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The Recycling Times



HADCO Group's Recycling Division Monthly E-Newsletter

COP28

DUBAI

UAE 2023

Image Credit: [United Nations](#)

The Key Issues at COP28

This year The United Nations' (UN) Conference of Parties ([COP](#)) will be held in the United Arab Emirates from November 30 to December 12, 2023. This is the 28th instalment of this annual conference.

As world leaders from member states are invited to discuss the policy and procedures required to address the rapid escalation of climate change, there is a particular sense of urgency this year, set against the backdrop of global record-breaking heatwave temperatures, increased frequency of tropical storms, rising sea levels and the escalation of geo-political tensions around the world.

Also notable ahead of the conference, is that a convoy of [CARICOM](#) member states have penned a joint statement of the key issues they would like to see addressed at the conference as they pertain to the wider Caribbean and Small Island States.

Join us in this packed edition of our Recycling Times, where we will briefly review each of the key issues driving the global debates at COP28.

**"THE DECISIONS
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Kevin Whiteman -
Managing Director,
Recycling Division,
HADCO Group

Key Touchpoint Issues of COP28

Whilst there are many debates and discussions to be had over the two weeks in Dubai, the [Oxford Institute for Energy Studies](#) has identified what they believe are the most pertinent topics. The following is a summation of the topics in that document. If you would like to dig deeper into the summary you can access it through the link above.

The Global Stocktake (GST)

The UN's first official Global Stocktake will be reported on at COP28. It comes after a global greenhouse gas data collection effort by all United Nations member states which began in 2021. The Global Stocktake will serve as an evaluation tool to assess the greenhouse gas emissions per country and inform how to course correct any further loss and damage due to global warming.



International flags at the COP28 Conference in Dubai, UAE
Image Credit: [United Nations](#)



Child stands in the wake of a flooded street in Asia
Image Credit: [Unsplash](#)

The Loss and Damage Fund

The UN has proposed a [Loss and Damage Fund](#) to support developing nations and small island states in dealing with the effects and damages of climate change. The fund has been a long-term ambition for countries in the Global South, who have with justification, claimed they are suffering the most with the worst of the consequences coming from climate change.

The fund is proposed to contain USD \$100 billion per year, but a few key areas have yet to be debated such as: Which countries are eligible? Who is paying into the fund? What are the contributions? How much is each eligible nation permitted to withdraw? How should funding be strategically deployed to eligible countries?

It is estimated that all of these considerations will be informed by the data from the Global Stocktake.

[CARICOM has stated](#) they are keen on keeping a close eye on the discussions around the Loss and Damage Fund progress.



Woman walks through temporary housing settlement in Africa
Image Credit: [ECDPM](#)

Key Touchpoint Issues of COP28



The United Nations is actively working on making climate financing more accessible for nations in the developing world

Image Credit: [United Nations](#)

Financing the Developing World

Another key issue is how developed countries help finance the developing world to be preemptively ready for climate change effects. The proposed Loss and Damage Fund can only do so much as a reactionary measure.

There will be high-level discussions at COP28 to debate how concessional finance and grants should be made available to developing countries rather than high-interest-rate loans that burden economies and stunt growth.

The Role of Hydrocarbon Producers in Fossil Fuel Phase-Out

The reality is that the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energies cannot happen overnight. The paradox is that oil companies generate much of the cash flow needed to invest in and implement an energy transition given their existing influence on the global energy grid.

The dilemma is in deciphering just how genuine these oil-producing nations, companies, and lobbyists are when they claim they want a just transition.



There is a global call for the just transition away from fossil fuels

Image Credit: [Unsplash](#)



Methane is a very damaging greenhouse gas

Image Credit: [Global Methane Pledge](#)

The Global Methane Pledge

Noting that Methane, a critical greenhouse gas, has a significant global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, there is a vested interest for the COP28 conference to get member states to reduce this output. Legislative drafts are being proposed for the implementation of this pledge, to reduce global methane emissions by 30% by 2030.

So far [over 150 countries have signed on](#) including the United States, Canada, a handful of nations in Europe, South America, and Africa, as well as Trinidad and Tobago and other CARICOM member states.

Key Touchpoint Issues of COP28

The Future of the COP Process

Given the sobering, bureaucratic and sometimes confrontational nature of these conferences, there are motivations to make the COP process fairer and more inclusive, especially when it comes to the participation of smaller nations.

These attempts to change the COP process were seen when [President Designate of COP28, Dr. Sultan Al Jaber came to visit Trinidad and Tobago on July 5th, 2023 and addressed a delegation of CARICOM heads of government.](#)

President Al Jaber stated, "At COP28, the Caribbean region will have a critical role in bringing countries together and contributing to a consensus-driven approach across every climate pillar.

"The Caribbean community, with CARICOM as its unifying voice, can help marshal support for ambitious negotiated outcomes and a transformative action agenda."

Dr. Sultan Al Jaber also mentioned the Loss and Damage Fund and Accessible Climate Financing for the region stating "We need to keep the pressure on donor countries to deliver the \$100 billion pledge...this must be finalized this year...The current international financial architecture is not fit for purpose. Climate finance is nowhere near available, accessible, or affordable enough."



Dr. Sultan Al Jaber addressing a crowd at a UN Conference
Image Credit: [United Nations](#)



Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, President Designate of COP28 and Mia Mottley, President of Barbados speak at a Road to COP28 conference
Image Credit: [E3G](#)



Solar Panels outside the Dubai City Expo
Image Credit: [United Nations](#)

Get Involved!

With all that said, we at HADCO's Recycling Division are intrigued by the debates at COP28 and look forward to the outcomes. The decisions made at this conference affect the world over, and we are committed to doing what we can to keep Trinidad and Tobago cleaner and greener with our suite of collection and recycling services.

For sorted plastics (PET and HDPE), glass, Tetra Pak, aluminium cans, wastepaper, and cardboard inquiries, please contact New Age Recycling at (868) 290-2970 / 2975 or email newagerecycling@hadcoltd.com.

For inquiries about waste vegetable oil (WVO), used lead-acid batteries and end-of-life tyres, please contact Ecoimpact Company Limited at (868) 633-3609 / 673-4395 / 5172 or email ecoimpact.info@hadcoltd.com.



One of the buildings that make up the Dubai City Expo

Image Credit: [Travel and Tour](#)

For more information on our Recycling Division visit us at www.hadcoltd.com/divisions/recycling

