



**U.S. National Advisory Committee**  
*Independent Federal Advisors on the  
North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation*



**U.S. Governmental Advisory Committee**  
*Independent Federal Advisors on the  
North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation*

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June 16, 2014

The Honorable Gina McCarthy  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

The U.S. National Advisory Committee (NAC) and U.S. Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) to the U.S. Representative to the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) held its forty-second meeting on April 10-11, 2014 in Washington, D.C. It is our pleasure to submit to you the following report from our meeting. This report includes advice on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC) and on the next Strategic Plan of the CEC.

Both NAC and GAC members wish to communicate our deep appreciation for your presence at the meeting and your enthusiasm and commitment to advancing the mission and strategies of the CEC. There was general agreement that the meeting had been the most successful and productive of their tenure, citing the opportunities that it provided for brainstorming ideas and using the members' collective knowledge.

The NAC and GAC wish to express their thanks to the EPA team for their organization and participation in the meeting. Ms. Denise Sirmons, Director, Office of Diversity, Advisory Committee Management and Outreach (ODACMO), identified the funding constraints, but also expressed the hope to continue to have at least one in-person meeting per year. Ms. Jane Nishida, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA), provided an orientation on the charge questions, especially our recommendations on CEC priorities for the next 20 years. Ms. Neilima Senjalia, Acting Director, Office of Regional and Bilateral Affairs, OITA, highlighted the communication activities in which the CEC is engaging for its 20th anniversary. Ms. JoAnn K. Chase, Director, American Indian Environmental Office, OITA described the EPA's participation in interagency cooperative efforts to address tribal issues and President Obama's White House Council on Native American Affairs.

Carlos Rubinstein  
Texas

Roger Vintze  
California

Cristina Viesca-Santos  
Texas

Gerald Wagner  
Blackfeet Tribe

We also wish to thank Mr. Oscar Carrillo, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), Mr. Mark Joyce, Mr. James McCleary, Ms. Sylvia Correa, and Ms. Stephanie McCoy from EPA for their support in making the meeting possible.

We also appreciated the presentation by CEC Executive Director, Irasema Coronado, on progress made during the CEC's first 20 years, update on cooperative work program activities, status update on the SEM process, current projects funded by the North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action (NAPECA) program, and report on internal efficiency. We thank Bob Varney, Chair of the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) for his comments on challenges that face the CEC including: achieving consensus among the Parties, differing agendas among the states/provinces, and tribes/First Nations, and the difficulties in harmonizing data on environmental quality among the Parties.

Finally, we heard from Mr. Rohan Patel, Special Assistant to the President, and Deputy Director for the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs at the White House, explain the three foci of President Obama's Climate Action Plan: reducing carbon pollution, preparing communities to be more resilient to the impacts of climate change, and leading by example in the international sphere. We wish to thank Supervisor Salud Carbajal for inviting Mr. Patel to our meeting.

Thank you for your consideration of the attached joint responses by the NAC and GAC to the Charge Questions regarding the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation and the CEC. We hope our advice is useful to you in your capacity as a Party to the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation.

Cordially,



Octaviana V. Trujillo  
GAC Chair



Brian L. Houseal  
NAC Chair

cc: Jane Nishida, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator  
Office of International and Tribal Affairs  
Denise Sirmons, Director  
Office of Diversity, Advisory Committee Management and Outreach  
Oscar Carrillo, Designated Federal Officer  
Sylvia Correa, Senior Advisor for North America  
Bob Varney, Chair, Joint Public Advisory Committee  
Irasema Coronado, Executive Director, CEC  
Members of the U.S. National and Governmental Advisory Committees

National and Governmental Advisory Committee (NAC/GAC)  
to the U.S. Representative to the  
Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)

**Advice 2014-1 (June 16, 2014):**  
**Charge Question: 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NAAEC and CEC**

The NAC and GAC members identified several areas in which the implementation of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC) has contributed to higher levels of environmental protection in North America and improved cooperation among the three nations.

The CEC has made significant progress in protecting North American ecosystems and disseminating information on ecosystem protection. The CEC launched the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) to protect North American migratory birds and their habitats. The CEC is working on marine and terrestrial species of common conservation concern and completed detailed North American Conservation Action Plans. It is also publishing guides for designing marine protected areas networks. The CEC established the North American Grasslands Alliance to protect grasslands. The CEC also initiated projects to estimate the amount of carbon stored in different ecosystems – helping broaden understanding of ecosystems importance in climate change mitigation and resiliency.

The CEC also has unique capabilities in mapping information and sharing capabilities. The North American Environmental Atlas is one example of the CEC's outreach efforts. The CEC's maps attract the most visitors of any of the features on the CEC's website. The CEC also established its new online library, listing all publications in English, French, and Spanish.

The CEC has produced high quality information on a range of environmental protection issues. For example, the Pollutant Release and Transfer Registry (PRTR) and *Taking Stock* have contributed to access to information and greater awareness about pollutants, while its chemicals management program, SMOC, has led to eliminating the use of DDT.

The Submission on Enforcement Matters (SEM) unit has worked to bring old submissions up to date, and the SEM tracker is now available online, increasing accountability and information sharing. The SEM Portal assists with preparing and filing submissions, and the CEC has established an Outreach Plan on the SEM process. As an example, the CEC factual record for the BC Hydro SEM produced significant positive outcomes. BC Hydro and other successful submissions under the SEM process could be used as examples of positive results from CEC actions.

The CEC has taken action on greening the North American economy. The CEC led a shade-grown coffee initiative and supported a North American Green Purchasing Initiative targeted at purchasing by government and public-sector bodies. The CEC published a "Guide to Developing a Community Renewable Energy Project in North America" and the report titled "North American Power Plant Air Emissions." The CEC has also performed extensive work promoting green building construction.

Finally, the NAC and GAC commend the JPAC for conducting a public review and conference on the first 20 years of NAFTA, NAAEC and the CEC at George Washington University Law School on October 17-18, 2013. Despite significant achievements over the past 20 years, there is a clear sense that the CEC needs to improve in several areas. The JPAC recommended that the CEC Council address political will, greater awareness and visibility of the CEC, meaningful engagement with stakeholders, a new mission, indigenous engagement, performance measurement and re-establishing financial robustness.

***Recommendations:***

***(1) The NAC/GAC recommend that the U.S. endorse and support JPAC Advice to Council No. 13-04, regarding the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NAFTA and the NAAEC, including proposals of:***

- ***Renewed engagement by the Council members across government sectors, including trade and environment officials, and leveraging the CEC asset as a convener, and aligning CEC's work with the NAFTA country international priorities.***
- ***Finding creative ways to effectively convey the value of the information generated by the CEC across business, academia, indigenous peoples, and local governments and communities.***
- ***Meaningful engagement and collaboration with stakeholders, such as the business community, academia, indigenous peoples, and local communities (including low-income communities impacted by pollution); and deepening CEC relationships with provinces, states and municipalities, which are engines of innovation.***
- ***Developing new goals and tasks commensurate with the emerging CEC priorities for the next twenty years, such as: climate change; transportation and energy; water regional cooperation; biodiversity conservation; investment and subsidies; cumulative and transboundary environmental impacts; trade and environment issues, and North America's ecological footprint.***
- ***Focusing on measuring CEC results and outcomes, which is increasingly important to government and many stakeholders, and reestablishing financial robustness by supporting increasing the CEC's budget or bringing it to its original level in real terms.***

National and Governmental Advisory Committee (NAC/GAC)  
to the U.S. Representative to the  
Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)

**Advice 2014-2 (June 16, 2014):**  
***Charge Question: Communication on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***

The NAC and GAC agree that the mission and accomplishments of the CEC are not well-known and that there is a need to increase communications about the CEC through a variety of tools, including social media to inform the public about the CEC's accomplishments. The CEC's website should be optimized to increase its visibility to search engines.

The CEC should also increase its outreach to organizations that represent local governments, such as the National Association of Counties and the United States Conference of Mayors. Many local governments are engaged in sustainability efforts such as large watershed management that relate to North American issues, but often they have little knowledge about the NAC/GAC or the CEC. The upcoming national conference of the nonprofit organization *Ceres*, which will be attended by representatives from nongovernmental organizations and industry, would be an ideal opportunity to publicize the CEC's accomplishments.

The Committees have formed a joint working group, led by GAC member, Ms. Therese Goodman, to identify constituencies and clear messages for the CEC's 20th anniversary that would also extend beyond this year's commemoration.

***Recommendations:***

***(1) The NAC/GAC recommend using the attached "CEC 101" presentation, created by the NAC/GAC Joint Communications Working Group, to inform and educate North American constituencies about the work of the CEC. (See Appendix A: "CEC 101 Presentation"). The presentation highlights the following:***

***CEC/NAFTA 20 Years : 1994-2014 : Canada, Mexico and the United States: One Environment, Three Countries***

- *The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) signed in 1994*
- *Two parallel agreements: The North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC) and the North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation (NAALC)*

***CEC Council:***

- *As the CEC's governing body, composed of the highest-level environmental authorities (cabinet level or equivalent) from Canada, Mexico, and the United States.*

**CEC Work:**

- *The Cooperative Work Program; Submissions on enforcement matters; Secretariat's independent reports and Grants—North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action (NAPECA) and Independent Reports of the Secretariat and Listing of Important Reports to date; and*

**20 Years of Accomplishments on:**

- *Pollutants, Ecosystems, Green Economy, Climate Change, and Enforcement; linking accomplishments based on stakeholder priorities.*

National and Governmental Advisory Committee (NAC/GAC)  
to the U.S. Representative to the  
Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)

**Advice 2014-3 (June 16, 2014):**  
***Charge Question: Next CEC Strategic Plan***

The NAC and GAC advocate for an evaluation of the CEC's vision, mission, goals, strategies and implementation plan as a whole. The broadness of the current CEC's Strategic Plan makes it less valuable as a guiding document and difficult to assess the CEC's accomplishments. The NAC and GAC proposed merging the Strategic and Operational Plans to provide a more effective tool for communicating with the public. Broad strategic categories should be reoriented toward measurable projects. As an example, the CEC's 2010–2015 CEC Strategic Plan was a mixture of operations and strategic objectives that describe the CEC's planned activities rather than its "endgame."

New CEC priorities should be related to its trilateral responsibilities and should focus on actions that it is uniquely situated to undertake as a trilateral organization. One first step may be to define the CEC's "niche," to advance each nation's respective domestic strategic plans. Thus, we recommend that the CEC's strategic plan focus on enabling and empowering the CEC to play a valuable role in advancing the environmental agendas of each of the three countries.

The NAC and GAC recommend considering the following questions in advancing the future strategic work of the CEC: 1) how can the CEC help the countries accomplish the goals the countries have laid out in their strategic plans? And 2) are there any particularly important tri-national or binational regional issues that would particularly benefit from the regional approach that the CEC helps to develop/implement?

On a related issue, the NAPECA-funded grant projects were characterized as a "hodge-podge" of projects, often shaped by political considerations instead of a cohesive and strategic policy. There are multiple agencies and nongovernmental organizations capable of sponsoring small projects like those supported by NAPECA grants. The NAC and GAC questioned whether the CEC had succeeded in achieving the original purpose of the NAPECA program, which was to launch pilot projects in vulnerable communities that could be scaled up. The range of social, political and environmental issues that have transpired from the NAFTA framework should be the focus of future NAPECA-funded projects.

In addition to the CEC's Cooperative Work Program, which includes the NAPECA projects, the CEC also funds Secretariat Reports under Article 13, and the SEM process under Articles 14 and 15. The NAC/GAC recommend that the CEC use all programmatic approaches to address its mission and strategic objectives.

The NAC and GAC underscored the need for metrics to assess the CEC's success in improving the implementation of the NAAEC. The EPA should also be pursuing metrics in order to make the CEC as transparent and accountable as possible, so that citizens can understand what the CEC is doing, why it is doing it, and the extent to which the CEC is achieving the hoped-for results.

The NAC and GAC recommend that the CEC incorporate the impacts of climate change as a strategic priority and dedicate the necessary human and financial resources to developing a North American climate action plan. The Committees recommend that the CEC revisit the best contribution the CEC can make to the development of a possible North American climate change agreement for carbon emissions.

Trade and climate impacts are intimately linked. The CEC is in a unique position to address climate change as a tri-national entity, and its actions would be more effective and have a greater impact than those taken by a single nation. Past CEC success in consolidating and mapping extant data sets (such as mapping hot spots for acid rain) are a good demonstration of its potential in this area. The CEC could quantify and map sources and uses of energy by creating a map of the tri-national energy infrastructure and comparing carbon emissions across North America.

The EPA's actions on climate change, including establishing carbon pollution standards, are central to the actions that the United States needs to perform to make progress on climate change, and important for environmental justice in vulnerable communities, public health impacts and conservation of biological diversity.

Climate change impacts have particular significance and importance for the tribes. In particular, the expansion of energy, oil, and natural gas infrastructure and its effects across North American borders has increasing negative impacts on indigenous groups. The tribes have raised this concern previously with the U.S. Government. For example, the Blackfeet Nation is affected by the transport of oil by railcar across the U.S.-Canadian border, as well as heavy equipment being transported to oil sands deposits in Canada. First Nations' members have communicated their concern to the Blackfeet about contamination from oil sands processing. The Keystone XL Pipeline route affects the Sioux Nation. A company has proposed building an oil-by-rail terminal in Washington State and there are concerns about inadequate rail infrastructure, safety issues such as explosions, and insufficient preparation for a possible spill. A proposed coal terminal has been protested by tribal people because it might endanger traditional fishing grounds. The NAC and GAC suggest that the CEC study the impacts on the border regions from the transport of oil and natural gas and refocus efforts to define protocols for Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessments (TEIA), as mandated by the NAAEC.

The conservation and restoration of coastal blue carbon habitats, particularly the effects of inland waterways, are also critical climate change issues that affect all three nations.



Ocean acidification is a very important issue. For example, Washington State formed a Blue Ribbon Panel to address ocean acidification, and the Panel noted that impacts from nutrient inputs from agriculture and other terrestrial activities likely exacerbate ocean acidification. Because of the effects of ocean acidification on a wide range of marine species and habitats, addressing this issue is of high importance.

The NAC and GAC recommend that water is now a commodity that should be considered as a trade issue (including “embedded” water in products crossing borders), noting the effects of climate change and accelerating depletion of water resources. Water quantity, as well as water quality, are important issues in North America. Water is used in manufacturing and production of agricultural products, and difficulties may arise when it crosses the border into the United States, as other countries might not have the same U.S. water standards.

A large desalination plant was built in El Paso, Texas due to its rapid regional ground water depletion rates. Although the NAFTA institutions BECC and NADBank have advanced many water-related projects, many of the regional problems that affect the U.S.-Mexico border region have remained unresolved in the last 15 years. For example, California still is facing contamination in its coastal waters from raw sewage released by its neighbor despite support for infrastructure improvements. The Santa Cruz River in Arizona continues to face water quality impairments from inconsistent levels of metals in wastewater from Mexico, as well as from dilapidated infrastructure that transports the wastewater.

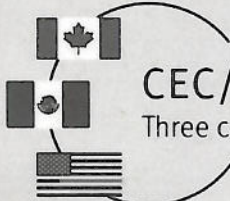
Existing bilateral institutions might be addressing water issues sufficiently, obviating the need for the CEC to intervene, but it would be useful to understand the “inter-institutional ecology” or overlap of jurisdictions and mandates that protect water resources across North America. An Article 13 assessment report might provide such an overview.

***Recommendations:***

- (1) The NAC/GAC recommends the U.S. to urge the Council to refocus the CEC’s strategy on the impacts of climate change across the shared terrestrial and marine ecosystems of North America.***
- (2) The CEC should direct its resources to those areas of climate change where the CEC has a tri-national unique role, including: a North American climate action plan to reduce emissions, enable adaptation and enhance resilience.***
- (3) The CEC’s work should consider transportation and energy infrastructure across our shared borders; water as a trade commodity; terrestrial and marine biodiversity, especially interrelated impacts of ocean acidification; and the impacts of climate change on indigenous groups and other vulnerable communities.***

***(4) Finally, the NAC/GAC urges the U.S. to restore and increase the CEC's budget to reflect the impact of inflation over the past 20 years and to advocate with other Council members to make similar increases.***


**APPENDIX A:**  
**CEC 101 Presentation**



**CEC/NAFTA 20 YEARS**  
Three countries. One environment.

**1994**  
**2014**

Commission for Environmental  
Cooperation (CEC)  
[www.cec.org](http://www.cec.org)



### Canada, Mexico and the United States

- ✓ The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) signed in 1994
- ✓ Two parallel agreements:
  - **The North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC)**
  - North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation (NAALC)



## Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)

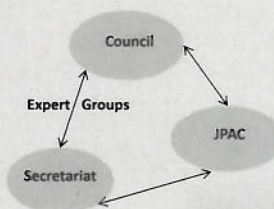
Canada, Mexico and the United States created the CEC to better protect our shared environment.

North American Agreement for Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC) – parallel agreement to NAFTA.

### Mission

The CEC facilitates collaboration and public participation to foster conservation, protection and enhancement of the North American environment for the benefit of present and future generations, in the context of increasing economic, trade, and social links among Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

### CEC Structure



## CEC Council



✓ The Council is the CEC's governing body and is composed of the highest-level environmental authorities (cabinet level or equivalent) from Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

✓ The Council oversees the implementation of the NAAEC and serves as a forum for the discussion of environmental matters within the scope of this Agreement.



## CEC Council Members



**Leona Aglukkaq – Canada**

Minister of the Environment, Minister of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency and Minister for the Arctic Council



**Juan José Guerra – Mexico**

Minister of Environment and Natural Resources



**Gina McCarthy – United States**

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator

## CEC Council's 21<sup>st</sup> Session in Yellowknife



- ✓ The Council meets once a year at its regular session, including with the public, to set the CEC's overall direction, its budget and its activities.

- ✓ On 17 July 2014, Canadian Minister of Environment Leona Aglukkaq will host this year's CEC Council Session in the city of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.



### Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC)

- ✓ **Membership:** 15 volunteer citizens, 5 per country.
- ✓ **Mandate:** To provide advice to the Council and information to the Secretariat.
- ✓ **Vision:** To promote continental cooperation in ecosystem protection and sustainable economic development, and to ensure active public participation and transparency in the actions of the Commission.
- ✓ **Stakeholder outreach:** Via public consultations and three annual public meetings.

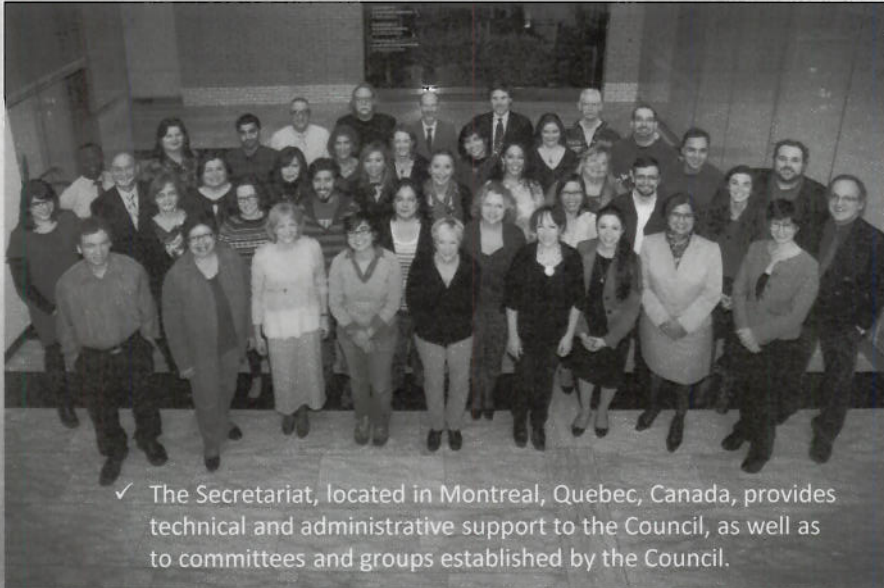


### Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC)

**Robert Varney, JPAC Chair for 2014:**  
Considered one of the nation's most experienced and respected environmental leaders, Robert Varney is a former Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) New England Regional Administrator. He is currently Executive Vice President of Normandeau Associates, a science-based environmental firm with eighteen offices in 12 states.



## CEC Secretariat



- ✓ The Secretariat, located in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, provides technical and administrative support to the Council, as well as to committees and groups established by the Council.

## Working Expert Groups

- ✓ Environment Canada
- ✓ United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- ✓ *Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT)*
- ✓ Other federal agencies as needed
- ✓ Experts appointed by the three countries to provide guidance on projects





## U.S. National & Governmental Advisory Committees (NAC/GAC)

- ✓ **Membership:** 14-15 members per federal advisory committee. **NAC** is composed of reps from academia, private industry and NGO's. **GAC** is composed of reps from State, local and Tribal governments.
- ✓ **Mandate:** To provide advice to the U.S. Government on issues related to trade and environment.
- ✓ **Vision:** Represent U.S. Stakeholders in the work of ecosystem protection and sustainable economic development, and to ensure active public participation and transparency.
- ✓ **Stakeholder outreach:** Via public meetings throughout the year.



✓ Octaviana Trujillo, GAC Chair



✓ Brian Houseal, NAC Chair



## CEC Work

- ✓ Cooperative work program
- ✓ Submissions on enforcement matters
- ✓ Secretariat's independent reports
- ✓ Grants—North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action (NAPECA)

**Strategic Framework 2010-2015**

- ✓ Healthy communities and ecosystems
- ✓ Climate change—low-carbon economy
- ✓ Greening the economy in North America

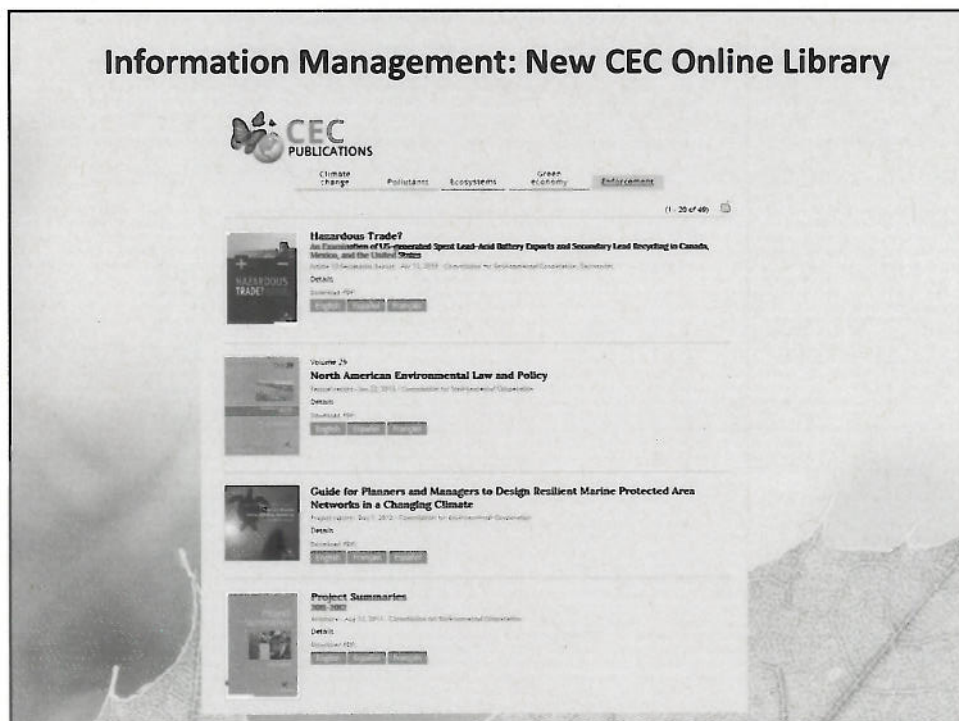
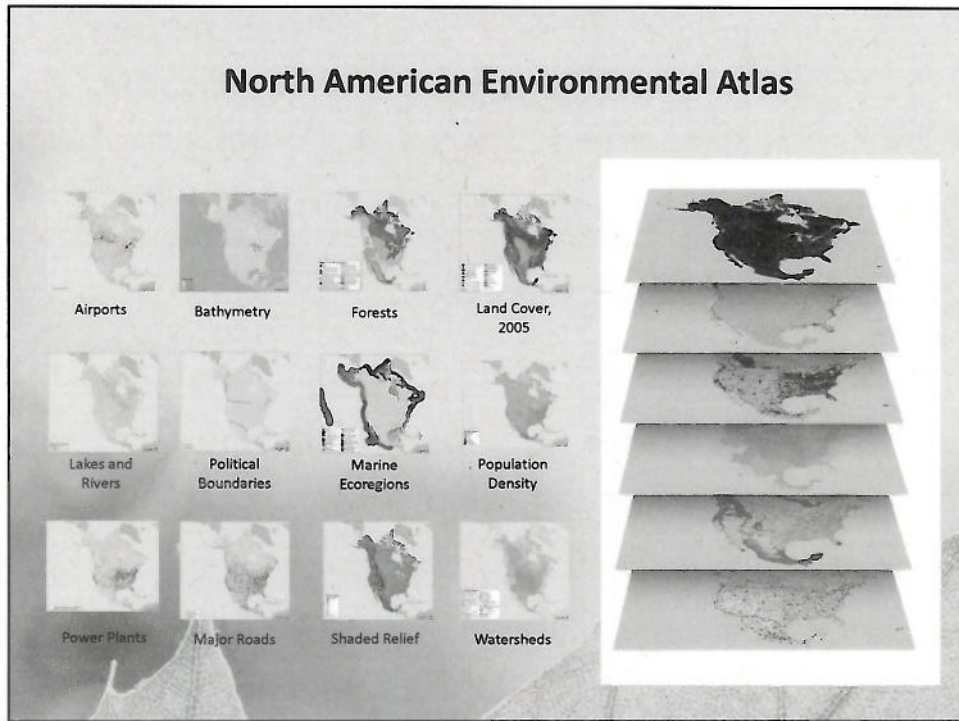


**Key Environmental Areas 2013-2014**

- ✓ Tackling climate change and improving air quality
- ✓ Greening transportation in North America
- ✓ Addressing waste in trade in North America

**Current Projects**





## Independent Reports of the Secretariat

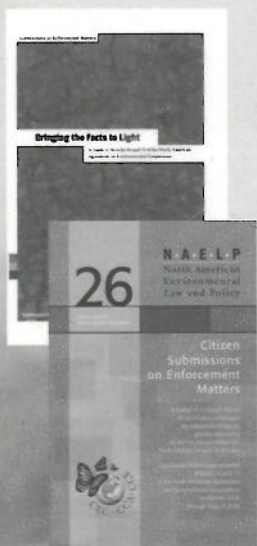
- ✓ Independent investigations, reporting on a number of important and emerging environmental issues.
- ✓ Science-based, collaborative and involving the public.
- ✓ Shed a light on pressing issues, mobilized stakeholders to action, and induced policy changes that benefit the North American environment.

### Reports to date:

- Environmental Hazards of Transborder Lead Battery Recycling
- Sustainable Freight Transportation
- Green Building
- Maize and Biodiversity
- Electricity and the Environment
- Ribbon of Life (San Pedro River)
- Continental Pollutant Pathways
- Silva Reservoir



## Submissions on Enforcement Matters (SEM)



- ✓ Fact-finding mechanism concerning the effective enforcement of environmental laws in North America, open to residents of Canada, Mexico and the United States.
- ✓ Established to foster **transparency, public participation, and information sharing** regarding a Party's environmental law enforcement.
- ✓ Enhances accountability in the effective enforcement of environmental law.
- ✓ The process is **non-judicial, non-adversarial**, and does not provide legal redress or lead to sanctioning of a Party, nor does the Secretariat determine whether a Party has or has not enforced its environmental law.



North American Partnership for  
Environmental Community Action

Alianza de América del Norte  
para la Acción Comunitaria Ambiental

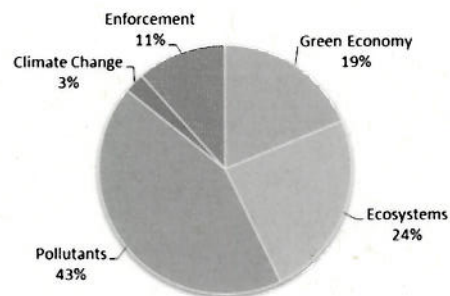
Partenariat nord-américain pour  
l'action communautaire en environnement

- ✓ CEC's environmental grants program.
- ✓ Helps communities improve their health and local environment.
- ✓ Builds partnerships at the community level.
- ✓ Council launched calls for proposals in June 2011 and July 2013.
- ✓ 1000 + preliminary applications (2011 and 2013).
- ✓ 2012: 19 awards totaling C\$1.4M.
- ✓ 2014: 18 awards totaling C\$1.2M.

## 20 Years of Accomplishments

- ✓ Since 1995, the CEC has invested more than C\$62.5M in its cooperative work program to protect ecosystems and the communities they sustain, green the economy of the North American region, strengthen environmental law enforcement, reduce pollution and address climate change issues.

CEC Projects—Total Cost by Theme (1995-2012)



## 20 Years of Accomplishments—Pollutants

- ✓ Because of the CEC's release of five successful **North American Regional Action Plans (NARAPs)** on DDT, chlordane, PCB, mercury, lindane and other hexachlorocyclohexane (HCH) isomers, and on environmental monitoring and assessment:
  - ❑ Mexico stopped using DDT for malaria control in 2000, replacing it with an integrated vector control strategy.
  - ❑ Production and use of chlordane were eliminated in North America in 2001.
  - ❑ Mexico, with CEC assistance, developed a National Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (PRONAME) for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), in support of comparable inventories in North America.



## 20 Years of Accomplishments—Pollutants

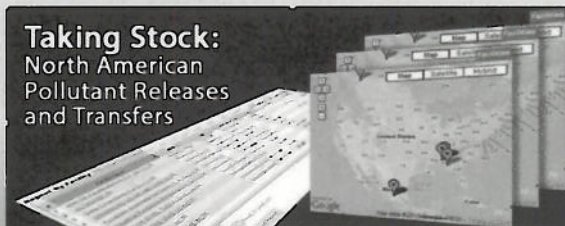
- ✓ In 2006 the CEC published the first integrated, regional report providing indicators for a series of children's health and environment issues: ***Children's Health and the Environment in North America: A First Report on Available Indicators and Measures.***



## 20 Years of Accomplishments—Pollutants

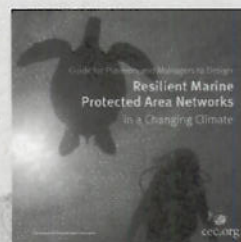
- ✓ The CEC's **North American Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR)** program has greatly improved comparability and consistency of PRTR data across the three countries, especially through:
  - ❑ Establishment in 2006 of a PRTR in Mexico (RETC) and its continued development.
  - ❑ Greatly improved public access to value-added information via the *Taking Stock* report and online database.

### Taking Stock: North American Pollutant Releases and Transfers



## 20 Years of Accomplishments—Ecosystems

- ✓ In 2001, the CEC launched the **North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI)** to protect North American migratory birds and their habitats.
- ✓ From 2004-2008, the CEC worked on 33 marine and terrestrial species of common conservation concern and completed eight detailed **North American Conservation Action Plans (NACAPs)**.
- ✓ CEC's **North American Marine Protected Area Network (NAMPAN)** culminated a decade of marine work with the publication in 2012 of two guides for designing marine protected areas networks in a changing climate and the development of five films on the benefits of marine protected areas.



**NORTH AMERICA'S MARINE PROTECTED AREAS**

Short films about ways marine protected areas help sustain communities and protect marine life

North America's Marine Protected Areas

North America's marine protected areas form networks of remarkable places along the coasts of Canada, the United States and Mexico that protect our continent's incredible variety of marine life and help sustain our communities.

This series of films was produced through a unique collaboration of marine protected area agencies and aquarium learning centers in the three countries of North America. The videos illuminate the vital role these areas play in sustaining communities that depend on marine resources, providing exciting recreational experiences, enhancing our scientific understanding, and helping to conserve habitat, restore fisheries and protect species.

An introduction to the diverse benefits of marine protected areas and the importance of international cooperation to protect North America's shared oceans.  
(Download video... 36.3 MB)

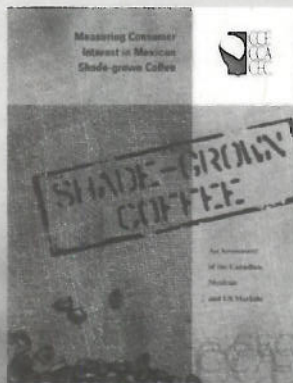
## 20 Years of Accomplishments—Ecosystems

- ✓ Since 2009, a focus on North America's grasslands and consultation with over 120 stakeholders have led to the establishment of the **North American Grasslands Alliance** to protect grasslands and sustain ranching communities.
- ✓ As of 2011, the CEC started a series of projects on the amount of **carbon stored in different ecosystems**, how those levels of carbon fluctuate, and what can be done to protect ecosystem storage of carbon.



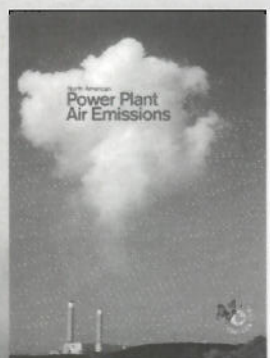


## 20 Years of Accomplishments—Green Economy



- ✓ The **shade-grown coffee initiative** led Starbucks to purchase in 2003 more than 1.6 million pounds of shade-grown coffee from Mexico and invested \$200,000 in Conservation International's Conservation Coffee program.
- ✓ **North American Green Purchasing Initiative** supported government and public-sector bodies to buy products that have reduced environmental impacts and resulted in a decision by Mexico in 2007 to include green guidelines in its public tenders for cleaning services.

## 20 Years of Accomplishments—Green Economy



- ✓ The **Guide to Developing a Community Renewable Energy Project in North America** published in 2010 assisted community and indigenous groups in the development of small-scale renewable energy projects.
- ✓ The publication in 2011 of the **North American Power Plant Air Emissions** helped air quality planners, energy analysts, and the public to garner a greater understanding of the environmental performance of the electricity-generating sector on a continental scale.

## 20 Years of Accomplishments—Green Economy

- ✓ Published in 2013, three CEC reports on improving conditions for **green building construction in North America** dealt with project financing, urban policy, and workforce training



## 20 Years of Accomplishments—Climate Change



- ✓ The CEC supports policy-neutral options for improving **comparability of the foundational elements required to make the transition to a low-carbon economy**. Initiatives include:
  - A 2009 Comprehensive Assessment of North American Air Emissions Inventories and Ambient Air Monitoring Networks.
  - A report published in 2012 on the Assessment of the Comparability of Greenhouse Gas and Black Carbon Emissions Inventories in North America.

## 20 Years of Accomplishments—Climate Change

- ✓ The CEC works with the **North American Land Cover Monitoring System** and ecosystem carbon experts to integrate land cover and land cover change, such as deforestation and urbanization, into models that demonstrate natural carbon storage.



## 20 Years of Accomplishments—Enforcement




- ✓ The CEC developed a training program to support more than 600 environmental, wildlife and customs officials in **identifying illegal shipments of environmentally regulated materials**, such as ozone-depleting substances, hazardous waste materials, as well as endangered species of wildlife subject to illegal trafficking.
- ✓ The CEC maintains **online training platforms** for environmental and customs officials on compliance monitoring for transboundary movements of environmentally regulated materials.

## 20 Years of Accomplishments—Enforcement


- ✓ ***Crossing the Border***, a CEC report outlines opportunities and challenges to improve tracking of hazardous waste shipments across the North American borders.




- ✓ By helping to **electronically connect agencies** issuing authorizations of shipments of hazardous wastes and recyclable materials, the CEC has facilitated more than 8,700 transactions, to date, that have occurred between the US and Canada. This resulted in the modification of Annex III of the La Paz Agreement between the US and Mexico.
- ✓ The CEC's Enforcement Working Group maintains a **continuous dialogue and cooperation** among environmental and wildlife enforcement agencies in our three countries.




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