



Methane Strategy of Avfall Sverige

A strategy to minimise and
systematically monitor methane
emissions from municipal waste
management



AVFALL SVERIGE



AVFALL SVERIGE'S STRATEGY TO REDUCE METHANE EMISSIONS

Avfall Sverige - Swedish Waste Management aims to minimise methane emissions from municipal waste management. This will be done through the following:

- Avfall Sverige's members have good knowledge of and control over emissions from their operations
- Avfall Sverige's members use quality-assured working methods which guarantee that effective emission reduction measures are taken continuously
- Policies and instruments at the EU and national levels create favourable conditions for emission reduction measures

Reduced methane emissions are needed to meet climate targets

In 2020, the European Commission developed a European Methane Strategy¹ to meet the EU's intensified climate target (55 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, compared to 1990). The Methane Strategy presents a number of proposals for action, including improving the measurement, reporting and verification of methane emissions.

The Global Methane Pledge², a global methane declaration, was adopted in 2021 at the UN Climate Summit in Glasgow. The Pledge sets the target of reducing global methane emissions by 30 percent by 2030, compared to 2020 levels. However, according to the UN Environment Programme, methane emissions need to be reduced by 40-45 percent by 2030 to meet the Paris Agreement target.

In 2022, the Swedish Government adopted a national action plan³ setting out Sweden's commitments under the Global Methane Pledge. The action plan describes existing measures and instruments that contribute to reducing methane emissions. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency then carried out a government assignment⁴ in 2023 with the aim of producing proposals on how Sweden can contribute to reducing methane emissions.

¹ EU Strategy to Reduce Methane Emissions

² Global Methane Pledge

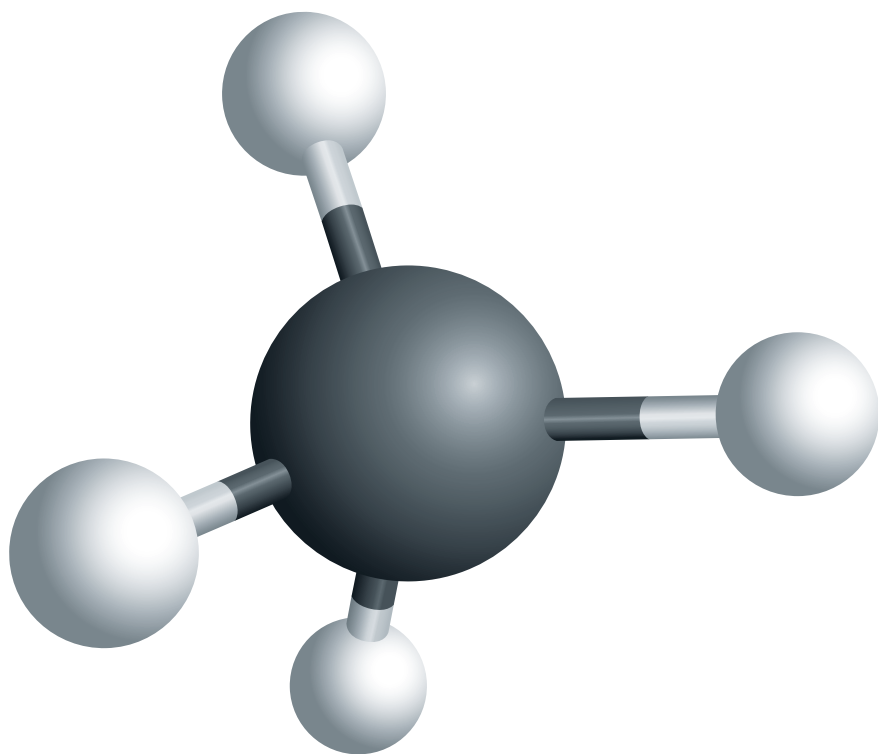
³ Sweden's Methane Action Plan

⁴ Report on the government assignment Reducing methane emissions

There is a need to increase knowledge about emissions and to continuously take measures for further reductions

Avfall Sverige wants to contribute to achieving the goal of the Global Methane Pledge, which is to reduce methane emissions by 30 percent by 2030. The Swedish action programme needs to take into account the fact that emissions have already been significantly reduced in the waste sector, thanks in part to landfill bans. Avfall Sverige believes that a landfill ban on organic waste at the EU level would make a strong contribution to reducing methane emissions and thus contribute to achieving the EU's climate targets.

Avfall Sverige has compiled the current state of knowledge about methane emissions in the Swedish waste sector⁵ and sees a need to further improve knowledge about these methane emissions. There is currently a lack of information about emissions in some waste operations, and there is a need to increase knowledge in this area. At the same time, organisations and plants need to continue to develop working methods that ensure measures to reduce methane emissions are taken continuously. To create the conditions for implementing effective emission reduction measures, national financial support should be established.



Avfall Sverige's strategy for minimising methane emissions from municipal waste management

- **Avfall Sverige's members have good knowledge of and control over emissions from their operations**
 - *A comprehensive overview of landfill emissions is produced and monitored*

Avfall Sverige will work to ensure that a comprehensive overview of methane emissions from landfills is produced. Current statistics are model-based, which makes it difficult to see the effect of emission reduction measures.
 - *Municipal composting facilities are followed up and evaluated*

In Sweden, there are a large number of composting facilities, mainly for park and garden waste. A follow-up and evaluation of current operations and management at municipal composting facilities should be carried out. Based on experience at such facilities, a knowledge synthesis should be compiled of which working methods and measures can effectively keep methane emissions at a low level.
 - *The magnitude of methane emissions from temporary storage of waste is investigated, as well as the need for emission reduction measures*

There is uncertainty about the magnitude of methane emissions from temporary storage of waste for energy recovery. A development project has been initiated to investigate the extent to which waste stored for energy recovery is a source of methane emissions. If these emissions are found to be significant, further work should focus on how emissions can be reduced.
- **Avfall Sverige's members use quality-assured working methods that guarantee that effective measures are taken continuously**
 - *Measurement, control and monitoring of methane emissions from landfills are being developed*

Avfall Sverige sees a need for municipal plants to continue to develop working methods that ensure effective measures are taken, e.g. how landfill gas collection works, how measurement and control are carried out, and how emissions can be minimised. For example, there is currently no standardised method for measuring and monitoring various emissions from landfills.
 - *Evaluation of the self-monitoring programme for biogas plants, EgMet*

The municipalities have been working with the self-monitoring programme EgMet since 2007. It has had a significant impact on reducing methane emissions from biogas plants. It is crucial that the EgMet self-monitoring programme is maintained at a high level, and that emission reduction measures are taken when necessary and effective. The functioning of EgMet should be evaluated, and consideration should be given to how it can be revamped and be of greater benefit to the affiliated plants. Avfall Sverige will also take action to encourage more biogas plants to join.

- **Policies and instruments at the EU and national levels create favourable conditions for emission reduction measures**
 - *National supervisory guidance on environmental permits for biogas plants*
Requirements for methane emissions from biogas plants under environmental permits vary widely, depending on factors such as how old the decisions are. Different requirements mean that plants are not competing on equal terms. Avfall Sverige will work to ensure that guidance is produced at the national level on how the Environmental Code should be interpreted for biogas plants.
 - *Current emission factors for waste treatment in the national statistics are reviewed*
International calculation factors for emissions from the waste sector are not adapted to Swedish conditions, which can result in misleading statistics. Studies should be carried out to assess whether the IPCC's emission factors need to be revised to take account of Swedish conditions, e.g. with regard to composting. With correct statistics, policy instruments can be targeted where they are most useful.
 - *National financial support is developed for emission reduction measures*
In order for municipalities and organisations to be able to implement effective emission reduction measures, national financial support for municipalities may be needed.

How Avfall Sverige will work to implement the strategy

The measures that actually reduce methane emissions will be taken by Avfall Sverige's members, i.e. municipalities and municipal organisations. Avfall Sverige will work with its members to develop action plans based on this strategy.

Several of the proposed measures are intended to create better control over emissions, estimate their size, and assess what measures may be effective. Avfall Sverige therefore intends to evaluate the implementation of the strategy in 2027.

Avfall Sverige - Swedish Waste Management is the municipalities' trade association in the field of waste management and recycling. Avfall Sverige's members ensure that waste is collected and recycled in all Swedish municipalities. Our vision is "Zero Waste". We are taking action to minimise waste, promote reuse and ensure that the waste produced is recycled, recovered and managed in the optimal manner.

 **AVFALL SVERIGE**

Address Baltzarsgatan 25, SE-211 36 Malmö
Telephone 040-35 66 00
E-mail info@avfallsverige.se
Website www.avfallsverige.se