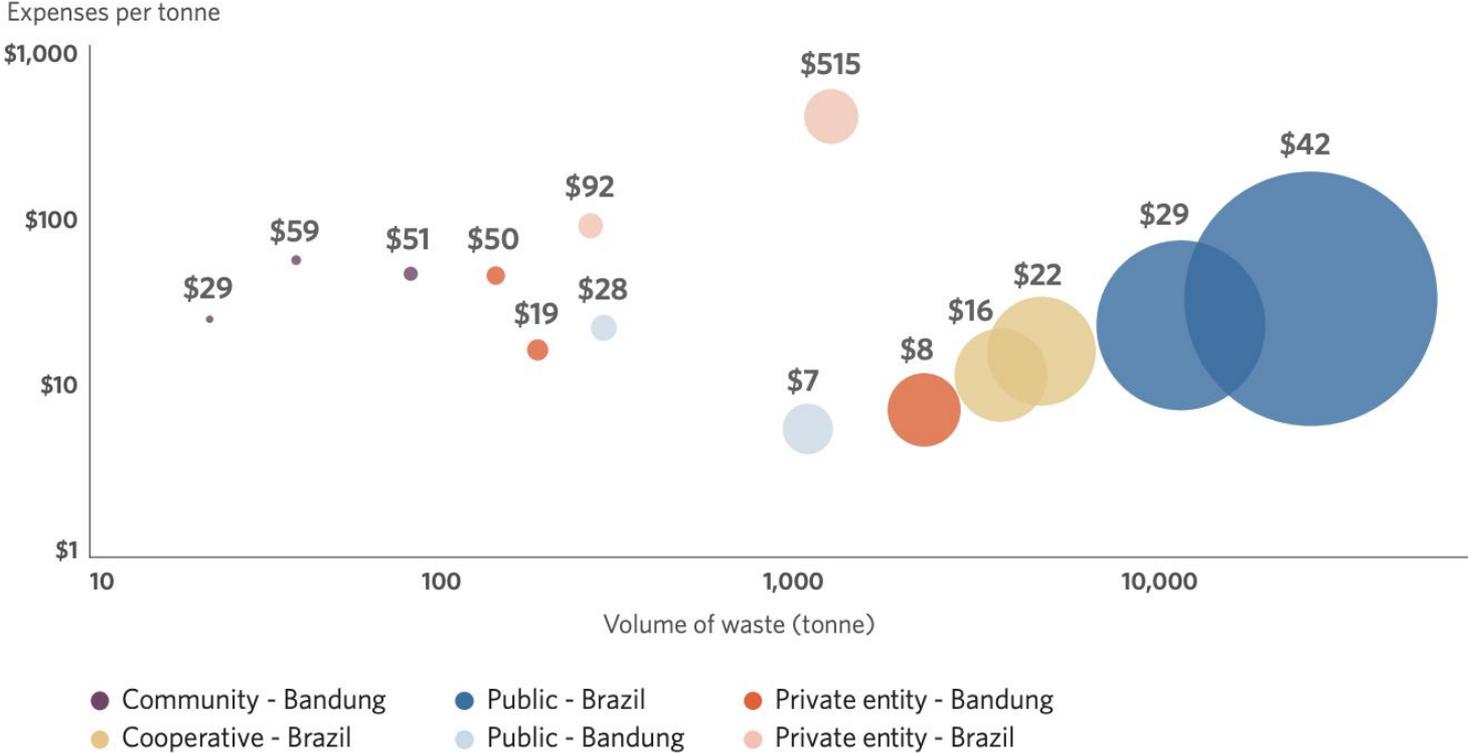
June 2025



Recent Report and Case Studies on Financing Zero Waste

Decentralized and community-based models are cost-efficient

Findings from Climate Policy Initiative



Zero Waste: An Attractive & Investable Climate Solution

Community, waste pickers and workers are at the forefront of implementation in slashing down waste methane through separate collection and organics management

- ✓ **Scale:** decentralized; reaching areas that are difficult to reach, places that are very distant, remote, or extremely dense (e.g. alleyways, compound houses)
- ✓ **Just transition:** waste methane cut in a way that is fair and inclusive to waste pickers and workers
- ✓ **Cost:** fair-cost, not seeking exponential profits, and cost-saving
- ✓ **Techs:** simple, lower entry barrier, labour intensive
- ✓ **Benefits:** job creation, local food production, reduced poverty and inequality, improved democratic quality, air quality and public health, empowerment and identity



Description:
Source separated waste collection
and urban farming
in Bandung, Indonesia



Key Barriers for Scaling

Prioritize infrastructure (CAPEX) over services (OPEX)

Financial flows rise to capital owners while waste pickers and communities driving implementation remain invisible in budgeting and access decisions. Labor accounts for at least

Favor revenue-generating projects over delivering public services

Revenue streams from organics management are challenging to sustain. But capital intensive projects (e.g. incinerator) get a lot of subsidies and incentives.

Rely on short-term pilots, not long-term budgets

Essential operational costs, particularly source separation and collection remains a gap, often not receiving adequate budget commitment.

Access to land is a key barrier to scaling zero waste systems

Fixed assets, mainly land and buildings, dominate total asset value, accounting between 60 to 90 percent of total capital expenditure. Communities and cooperatives can scale easier with access to fixed assets.

What need to 3 things to shift for fostering these opportunities...

- 01. Increased finance for upstream interventions**
- 02. Shift finance from waste incineration and co-firing towards zero waste**
- 03. Equitable and just finance that for local implementers in cities, especially community groups and waste pickers**

At the national and sub-national level, we should...

- **Treat waste as an essential public service**
Shifting paradigm from “bankable projects” to financing public services
- **Fund operations to support service continuity, not only infrastructure**
Labor is the biggest cost driver for operation that also offer big job creation opportunities
- **Enable multi-year budget predictability**
Sustaining operation and upscaling zero waste system require long-term commitment and planning

Just one of many positive stories: SWACH in Pune, India



SWaCh is India's largest cooperative wholly owned by self-employed informal waste-pickers, providing sustainable livelihoods particularly for disadvantaged women, producing valuable compost that combats highly problematic soil degradation.



Image credit: SWaCh Coop, Pune



Door-to-door collection system for source-separated organic waste taken to composting site.

71 waste-pickers are managing 7,000 Kg organic waste daily composting site.

Read [here](#) GAIA's case study

How A Cooperative Owned By Garbage Pickers Is Solving Waste Management Crisis In Pune



Read GAIA Case Study [here](#).

San Fernando, The Philippines:

After the city implemented a Zero Waste program, they have diverted most of their waste from landfill, **from 12% in 2012 to 80% in 2018**. They plan to increase that to 91% by 2025.

Zero waste strategies offer

a fast & cost-effective

way

to reduce emissions and generate core benefits

like good jobs, clean air, and healthy soil



Get in touch

Yobel Putra, GAIA

yobel@no-burn.org

Mariel Vilella, GAIA

mariel@no-burn.org

For media inquiries:

Sonia Astudillo

sonia@no-burn.org

Read more at www.no-burn.org

SPEAKER

**Case Study: Zero
Waste Financing
(Cherthala
Municipality, India)**



T.K. SUJITH

Secretary,
Cherthala Municipality, Kerala, India



Zero Waste Cherthala

Mobilizing Resources for Zero Waste

Adv. T.K. Sujith
Secretary, Cherthala Municipality

Cherthala Overview

Cherthala Municipality is small city in Kerala, India.

It has been actively advancing Kerala's Zero Waste campaign through ***Chelotha Cherthala*** (Beautiful Cherthala) Campaign. It includes:

- Large-scale clean-up drives,
- Segregation at source,
- Bio-Digester Bins for each and every household for source level composting.
- Aerobic composting at Community level
- Full coverage of Haritha Karma Sena - Women's Initiative in Waste Management through door to door collection.
- Recycling initiatives, and
- Student-led mapping projects under the Vembanad Rejuvenation Program.

These efforts combine community participation, technology, and decentralized waste management to reduce landfill dependence and promote circular economy practices.

Cherthala Municipality - Background



Basic Details	
Population	45,827
No. of Households	12137
Area	16.18 km ²
Density of Population	2,727 / km ²
Waste generation	
Total organic waste per day	14.2 TPD
Total Non bio degradable waste per day	3.6 TPD
Percentage of door to door collection	100%
Rate of Source Segregation	100%

Cherthala Financial Background

	Total Fund Allocated
Average Annual Revenue from Tax and Non Tax	INR38486829/- (USD 422,900)
Grants from State Government	INR 13715965 (USD 40,800)
Others	INR 277762644 (USD 3.05 M)
Annual Budget size (total amount)	INR 277829314 (USD 3,031,117)
Number of staff and workers in SWM	64

SWM - Finance

Capex	
Infrastructure investment	INR 5000000/- (USD 54,550)
Vehicles	INR 3446650/- (USD 15,000)
Tools and Equipments	INR 1376258/- (USD 15,000)
Opex	
Salaries and Wages	INR 16294773/- (USD 179,000)
Maintenance Expenditure	INR 1200000/- (USD 13,000)
Fuel / Transportation	INR 123207/- (USD 1350)

Sources

Capex		Opex	
Own Fund	INR 17,952,887 (USD 197,284)	Subscription fees	INR 27,50159/- (USD 30,200)
State Govt Grants	INR 44,62,419/- (USD 49,000)	Sales	INR 40000/- (USD 440)
Union Govt Grants	INR 3056781/- (USD 33,349)	Fines and Fees	INR 228550/- (USD 2,500)
CSRs.	0	Others	
Kerala Solid Waste Management Project (World Bank Support)	INR 542186/- (USD 6000)		



Vivo V15Pro
AI Triple Camera

2022.06.25 10:06

Thank you

SPEAKER

**Case Study: Zero
Waste Model
(Quezon City,
Philippines)**



RAP VILLAVICENCIO

Program Director

Mother Earth Foundation, Philippines

About Quezon City



Largest City in the Philippines (by population - at 3,080,000)

One of the country's key economic and governance hubs

A member of :

- C40 member
- Resilient Cities Network (R-Cities)

Strong Political Commitment: Mayor's **14-point agenda** includes environmental sustainability

Enhanced Local Climate Change Action Plan (ELCCAP) from 2021 to 2050

Current Targets: **30% GHG reduction by 2030, Net-zero by 2050**



Jobs

16 FTE
40 informal workers

Funding

Public funding
(local, national)
Vegetables sales

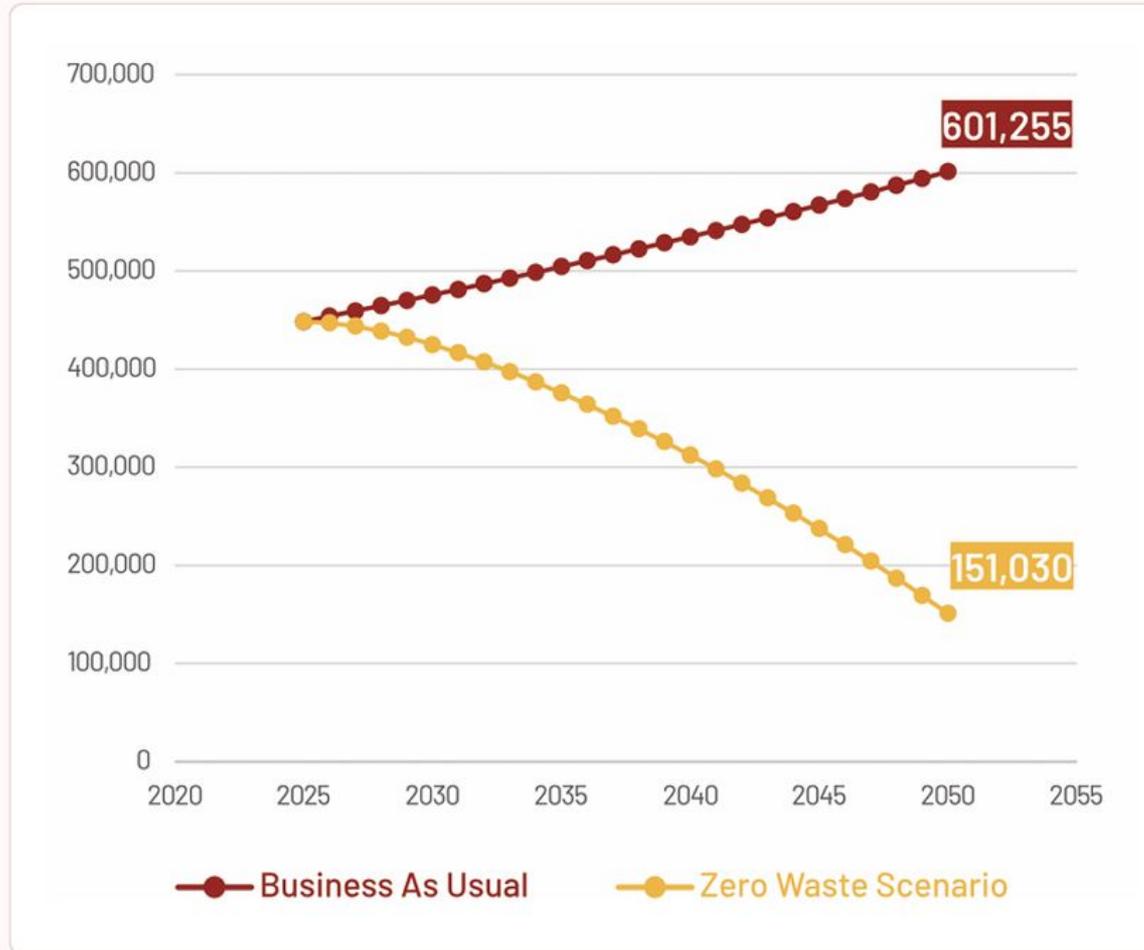
Organics

43 tonnes/year
organics diverted

Methane

2.1 tonnes/year
methane emissions
avoided

Figure 2. Annual GHG emissions (2025-2050), in metric tons of CO₂ equivalents



The Barangay Payatas program provides an interesting approach to rethinking food systems by connecting urban farming and food security with organic waste processing.



By reflecting the learnings from this model to the Philippines NDC, and utilizing climate finance to cut methane and formalize green jobs, this model replaces costly "haul-and-dump" practices with decentralized, community-led resilience that meets national climate targets and strengthens local food security.





SPEAKER

Zero Waste Transition Fund



EDEL GARINGAN

Deputy Director for Organization Development
GAIA Asia Pacific

ZERO WASTE TRANSITION FUND

Accelerating the Zero Waste Movement

Supporting Long-Term Transitions

Bridging Financial Gaps, Reducing Dependency to traditional donor mechanism

A **need-responsive**, strategically guided financing mechanism

Direct community impact: support organizations, local communities, and cities

Focus on Zero Waste: Starting, strengthening, or scaling Zero Waste initiatives

Shared decision-making process

Shifting the Financial Narrative; **focus on shared impact and collaboration** rather than the grant requirements.

Local wisdom and experiences as anchor

Philanthropic Fund and Grants from international CSOs or grant-makers

People's Fund individual donations

Bilateral funds e.g. debt-for-nature-swap mechanism

Non-conflicting and strategic Corporate Funding

Launched the pilot run in 2025; received 50+ applications

Tested three grant levels with different proposal review process

38 grantees



WHY ZWTF IS IMPORTANT?



WHAT IS THE "ZERO WASTE TRANSITION FUND"?



WHAT MAKES ZWTF UNIQUE?



WHERE WOULD THE FUND COME FROM?



WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?

What's next?

Capturing lessons learned of ZWTF
Pilot Launch;
Development of **Case studies** on different funding models in AP

Conduct monitoring visits for ZWTF projects

Formulation of ZWTF Strategies:
(1) Grants Management
(2) Fundraising Strategy

Develop ZWTF impact report
(publication and communication)

Implementation of the Strategies
(Priority areas: Fundraising and creation of a new entity to manage the fund)





Q&A



CLOSING



MARIEL VILELLA

Climate Program Director
GAIA Global

What's Next?

☐ **Next call schedule:** April 30, 2026

<http://tinyurl.com/GlobalActionHub7>



**Global Action Hub on Waste Methane and
Environmental Justice**

Thank you for joining us!

Get in touch

MARIEL VILELLA, mariel@no-burn.org
YOBEL NOVIAN PUTRA, yobel@no-burn.org
SONIA ASTUDILLO, sonia@no-burn.org

Global twitter: @GAIAAnoburn
Global facebook: @GAIAzerowaste
Global linkedin: GAIA (Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives)

Follow us on social

Africa facebook: @GAIAAfrica
Africa instagram: @AfricaForZeroWaste

Asia Pacific linkedin: @GAIA Asia Pacific
Asia Pacific facebook: @GAIAAsiaPacific

Latin America & the Caribbean facebook: Alianza Global para Alternativas a la Incineración GAIA
Latin America & the Caribbean instagram: @gaia_lac

US/Canada twitter: @GAIAUS_CAN
US/Canada facebook: @GAIAUSCAN

Zero Waste Europe twitter: @ZeroWasteEurope
Zero Waste Europe facebook: @ZeroWasteEurope