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Nov. 8, 2012

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The Municipality of Santiago de Cali Signs International Cooperation Agreement in the Solid Waste Sector

SANTIAGO DE CALI, COLOMBIA - The Center for Clean Air Policy (CCAP), a non-governmental organization based in Washington D.C., and the Municipality of Santiago de Cali, through the Administrative Department of Environmental Management (DAGMA) have signed an agreement for public private partnership for the elaboration of a feasibility study in Santiago de Cali for the design of an integrated solid waste management project in Colombia, which would improve the city's management of solid waste.

With direct support of the Canadian Ministry of Environment, CCAP will analyze the potential development of a mechanical-biological treatment plant for mixed and recyclable waste, compost and refuse derived fuels for the city of Santiago de Cali, in the Cauca Valley. Besides Cali, the city of Sogamoso, in Boyacá, was also chosen for a pilot project. Both in Cali and Sogamoso, CCAP seeks to implement elements of integrated solid waste management in Colombian cities that help achieve greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation benefits, while improving the management of solid waste.

This study will have the technical support of DAGMA, the Municipal Department of Planning, EMSIRVA ESP (company under liquidated) and GIRASOL EICE. Since the project kick-off in March of this year, CCAP has had national support through the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, as well as a steering committee consisting of the Ministry of Housing and Development, the Superintendence of Public Household Services, the National Department of Planning, and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

"The goal of these pilots in Cali and Sogamoso is to design a process of approach, identification and development of feasible projects that could be replicated in other Colombian cities and that can achieve GHG emission reductions, besides providing economic and social benefits to the people," said Anmol Vanamali, Director of CCAP, who signed the agreement with the Municipality. "Colombia has made great improvements in providing fundamental service of collection and disposal in landfills. Our experience this year has shown us that the different parties (both public and private) want to increase waste valorization and start looking at it as a resource, and we want to help in this process."

By evaluating the situation of Cali and Sogamoso, CCAP will try to attract international cooperation funds to implement the pilot plants. While doing this, CCAP will try to bundle similar projects in other Colombian cities with funding (financing studies, soft loans, etc) from countries that finance climate change mitigation. The main thought behind this project bundle is to generate and make attractive an innovative mechanism of climate change financing. This mechanism is called Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) and is expected to considerably increase emission reductions, generate additional sustainable development benefits and fill the gap left by the underperformance of the carbon market through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

Since 1985, CCAP has been a recognized world leader in climate and air quality policy and is the only independent, nonprofit think tank working exclusively on those issues at the local, U.S. national and international levels. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., CCAP helps policymakers around the world develop, promote and implement innovative, market-based solutions to major climate, air quality and energy problems that balance both environmental and economic interests.

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