



# Briefing Notice

## Harnessing Landfill Methane to Benefit Local Economies and the Environment

Friday, April 26, 2013

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

2325 Rayburn House Office Building

Please RSVP to expedite check-in: [www.eesi.org/042613landfill#RSVP](http://www.eesi.org/042613landfill#RSVP)

The **Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI)** invites you to a briefing on the benefits of capturing and harnessing methane emissions from municipal solid waste landfills. Landfills are the third largest source of anthropogenic methane gas produced in the United States; between 1990 and 2011, landfill gas (LFG) composed 17.7 percent of all U.S. methane emissions. Because of the high methane content in LFG, the captured gas can be refined and used to produce heat, electricity, and/or vehicle fuels. More than 590 landfill projects in 47 states capture enough LFG to power more than one million homes and heat 740,000. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that there are more than 500 additional landfills that are candidates for LFG energy projects. The briefing will discuss the economic, health, and climate benefits of tapping the energy potential of the nation's landfills.

Speakers for this event include:

- **Congressman Scott Peters (D-CA)**
- **Dr. V. Ramanathan**, Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric and Climate Sciences, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California at San Diego
- **Daniel S. LeFevers**, Vice President, Federal Public Affairs, Waste Management
- **Tom Frankiewicz**, Program Manager, Environmental Protection Agency, Landfill Methane Outreach Program

LFG capture can significantly reduce the emissions of methane and other compounds. LFG is composed of approximately 50 percent methane and 50 percent carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), with trace levels of volatile organic compounds and hazardous air pollutants which cause respiratory issues and can increase the risk of cancer. Methane has a significant climate change impact — 72 times that of CO<sub>2</sub> over a 20-year period. Reductions in methane, which has a relatively short average atmospheric lifetime of 12 years, can provide significant near term climate benefits.

Currently, all U.S. landfills larger than 2.5 million metric tons (or cubic meters) of waste are required to combust landfill gas. While many landfills continue to flare LFG, local governments and private waste managers are increasingly opting to convert LFG to electricity, thermal energy, and vehicle fuels. EPA assists landfill owners and operators to develop and implement LFG projects through its voluntary Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP).

Miramar Landfill, San Diego's only active landfill, is an LMOP partner. The 42 million ton facility generates 9.6 MW of power for the city. An additional 3.2 MW of capacity was installed in 2012 for use at the nearby Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, meeting up to 50 percent of the base's electricity needs while improving its energy security. The project also provides a nine percent return on investment over 15 years.

This event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP: [www.eesi.org/042613landfill#RSVP](http://www.eesi.org/042613landfill#RSVP)

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