

BORDER 2012: U.S. - MEXICO ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

Accomplishments Highlights Reported at the 2005 National Coordinators Meeting (NCM) in Tucson - March 8-10

Border 2012: Commitment Renewed

- National Coordinators and Program partners, including the 10 Border States and Tribes, renewed their commitment to achieving the goals and objectives of the Border 2012 Program.
- National Coordinators met with state representatives to discuss ten state recommendations intended to improve the development and implementation of the Program.
- The meeting resulted in a shared understanding of accomplishments to date, and the priority actions needed in upcoming years to address environmental and human health concerns.

Border 2012: Reporting Success

More Water and Sanitation

✓ During 2003-04, the EPA provided 98.75 million dollars in grant funds through BECC and NADBank for critical safe drinking water and sanitation projects benefiting approx. 1.5 million border residents.

✓ The cost for these projects was near 299 million dollars. Matching funds were provided for Mexican projects by SEMARNAT through its National Water Commission (CNA).

✓ A new prioritization system to ensure that projects addressing the most critical human health risks are funded first has been established.



Cleaner Air

✓ El Paso, Ciudad Juarez, and Doña Ana County are now moving towards meeting air quality standards for all pollutants.

✓ The management of 13 monitoring stations is now being transferred from U.S. agencies into the control of Mexican authorities in Mexicali, Tijuana and Playas de Rosarito.

✓ Planned pilot projects will increase our understanding of the emission impacts from cross-border commercial truck traffic.

✓ Diesel retrofit pilot projects will demonstrate the effectiveness of using ultra low sulfur diesel fuel.

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Improving Environmental Health

✓The Border 2012 Environmental Health Workgroup is forming an alliance with the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission aimed at targeting resources and improving collaboration among environmental health agencies at all levels of government in both countries.

Reducing Exposure

✓First responders have received training and conducted exercises to prepare for and manage chemical accidents, and respond to international terrorism.

Improving Enforcement & Compliance

✓Compliance has been strengthened with the expansion of the Border Compliance Assistance Center at U.S.-Mexico Ports-of-Entry.

✓Compliance will be further improved with the expansion of pollution prevention and environmental management systems (EMSs).

For more information see: www.epa.gov/border2012

Cleaner Land

✓Approx. 281,000 scrap tires removed from abandoned tire pile sites in Mexicali, Tijuana, and Ciudad Juarez and used as fuel in cement plants.

✓Other alternatives for using scrap tires were explored through road surfacing pilot projects (Rubber Crumb Asphalt and *Llancreto*).

✓1,500 tons of hazardous waste are now being removed from the *Metales y Derivados* site, an abandoned secondary lead smelter and battery recycling facility in Tijuana. Authorities in both countries have invested more than \$600,000 dollars toward this effort.

✓During 2003-04, the NADBank funded 2.99 million from its Environmental Program for the Management of Solid Waste (SWEP), benefiting 421,060 border residents. The project cost sis of 6 million. In Mexico, the funds were matched with municipal, state and federal resources.



Border 2012: Immediate Priorities for 2005

➤Continue to increase access to and improve safe drinking water and wastewater infrastructure.

➤Retrofit diesel buses and trucks and improve availability of low sulfur diesel fuel on the border.

➤Implement a demonstration project for the binational clean-up and restoration of abandoned sites contaminated with hazardous waste materials.

➤Continue to clean up existing tire piles.

➤Promote financing mechanisms for landfill projects related to the Methane to Markets initiative.