

Colombia's First UNFCCC Registered Landfill Gas Project

By *Catalina Bedoya*

Located in Medellin in Colombia, The Curva de Rodas and La Pradera landfill gas management project is the first project of its type in Colombia to be registered with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This project has been developed in partnership with the University of Antioquia, contributing to education and research in the area of the emerging carbon market. It will also help fund university research and scholarships for students who would otherwise not be able to afford their studies. This registered and operating plant provides a key reference for Green Gas in the South American market.

The project consists of two landfill sites, Curva de Rodas and La Pradera. A controlled methane capture and flaring system was installed at both sites in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As a result, the quality of life of the surrounding communities has improved significantly. It has improved the air quality, brought benefits to agriculture and generally improved the climate. The hazards and risks at the landfills such as fire or landslides have also been eliminated.

Milena Ramirez, the Field Engineer involved in the project implementation commented: 'Being the first in Colombia to implement this type of project allowed us to work alongside world class experts and to receive first-hand training. More importantly, Green Gas gained new expertise due to the diverse local conditions which meant we had to reconsider the construction and operating concepts. The technical concepts applied in Europe for example can not be applied in countries with tropical climate such as Colombia.'

The construction began in January 2007 at the Curva de Rodas landfill followed by La Pradera in January 2008. Each site consists of one HOFGAS® high temperature flare with a gas flow rate between 40 – 3'000 Nm/h. The project was registered with UNFCCC in February 2009 and has the potential to reduce emissions by some 167,000 of tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per year.

