

# BORDER 2025: U.S.-MEXICO ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM Summary



https://www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder

The Border 2025 Program is the latest environmental program in the U.S.-Mexico border region implemented under the 1983 La Paz Agreement. La Paz defined the border region as 62 miles (100km) north and south along the 2,000-mile border, an area that is home to more than 15 million people. Border 2025 builds on the Border 2020 Environmental Program, emphasizing regional, bottom-up approaches for decision making, meaningful participation, priority setting, and project implementation to address the environmental and public health problems in the border region.

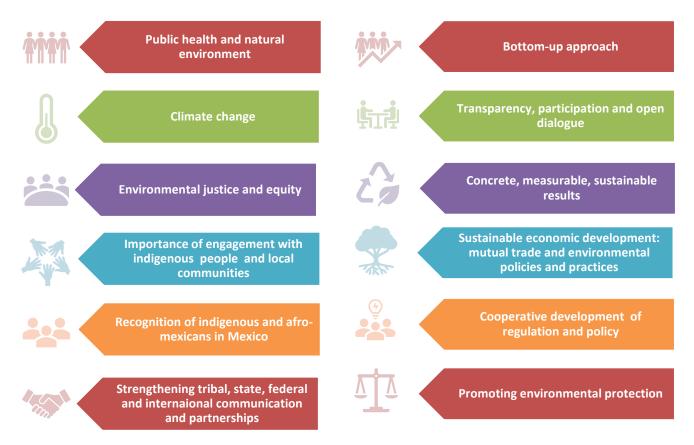
### MISSION STATEMENT

Protect the environment and public health in the U.S.-Mexico border region, consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

Border 2025 is led by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Mexico's

Ministry of the Environment (SEMARNAT) in partnership with federal, state, and local government, Tribes in the U.S., indigenous communities in Mexico, and border region stakeholders. The Program also strengthens its focus in regional areas where environmental improvements are needed most: establishing thematic goals, supporting the implementation of projects, coordinating binational meetings and events, highlighting guiding principles, and encouraging the achievement of more ambitious environmental and public health goals.

## **Twelve Guiding Principles**



### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Border 2025 has four **Goals** with specific **Objectives and sub-objectives** to address the environmental and public health challenges in the border region. Goals are integrated in action plans that establish priorities and needs of a geographic area, region, or community, and adapt to emerging issues and/or unanticipated resource constraints.

The full list of objectives and sub-objectives is available in the Border 2025 Framework document: https://www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder/border-2025-framework or https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/documentos/frontera-2025



## Goal #1: Reduce Air Pollution

- Establish reliable and sustainably operated air monitoring networks and provide real-time access to air quality data
- Increase the quality and exchange of data from emissions inventories across the border
- Reduce vehicle emissions in the border region
- Deploy strategies and technologies to reduce pollutant emissions and improve public health outcomes
- Update and/or complete climate action plans in each of the six northern Mexican Border States and build capacity to sustain implementation



# Goal #2: Improve Access to Clean and Safe Water

- Address Border Water Management in the Tijuana River Watershed
- Improve Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment Infrastructure
- Improve Operation & Maintenance of Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure
- Promote beneficial reuse of treated wastewater and conservation of water and energy
- Implement projects to prevent and reduce the levels of trash and sediment from entering high priority binational watersheds
- Improve access to transboundary water quality data



# Goal #3: Promote Sustainable Materials Management and Waste Management and Clean Sites

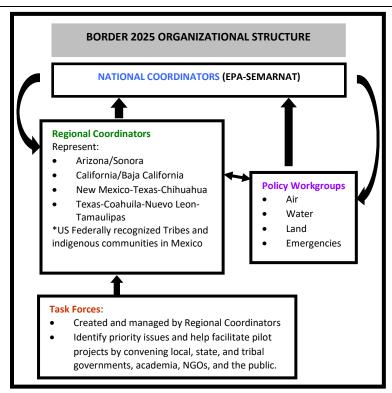
- Share information and experiences on sustainable materials management and resource efficiency practices
- Identify priority waste streams and develop sustainable materials management and resource efficiency practices
- Improve knowledge at every level of government to improve solid waste disposal site operations
- Prevent and Reduce Pollution in the Marine Environment
- Implement the Binational Consultative Mechanism yearly



# Goal #4: Improve Joint Preparedness for and Response to Hazardous

## **Environmental Emergencies**

- Update the Joint Mexico-United States Contingency Plan (JCP) and evaluate the emergency notification system along the border
- Review, update and evaluate the Sister City Joint Contingency Plans
- Strengthen emergency response personnel training as well as develop and disseminate technical support material
- Design and implement guidelines and protocols to cross the U.S.-Mexico border in emergency response situations



# Organizational Structure and Coordinating Bodies (see figure)

National Coordinators, one from each country (EPA, SEMARNAT), manage overall program implementation, and ensure cooperation, coordination, and communication among all coordinating bodies.

Policy Workgroups focus on borderwide and multiregional issues primarily federal in nature (requiring direct, high-level, and sustained leadership by federal program partners in the U.S. and Mexico called federal co-chairs) and that require broad policy considerations.

**Regional Coordinators (RC)** are *goal* and *geographically focused* and emphasize regional public health and environmental issues. They coordinate regional activities and support local Task Forces efforts and coordinate with U.S. federally recognized Tribes and Mexican indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities.

Task Forces are coordinated meeting bodies that the RC may establish, which are geographically focused based on Border 2025 goals, priority issues, and other topics. Task Forces serve as a space for border stakeholders to collaborate on studies and projects, share information, raise individual concerns to government officials, and learn about ongoing efforts in the border region.

#### Communication-

Border 2025 depends on a bottom-up communication approach. To ensure effective and timely communication and engagement with the public, program partners, and stakeholders, a program communication strategy was developed. For the latest news on Border 2025, sign-up for the U.S.-Mexico Border Program listserv.

#### Interagency Cooperation and Leveraging of Resources –

Success of Border 2025 depends on the sustainability, availability, and efficient utilization of funding from federal, state, and local governments as well as from public/private partnerships and collaborations. Border 2025 funds projects but encourages all stakeholders to participate in leveraging resources when developing projects, policies, and programs to meet its goals and objectives. For more information on projects, review the action plans or attend task force meetings.

For questions: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder/forms/contact-us-mexico-border-program">https://www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder/forms/contact-us-mexico-border-program</a> or <a href="ucai@semarnat.gob.mx">ucai@semarnat.gob.mx</a>



