

# Bio-oxidation systems for landfill gas:

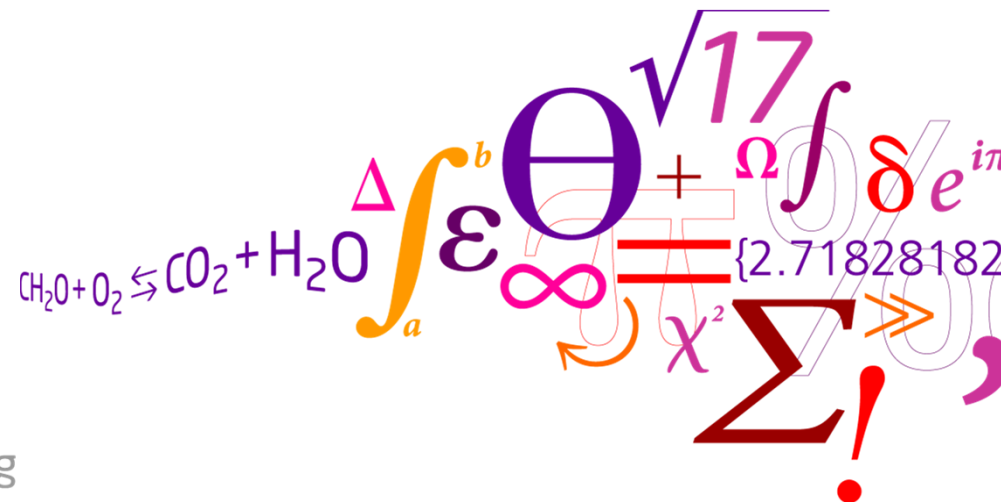
## 2. Overview of full-scale engineered systems, Danish Biocover Initiative

Peter Kjeldsen, Department of Environmental Engineering, Technical University of Denmark

LANDSS Forum Meeting  
20 March 2018, Birmingham, UK

DTU Environment  
Department of Environmental Engineering

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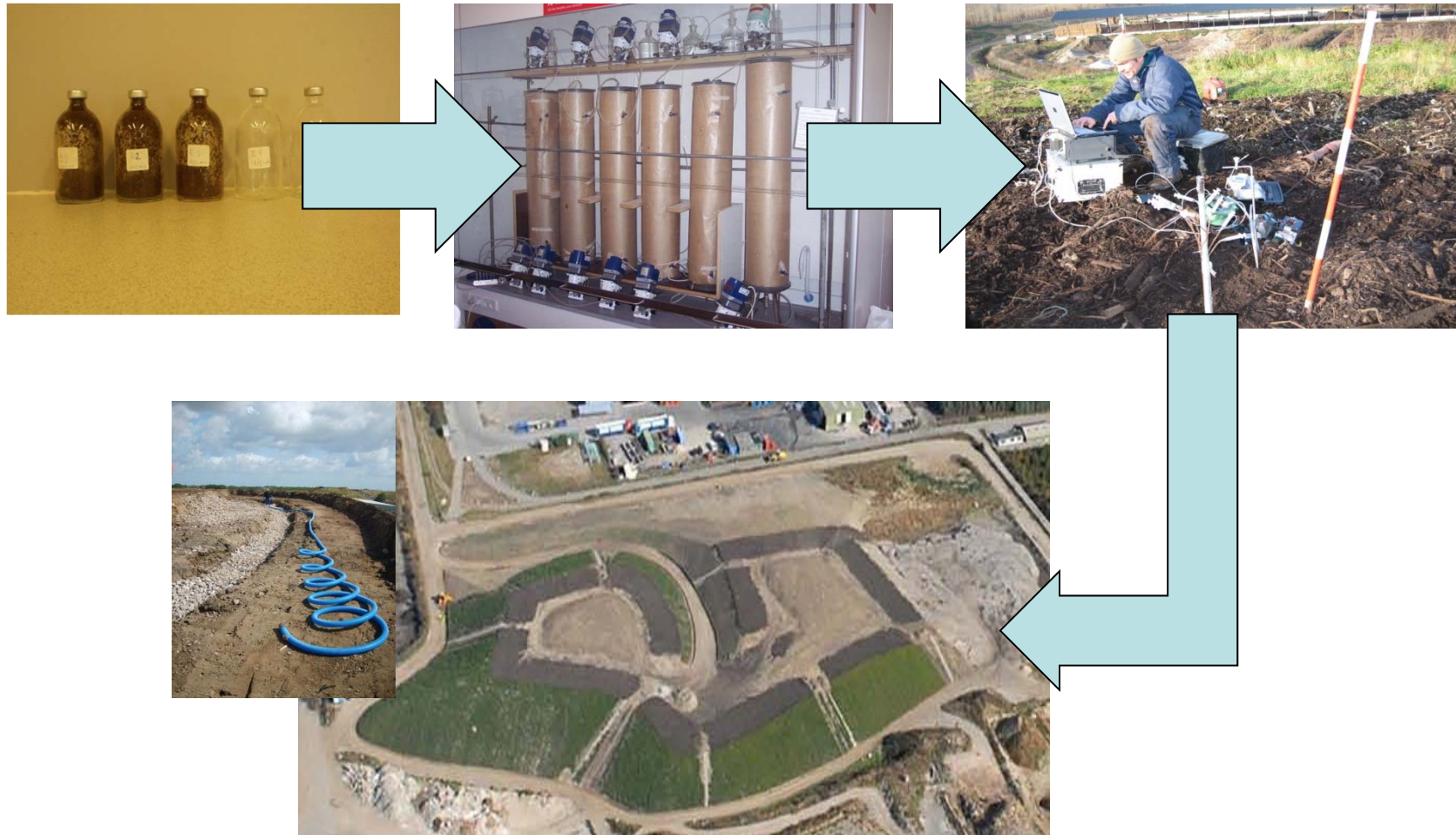
# Acknowledgement

- Professor Charlotte Scheutz
- Post doc Anders M. Fredenslund
- Post doc Jacob Mønster
- And several other students

## Outline for presentation

- From lab tests to full-scale implementation
- Types of bio-oxidation systems – more details
- Overview – biooxidation systems
- Danish full-scale experiences
- Going to full scale – major issues
  - Systematic approach
  - Documentation on system performance
  - Determining representative methane oxidation capacity of suitable materials
  - Good environmental conditions for the methanotrophs
  - Gas distribution
- The Danish biocover initiative – procedures and status
- Conclusions

# From lab batch to innovative full scale biocover system – a focused long term research task



# Bio-oxidation systems

## Filter

- Landfills with gas collection system, active or passive  
(Streese & Stegmann, 2003; Gebert & Gröngröft, 2006)
- Stable exhausts from animal husbandry  
(Melse & van der Werf, 2005; BiMoLa)
- Manure storage (Oonk & Koopmans, 2012)
- Coal mine ventilation  
(Du Plessis et al., 2003)

High load,  
but controllable

## Window

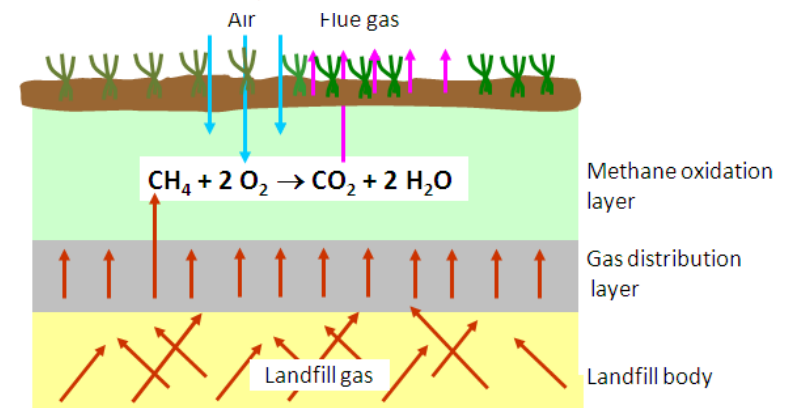
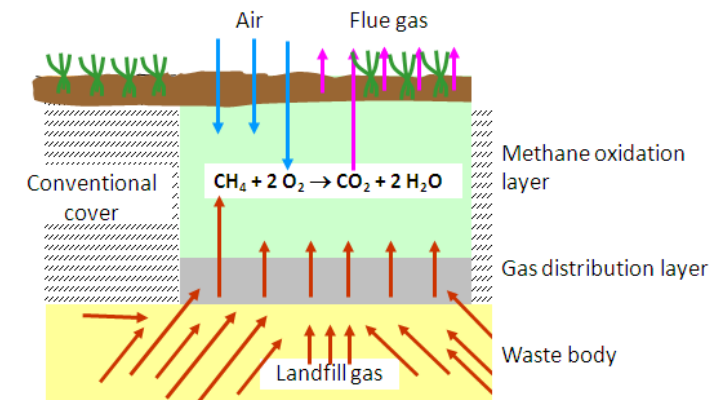
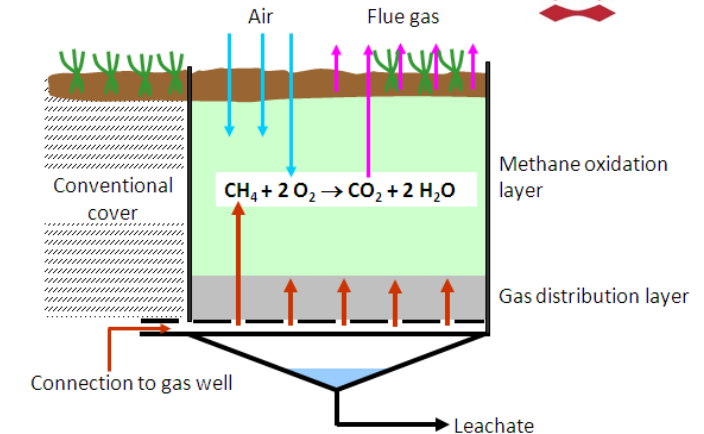
- Landfills without gas collection and surface lining  
(Pedersen et al., 2010)
- Remediation of emission hotspots on old non-sanitary landfills (Röwer et al., 2012)

Lower load,  
uncontrollable

## Cover

- Landfills with or without gas collection and surface lining  
(Huber-Humer et al., 2008; Geck et al., 2013)

Low load,  
uncontrollable



# Bio-oxidation in Landfill Gas Management

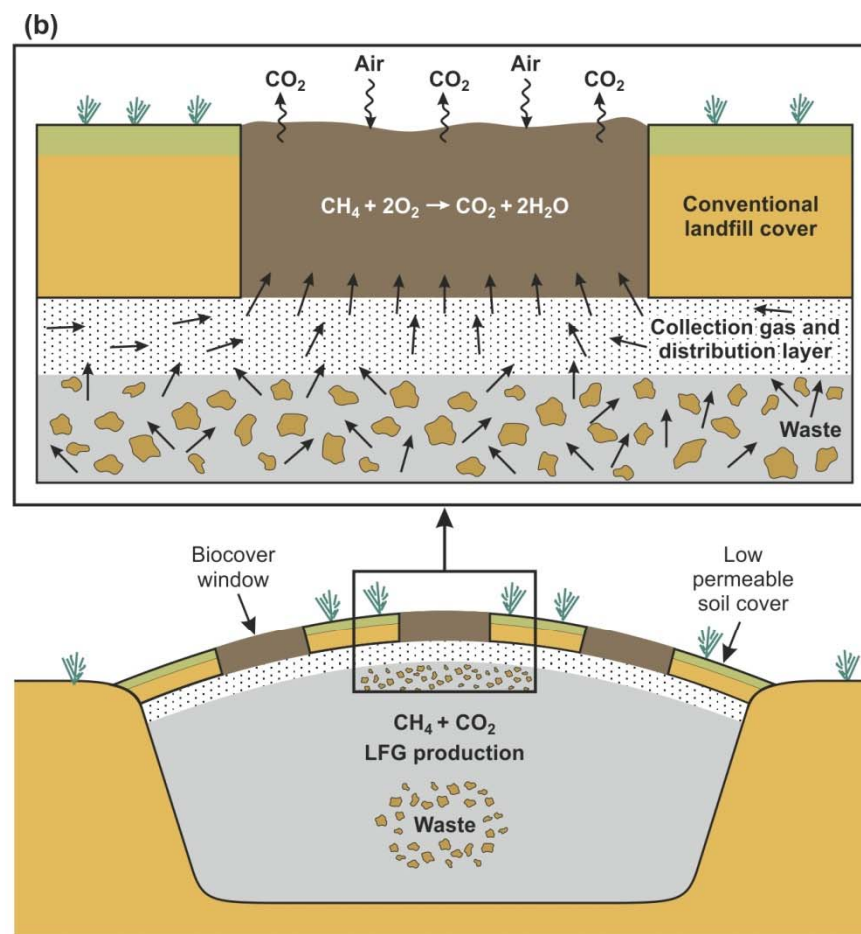
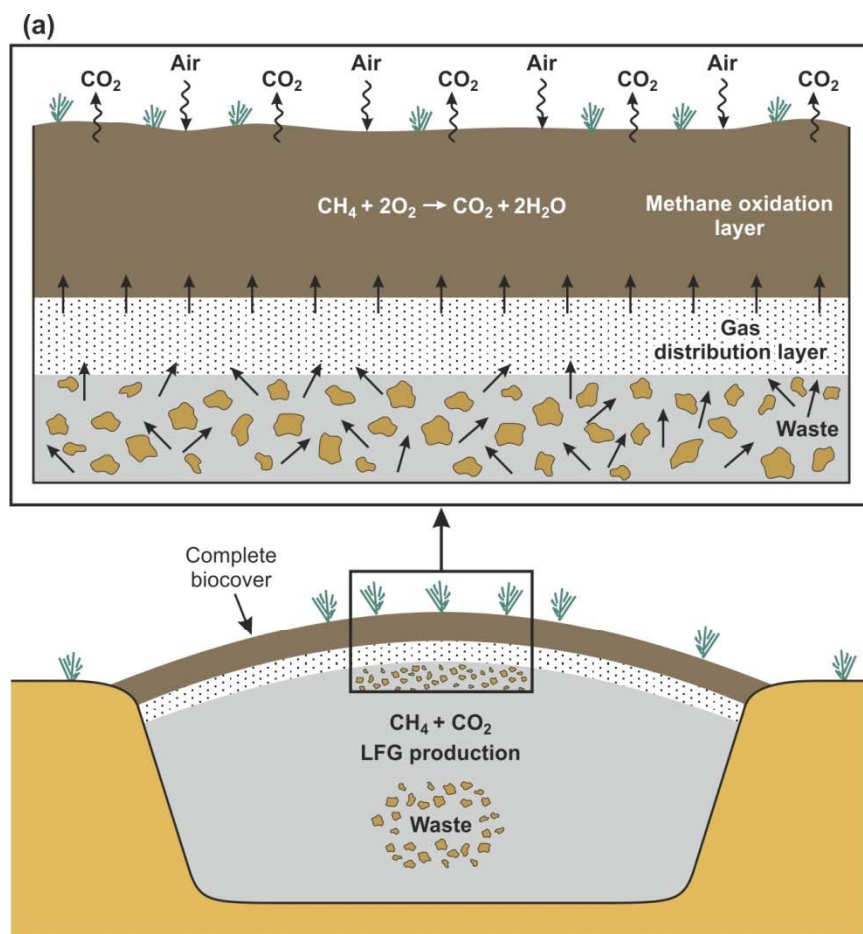
Scenario	Description
1	No gas collection system (GCS) is in place, the LFG generation is modest. Installation of a GCS and a gas engine not cost-efficient, but LFG emission is regarded as above legal limits.
2	A GCS is in place. The gas engine is old with high running maintenance costs. A replacement of the gas engine is considered non-cost-efficient.
3	A GCS and a gas flaring system is in place. The flares have difficulties to run without the use of supporting fuel, but LFG emission is regarded as above legal limits.

# Types of Bio-oxidation Systems

Type - passive	Description
<b>Full surface biocover (Sc 1)</b>	The whole landfill area is covered with a homogenous layer of bioactive coarse materials (such as a coarse soil or compost)
<b>Biowindow system (Sc 1)</b>	A system incorporating the presence of an existing, low permeable soil cover. Areas of the existing cover is replaced by gas permeable, bioactive materials (such as a coarse soil or compost) underlain by a gas distribution layer of gravel. Gas is loaded passively to the biowindows.
<b>Biofilter, open bed (Sc 2 &amp; 3)</b>	A system consisting of a volume of bioactive materials where LFG is fed from below through a gas distribution layer. Open to the atmosphere so oxygen can diffuse into the bioactive material from above.
<b>Biofilter, closed bed (Sc 2 &amp; 3)</b>	A system consisting of a volume of bioactive materials where LFG is fed from below/above through a gas distribution layer. Closed to the atmosphere (for instance in a container) so oxygen is to be part of the loading gas.



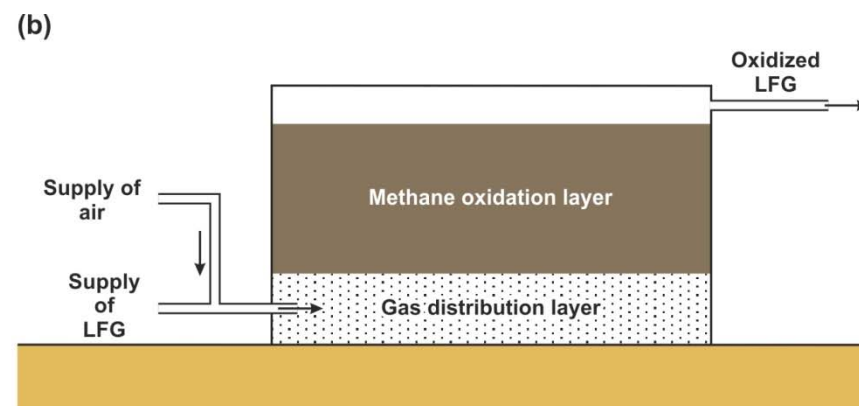
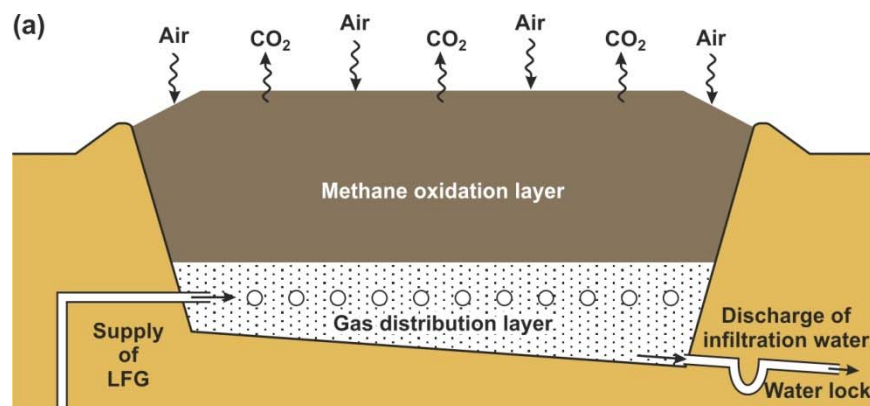
# Full surface biocover vs biowindow system





## Biofilters, open and closed bed

- Methane oxidation filter treating extracted gas either passively or actively



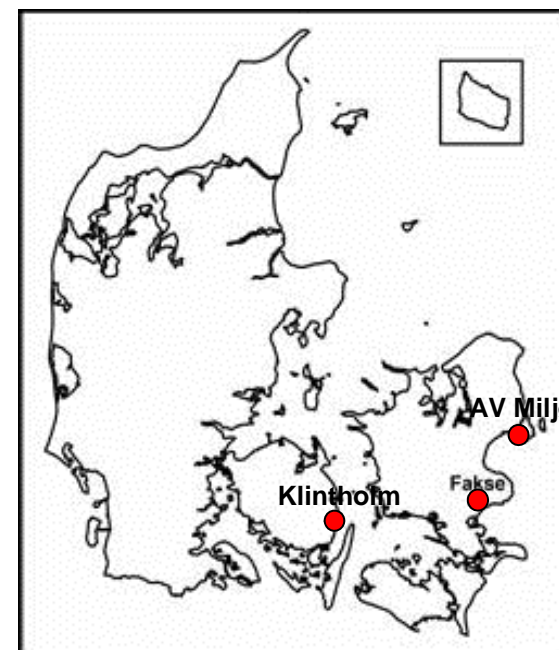
# Established Bio-oxidation Systems

## - a global overview

- In total 22 cases reported in open literature – 9 in full-scale – 13 in pilot scale
- Additional cases exists with less documentation (gray literature)
- Most systems use compost
- Six full surface biocover (Aikkala, Finland and sites in Austria)
- Only the Fakse and the Klintholm cases uses the TEMBA approach (TEMBA = Total Emission Measurement Before and After the system establishment)

# Established Bio-oxidation Systems – Danish Experiences

- Fakse Landfill (2006-2008)
  - First fully documented site
  - Biowindows system, passive, compost based
  - Described in papers in Waste Management (2011)
- Klintholm Landfill (2008-2011)
  - Biofilter/Biowindow system with constructed gas collection system, passive, compost based
  - Described in Waste Management (2014)
- AV Miljø Landfill (2011-2014)
  - Pilot scale, active biofilter system, compost based
  - Gas collected from 3 leachate wells
  - Elevated oxygen content in gas loaded to the system
  - Described in Waste Management (2017)



# Advantages and disadvantages of using compost as methane oxidation material

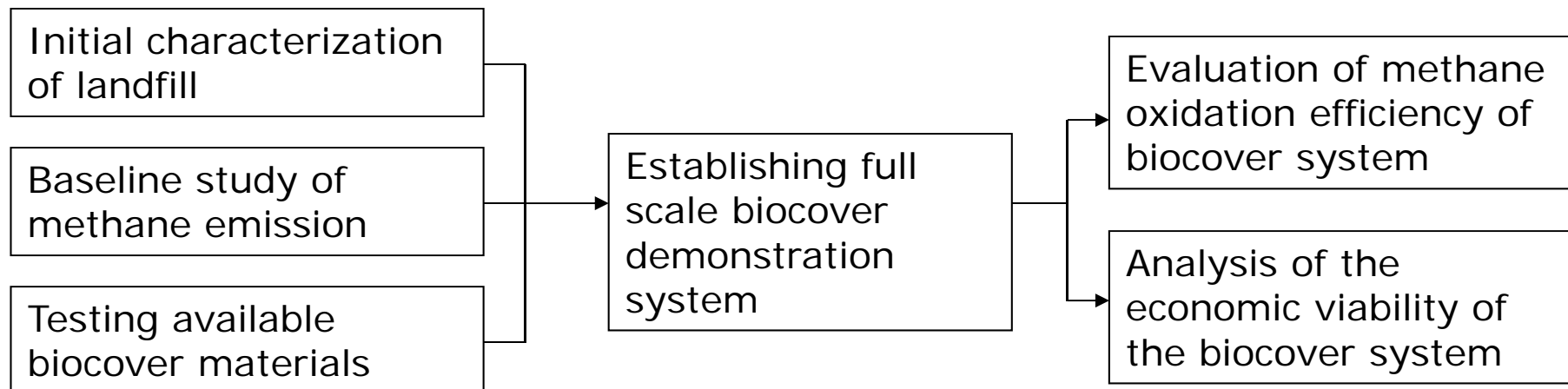
Advantages	Disadvantages
<i>Compost</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has a large surface area that supports bacterial growth</li> <li>• Contains nutrients</li> <li>• With the right sieve, high porosity is achieved, (→ relatively high water content and still high gas conductivity and gas diffusivity)</li> <li>• With the right sieve a sufficiently high conductivity is achieved (→ gas can be transported upward and infiltrating water can be transported downward)</li> <li>• Has a good ability to avoid drying due to its good water retention ability</li> <li>• Has good thermal insulation (→ can hold on the heat produced by respiration and methane oxidation or applied from the hot waste body underneath)</li> <li>• Often produced in large quantities at the composting facility located next to the landfill (→ can be obtained cheaply)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compost is an unstable material (→ the continuing maturation process can potentially destroy the good qualities in long term)</li> <li>• Local limitations in the appearance of suitable compost materials (→ higher prices)</li> <li>• Increased demand for compost for soil improvement? (→ higher prices)</li> <li>• May have excessive oxygen consumption (respiration) (→ anaerobic conditions in methane oxidation layer)</li> <li>• Significant turnover of organic material (→ essential settlement of the methane oxidation layer)</li> <li>• The compost material potential needs replacement (or supplemented) with time</li> </ul>



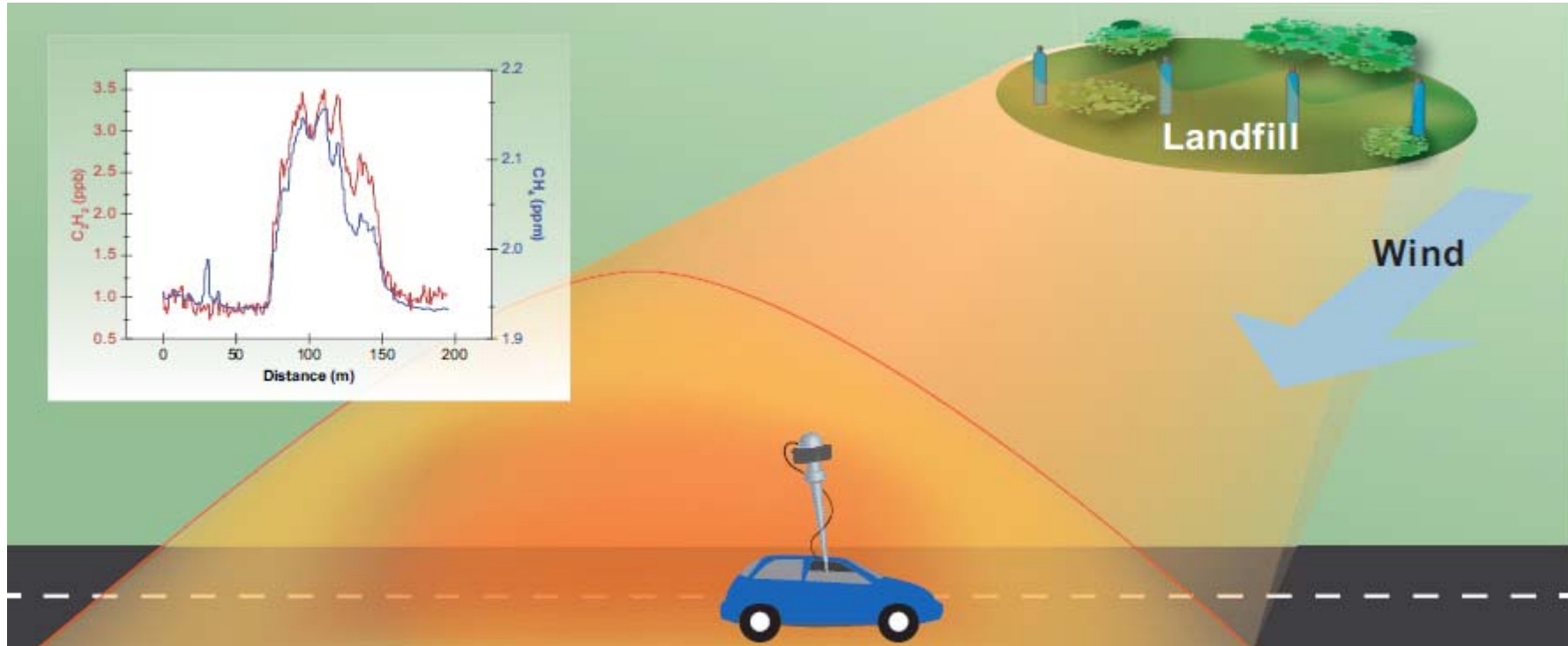
## Going to full scale – some major issues

1. Use a systematic approach – the protocol
2. Performing full-scale efficiency evaluation of the bio-oxidation system – the TEMBA approach
3. Determine a realistic methane oxidation efficiency (in grams  $\text{CH}_4/\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{day}$ ) for the full-scale scenario
4. Maintaining good environmental conditions for the methane oxidation process (water, temperature, oxygen, etc) – in all climatic conditions – and also in long term
5. Obtain even gas distribution to the bio-active layer – avoiding hot spots

# 1. Use a systematic approach – the protocol



## 2. Performing full-scale efficiency evaluation of the bio-oxidation system – the TEMBA approach using the dynamic tracer dispersion method

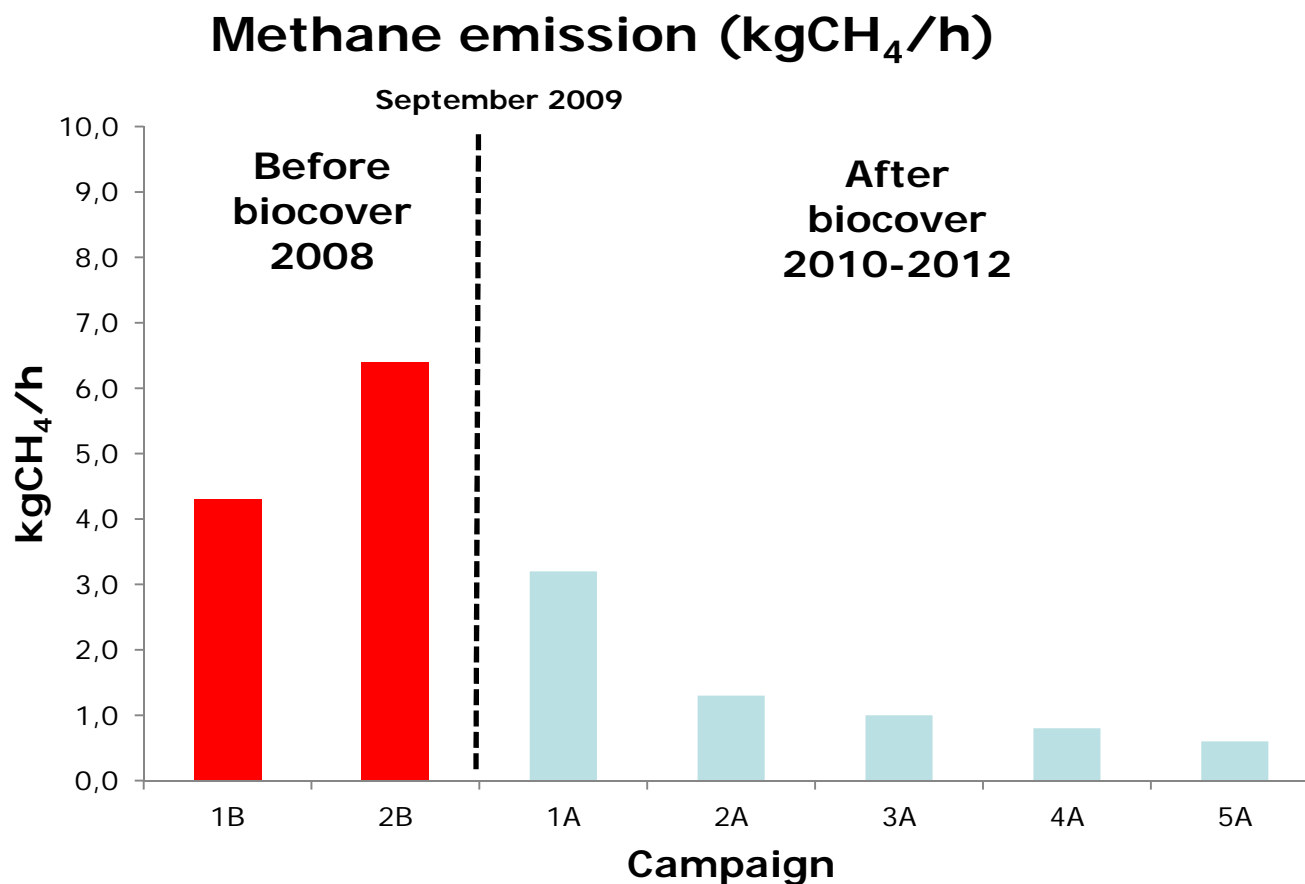


$$E_{\text{gas}} = Q_{\text{tracer}} \cdot \frac{\int_{\text{Plumeend 1}}^{\text{Plumeend 2}} C_{\text{gas}} dx}{\int_{\text{Plumeend 1}}^{\text{Plumeend 2}} C_{\text{tracer}} dx} \cdot \frac{MW_{\text{gas}}}{MW_{\text{tracer}}}$$

- Tracer gas with long atmospheric lifetime
- Good/stable wind & road conditions
- Sensitive analytical instrument



# TEMBA: Total Emission Measurement Before and After – Klintholm landfill



### 3. Determine a realistic methane oxidation efficiency (in grams $\text{CH}_4/\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{day}$ ) for full-scale scenarios

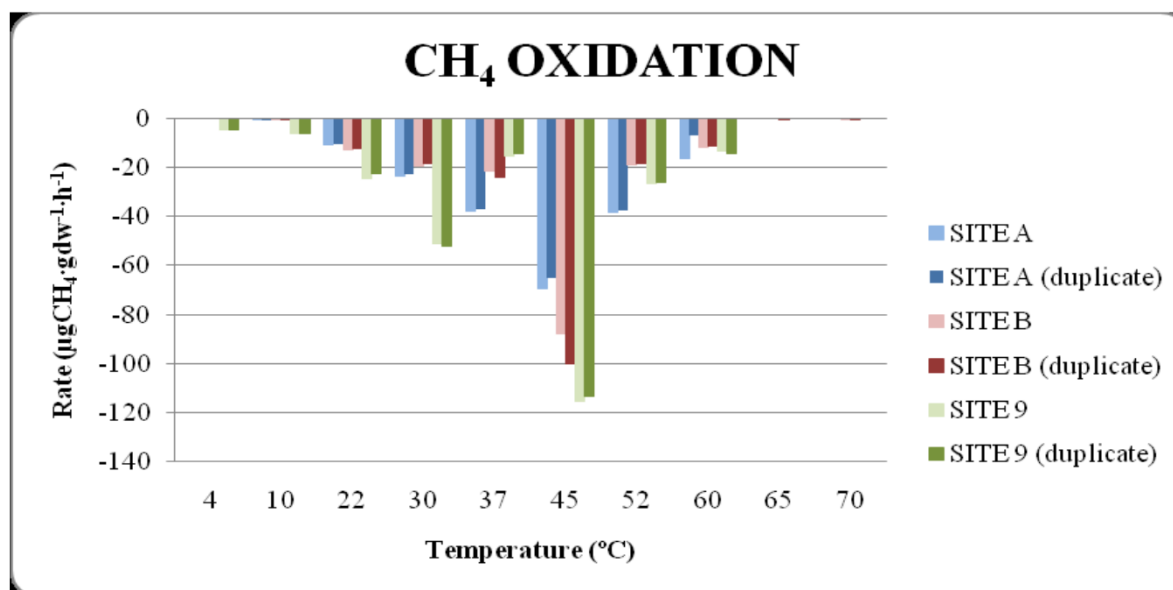


- An estimated efficiency is needed for selecting an appropriate footage area of biowindows/biofilters
- Lab determined efficiencies in column tests are in the range 50 – 400 grams  $\text{CH}_4/\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{day}$
- Do we need to use safety factors for upscaling to field scale (respecting spatial heterogeneous gas loads) ?
- Too few field experiences are obtained to give a full answer....



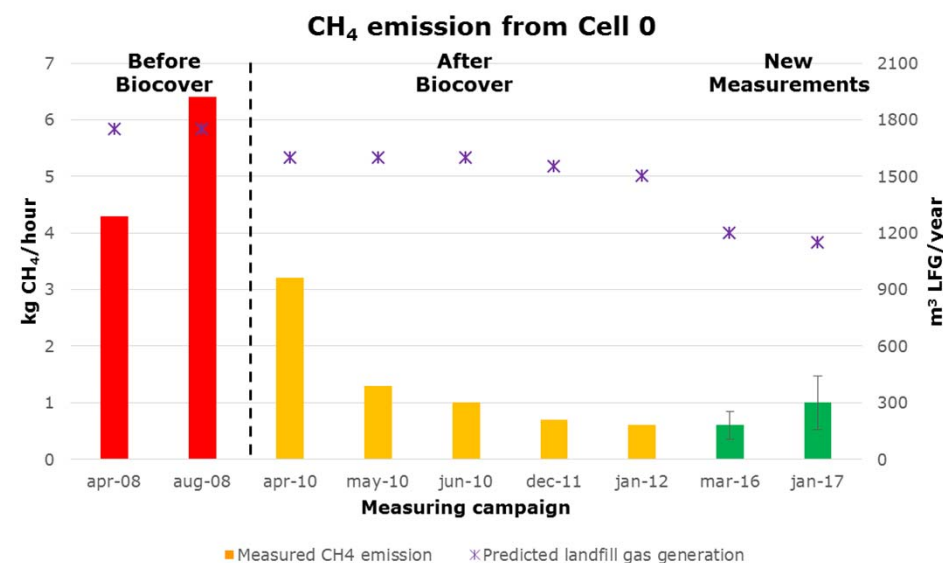
## 4. Maintaining good environmental conditions for the methane oxidation process - temperature

- Laboratory determined temperature optimum:
  - 25-35 ° C for soil
  - 45-55 ° C for compost
- High temperatures was observed in all 3 Danish sites at all seasons (even strong winters) (>25-30° C at depth > 40 cm)
- Main reasons are heat from methane oxidation and compost respiration



## 4. Maintaining good environmental conditions for the methane oxidation process – long term

- Klintholm site revisited in 2016
  - 6-7 years after establishment
  - Still low total emission of CH<sub>4</sub>
  - Gas concentration profiles and CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation tests suggest CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation in the MOL
  - Oxygen was able to penetrate the entire MOL and into the GDL
  - Still elevated temperatures
  - Lab batch test give MO rates comparable to the initial rates
  - Imperfect distribution of landfill gas – hotspots still occur
  - **The biocover system functioned as intended after 6-7 years**
  - **No maintenance seems required (Danish conditions)**

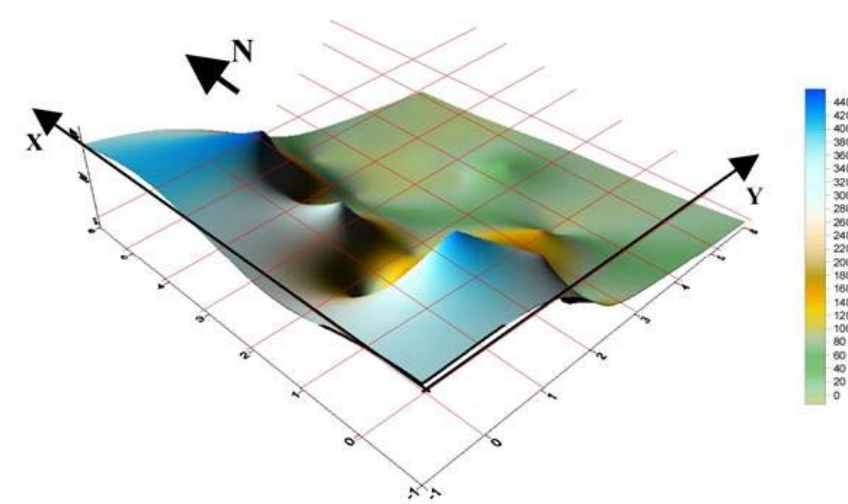


## 5. Obtain even gas distribution to the bio-active layer – avoiding hot spots - 1. try



Fakse Landfill

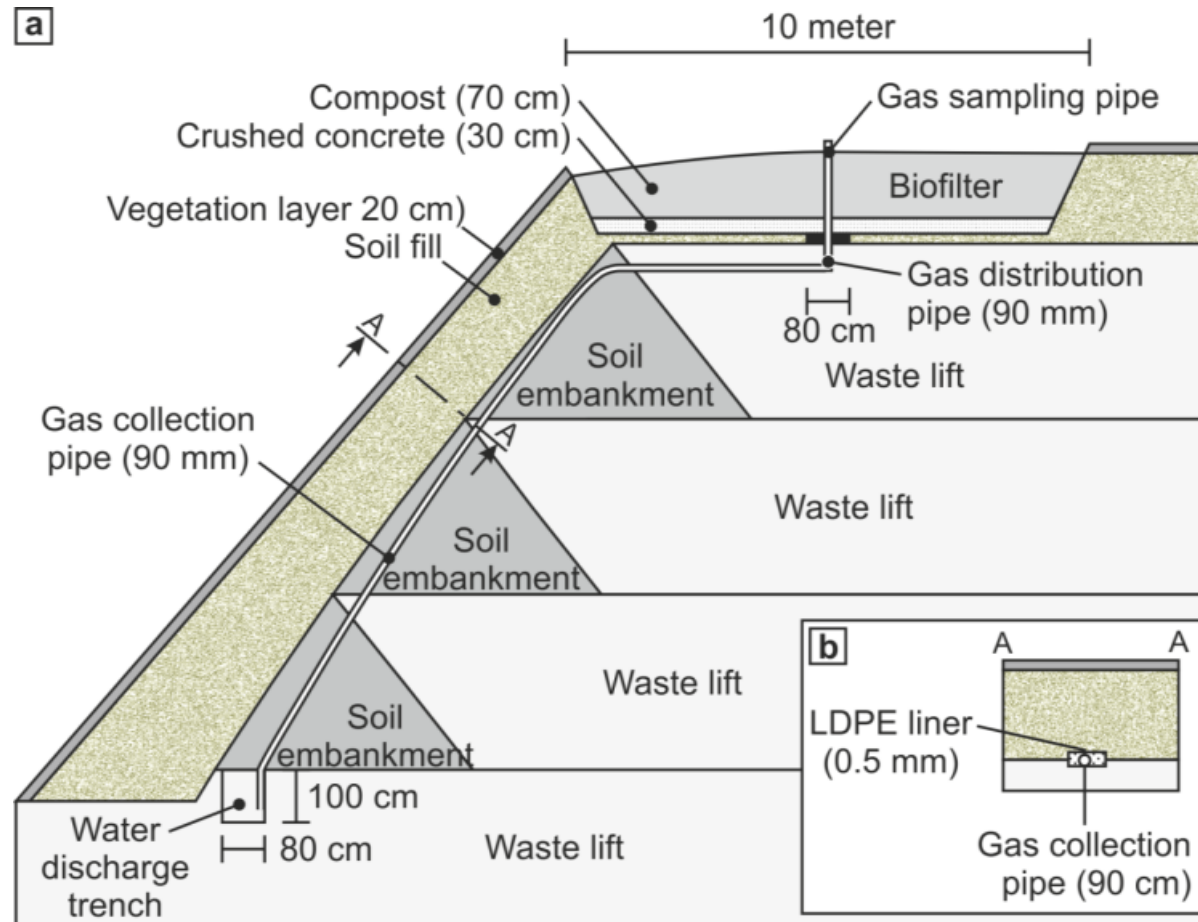
Overall  $\text{CH}_4$  oxidation ~ 30 %



Fakse: Lateral gas load to biowindow creates hot spot area



## 5. Obtain even gas distribution to the bio-active layer – avoiding hot spots – 2. try



Klintholm Landfill

## 5. Obtain even gas distribution to the bio-active layer – avoiding hot spots – 2. try



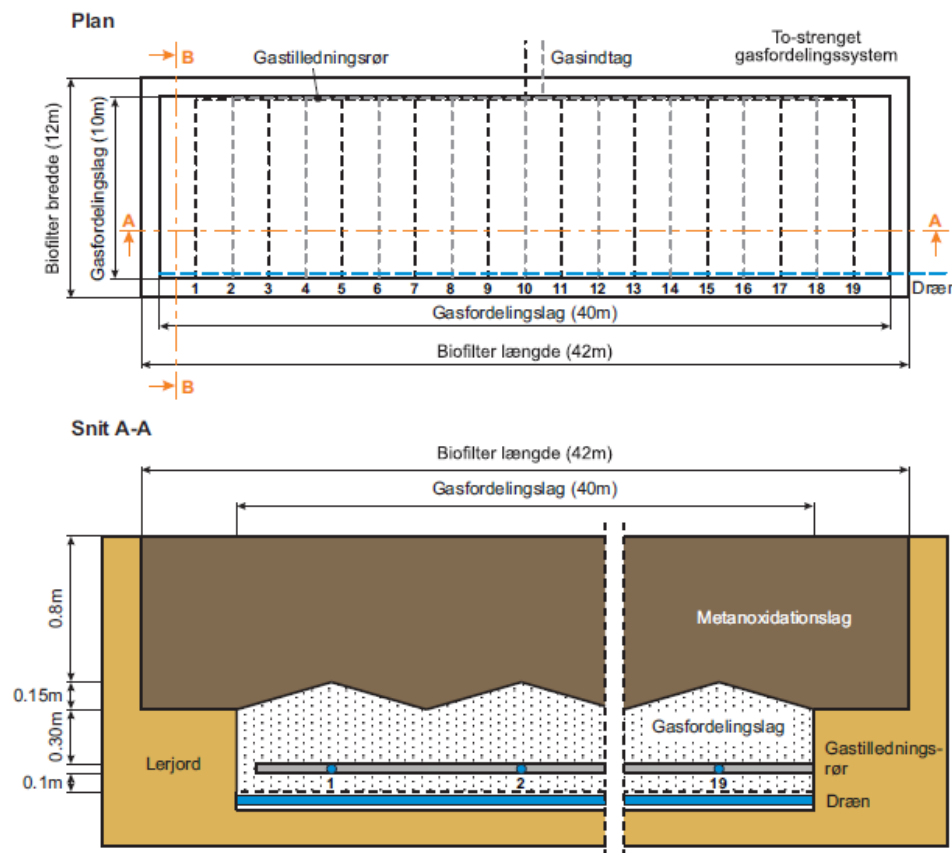
Klintholm Landfill

Overall CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation ~ 85 %





## 5. Obtain even gas distribution to the bio-active layer – avoiding hot spots – 3. try



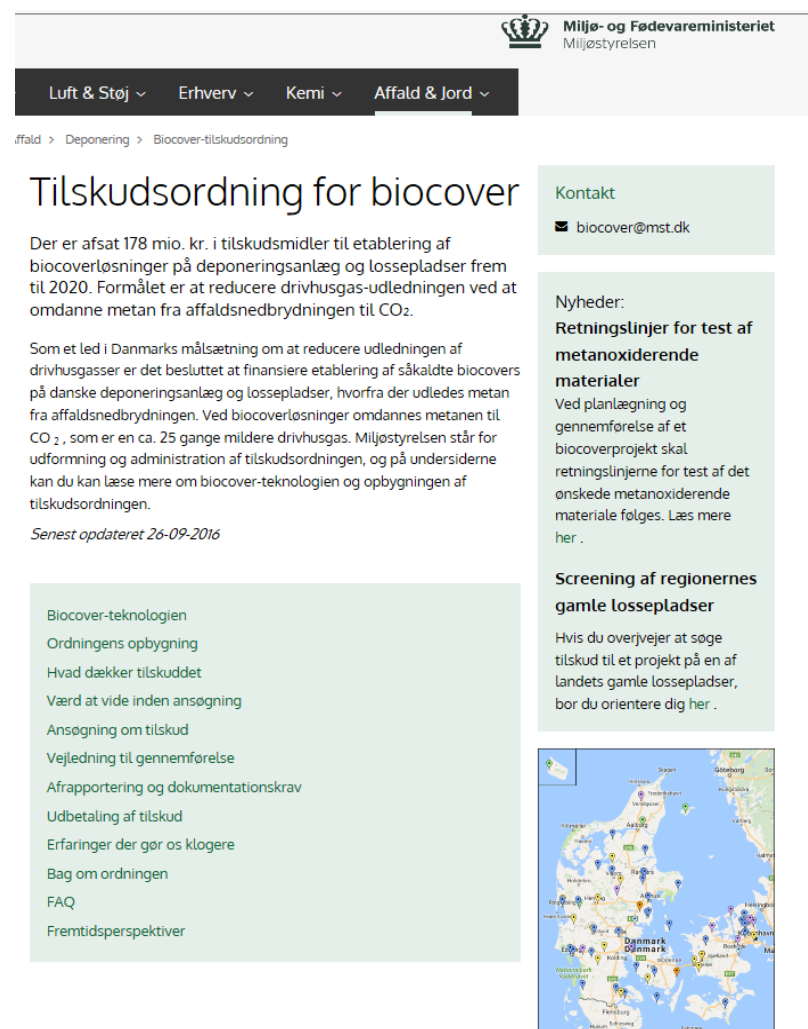
AV Miljø Landfill

Interface between compost (CL) and coarse gravel gas distribution layer (GDL) "zig-zag-shaped" to minimize continuous water locking due to capillary effects

No hot spots observed - Overall  $\text{CH}_4$  oxidation > 95 %

# From innovation to national implementation

- The Danish Government has initiated an emission reduction program on old landfills based on our bio-oxidation technology – “The Danish Biocover Initiative” - as one way to reduce national greenhouse gas emissions
  - Goal: establishment of biocover systems on up to 100 sites
  - Frame: 25 mill. € over 4 years as state support to projects
  - The Danish EPA is managing the program
  - We are scientific consultants on the program



The screenshot shows the official website for the Danish Biocover Initiative, managed by the Ministry of the Environment and Food (Miljø- og Fødevarerministeriet). The page is titled "Tilskudsordning for biocover" (Grant scheme for biocover). It provides information about the 178 million DKK in grants available for establishing biocover systems on landfills by 2020. The page includes a navigation menu with categories like "Luft & Støj", "Erhverv", "Kemi", and "Affald & Jord". A sidebar on the right contains a "Kontakt" section with the email biocover@mst.dk and a "Nyheder" (News) section with links to "Retningslinjer for test af metanoxiderende materialer" and "Screening af regionernes gamle lossepladser". A map of Denmark is shown at the bottom right, indicating the locations of various biocover projects across the country.

# The Danish Biocover Initiative - procedure

- Executive order to follow for be granted support
- Baseline study first granted
- Total emission >6 kg/h then support for Conceptual design is granted
- If conceptual design is accepted money for detailed design and support for construction is granted

BEK nr 752 af 21/06/2016 (Gældende)	Udskriftsdato: 27. september 2017
Ministerium: Miljø- og Fødevareministeriet	Senere ændringer til forskriften
Journalnummer: Miljø- og Fødevaremin., Miljøstyrelsen, j.nr. MST-729-00086	Ingen

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Bekendtgørelse om tilskud til etablering af biocover på deponeringsanlæg og lossepladser

I medfør af tekstnærkning nr. 106 af 24.55.07. til § 24 på finansloven for 2016 fastsættes:

Kapitel 1

*Bekendtgørelsens område og definitioner*

§ 1. Bekendtgørelsen fastsætter rammerne for tildeling af tilskud fra tilskudsordningen til etablering af biocover på deponeringsanlæg og lossepladser.

§ 2. I denne bekendtgørelse forstås ved:

- 1) Ansøger: Region på vegne af ejer af nedlukkede lossepladser, der er kortlagt efter jordforureningsloven, eller ejer af deponeringsanlæg eller losseplads.
- 2) Baselineundersøgelse: En undersøgelse, som udføres på deponeringsanlægget eller lossepladsen for at vurdere potentialet for etablering af et biocoversystem og med henblik på at udarbejde en projektbeskrivelse til ansøgning om et biocoverprojekt. Baselineundersøgelsen fastlægger den samlede metanemission via to totalmålinger, samt emissionsmønstret gennem en overfladescreening.
- 3) Biocover: System til reduktion af metanemission fra et deponeringsanlæg eller en losseplads, som baserer sig på biologisk metanoxidation ved hjælp af kompost eller tilsvarende materiale, der understøtter metanoxiderende mikroorganismer.
- 4) Biocoverprojekt: Det samlede projekt efter baselineundersøgelsen, herunder detailprojektering, etablering af biocoversystem, opfølgende måling, eventuel udbedring, monitorering og eventuel vedligeholdelse indtil sidste tilskudsdekkede monitorering.
- 5) Deponeringsanlæg: Som defineret i bekendtgørelse om deponeringsanlæg.
- 6) Losseplads: En samlebetegnelse for lossepladser, deponier, fyldpladser, affaldsdepoter eller lignende anlæg, som ikke er omfattet af definitionen af deponeringsanlæg.
- 7) Metanoxiderationsmateriale: Materiale, for eksempel kompost, der skal understøtte biologisk metanoxidation i biocoversystemet.
- 8) Metanoxiderationspotentiale: Metanoxiderationsmaterialets potentiale til at understøtte biologisk metanoxidation.
- 9) Monitorering: Bestemmelse af den samlede metanemission fra deponeringsanlægget eller lossepladsen ved udførelse af en totalmåling.
- 10) Opfølgende måling: Bestemmelse af metanemissionen fra deponeringsanlægget eller lossepladsen efter etablering af biocover, ved udførelse af en totalmåling og en overfladescreening.
- 11) Overfladescreening: En kortlægning af deponeringsanlæggets eller lossepladsens metanemission med en metode, som måler metanemissionens fordeling over den relevante del af deponeringsanlæggets eller lossepladsens overflade og installationer.
- 12) Totalmåling: Måling af den totale metanemission med en metode, som fra afstand integrerer den samlede metanemission fra den relevante del af deponeringsanlægget eller lossepladsen.

1

# Guidance : The biocover handbook – 70 pages

- List of content
- Summary – in English
- Introduction
- Landfill gas mitigation – an overview
- Landfill gas mitigation by bio-oxidation systems
  - Methane oxidizing microorganisms
  - The methane oxidation process
  - Controlling environmental factors
  - Observed methane oxidation rates
  - Types of biocover systems
  - National and international field experiences
  - Important factors for biocover functionality
- Protocol for establishing and monitoring of biocover-systems
- Initial site characterization
- Baseline study
- Testing and selecting biocover materials
- Design and establishment of biocover systems
- Evaluation of biocover mitigation efficiency
- Economical evaluation
- References

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## Design

- Test of material for MOL (compost)
  - Batch test
    - $MO > 20\mu\text{g CH}_4/\text{g material (DW) and hour}$
    - $\text{Respiration} < 48 \mu\text{gO}_2/\text{g material (DW) and hour}$
- Project on Compost catalogue
  - Result "Normal" compost materials (garden/yard waste based) do not need testing
- Biocover layers
  - GDL recommended 30 cm
  - MOL recommended 80-100 cm

## Dimensioning

- Total CH<sub>4</sub> emission measured in baseline study (kg/h)
- Emission from each subsource measured/estimated (kg/h)
- MO capacity: 50 gCH<sub>4</sub>/m<sup>2</sup> and day
- Area of each sub system estimated



## Status of the biocover initiative

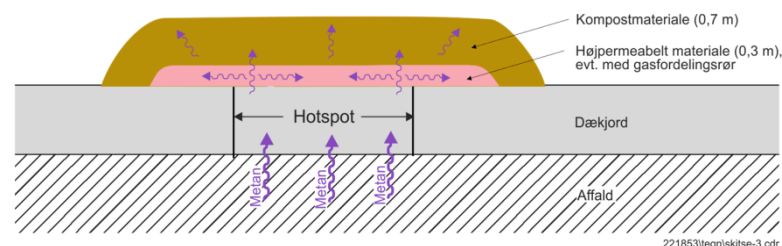
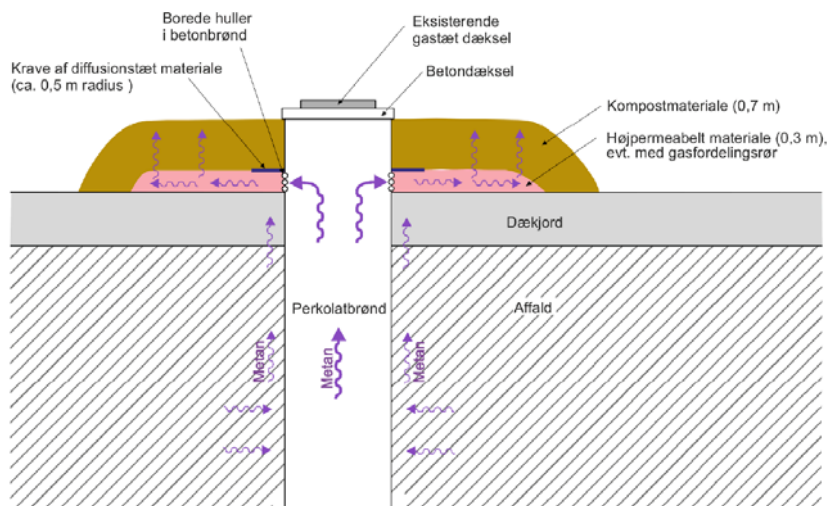
- The initiative has been delayed

Status as of March 2018:

- 5 pilotstudies initiated (to gain more detailed experiences)
- 89 proposals received for obtaining financial support
- 49 baseline studies granted (39 finalized)
- 16 conceptual designs received
- The first biocover systems soon to be established

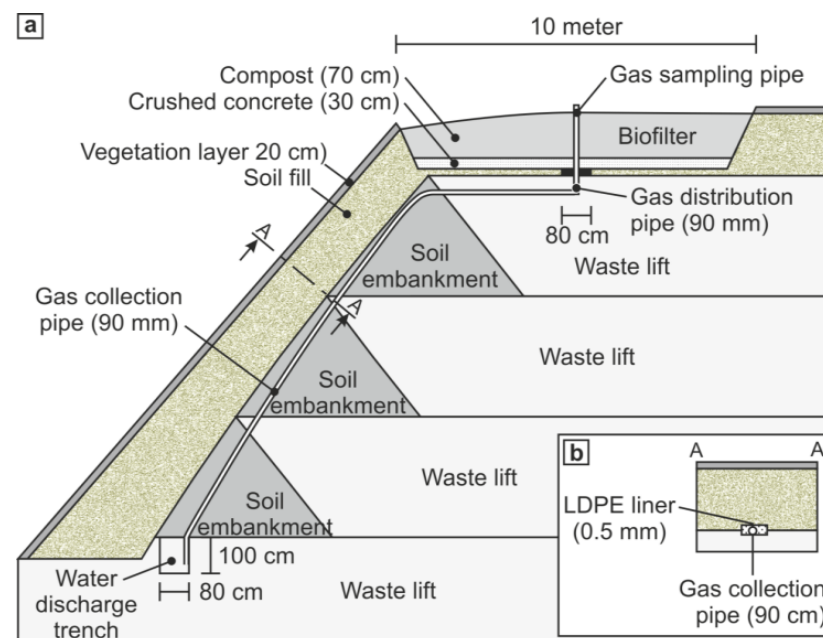
## General trend of solutions

- Combination of filters treating point sources and biowindows treating hot spot areas
- Point sources are mostly leachate collection/inspection wells



## General trend of solutions

- Combination of filters treating point sources and biowindows treating hot spot areas
- Point sources are mostly leachate collection/inspection wells
- Many hot spots on slopes – can biowindows be established on slopes?
- Or is the "Klintholm approach" better?



## Conclusions

- Potential of bio-oxidation systems for mitigation of landfill emissions is very high
- Target situations: non-sanitary landfills (hotspot remediation, cover improvement), sanitary landfills at the end of technical gas treatment or with low gas generation potential (MBT, dredged material, mixed waste with low organic content, etc)
- Microbes are naturally occurring, high turnover rates can be reached with a variety of substrates (soil, compost, others)
- Governing factors of the microbial methane oxidation process are known and can be accounted for in the design process

## Conclusions, continued

- Upscale is the challenge: We need to work in full-scale to obtain the needed insight
- It is crucial to use a robust performance documentation
- There are still some challenges concerning oxygen control, gas distribution in biocovers, seasonal effects and long term performance
- The Danish Biocover Initiative will hopefully further develop the technology successfully
- Currently also full-scale implementation in several other countries

## Selected articles - bio-oxidation systems - DTU

- Cassini, F., Scheutz, C., Skov, B.H., Zishen, M., Kjeldsen, P. (2017). Mitigation of methane emissions in a pilot-scale biocover system at the AV Miljø Landfill, Denmark: 1. System design and gas distribution. *Waste Management*, 63, 213–225.
- Scheutz, C., Cassini, F., De Schoenmaeker, J., Kjeldsen, P. (2017). Mitigation of methane emissions in a pilot-scale biocover system at the AV Miljø Landfill, Denmark: 2. Methane oxidation. *Waste Management*, 63, 203–212.
- Scheutz, C., Pedersen, R.B., Petersen, P.H., Jørgensen, J.H.B., Ucendo, I.M.B., Mønster, J.G., Samuelsson, J. & Kjeldsen, P. (2014). Mitigation of methane emission from an old unlined landfill in Klintholm, Denmark using a passive biocover system, *Waste Management*, 34, 1179–1190.
- Mønster, J., Samuelsson J., Kjeldsen, P., Scheutz, C. (2014): Quantifying methane emission from fugitive sources by combining tracer release and downwind measurements – test, verification and documentation of the method. *Waste Management* 34, 1416–1428.
- Scheutz, C., Fredenslund, A. M., Chanton, J., Pedersen, G. B., and Kjeldsen, P. (2011): Mitigation of methane emission from Fakse landfill using a biowindow system. *Waste Management*, 31(5), 1018-1028.
- Scheutz, C., Samuelsson, J., Fredenslund, A. M., and Kjeldsen, P. (2011): Quantification of multiple methane emission sources at landfills using a double tracer technique. *Waste Management*, 31(5), 1009-1017.
- Scheutz, C., Bogner, J., De Visscher, A., Gebert, J., Hilger, H., Huber-Humer, M., Kjeldsen, P., and Spokas, K. (2009): Processes and technologies for mitigation of landfill gas emissions by microbial methane oxidation. *Waste Management & Research*, 27(5), 409-455.

**Thank you for your attention!**

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