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“THREE COUNTRIES.
ONE ENVIRONMENT.”

Cooperating on Air Quality Management: the CEC's North American Air Vision

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Planning for the Future

- Air is a shared resource among our countries.
- The CEC Air Working Group:
 - examined past work
 - assessed challenges and opportunities.
- This has resulting in a *vision* that provides the basis for our 2008–2009 projects and for the detailed North American air quality strategy to be completed in 2009.



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Developing an Air Vision-1

The Vision stems from the Parties' recognition of the need to:

- Establish efficient and effective North America-wide strategies to improve the quality of our shared air sheds.
- Collect/produce data, information, and analyses to identify our shared needs and priorities, and to coordinate in the reduction of air emissions.
- Inform and engage the public, industry, and other stakeholders.



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Developing an Air Vision-2

Collaborate through the CEC and coordinate with other relevant programs to:

- Build capacity (self-sustaining inventory, monitoring and other air quality efforts).
- Achieve comparability, consistency, and high quality.
- Facilitate coordination and effectiveness of emissions reduction and air quality policies, regulations, and voluntary programs.
- Develop and map information on air quality, trends, emissions impacts, and recommended air quality management strategies at local, regional and North American air shed levels.



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Work Envisioned under the Strategy

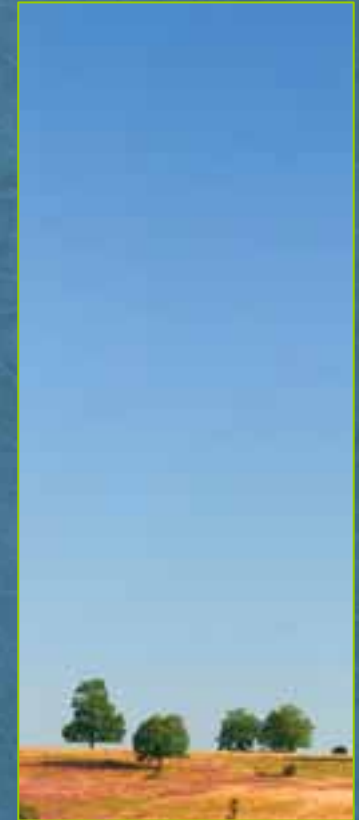
- Expand and improve current inventories, striving for comparability in methodologies and timing, and build capacity to make the work self-sustaining.
 - Build on Mexico's 2005 National Air Emissions inventory, using current and improved data.
- Expand real-time ambient air monitoring, and standardized real-time networks.
- Develop innovative mechanisms for cross-border emissions reductions from transportation:
 - Work on achieving comparable standards for fuels and vehicles.
 - Reductions in emissions from idling at border crossings.
 - Enforceable mechanism and transfer of successful procedures for ensuring that older cars exported from one country meet the standards of the importing country.



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Benefits of Expanding Air Work

- **Inventories and Monitoring**
 - Comparability of North American data sets, methodologies, and schedules.
 - Complete and accurate baselines for air emissions.
 - Availability of shared, real-time monitoring data to inform emissions reduction decisions.
- **Cross-border vehicle emissions reductions**
 - Comparable fuel and emissions standards,
 - Border crossing reductions through innovative anti-idling projects, and
 - Control on importation of older vehicles
- **Potential for improvement of greenhouse gas inventories**
- **Potential for comparable methodologies for energy facilities**
 - Continuous monitoring
 - Subsequent emissions inventories,
 - Baseline and assessment capabilities



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Timeline for Work

- June '07: Adopt North American Air Vision
- June '07- '09: Update inventory and build capacity for sustainable process
- January '08: Initiate monitoring work
- January '09: Submit strategy for 2010–2015
 - Build synergies with other CEC efforts:
 - North American Atlas
 - PRTR
 - State of Environment reporting
 - Environmental Monitoring & Assessment (SMOC)



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Other Challenges & Opportunities

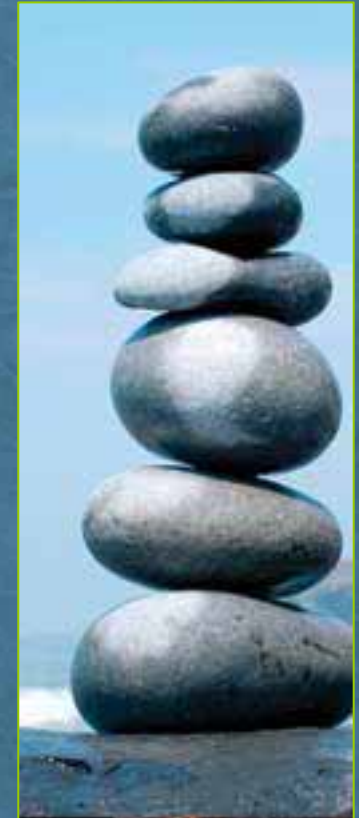
- Explore utilizing results of *North American Power Plant Emissions* report to enhance emissions reductions from those facilities
- Explore possibility of addressing related aspects of climate change, such as improving the comparability of greenhouse gas inventories, including data sets and methodologies, across North America
- Coordinate and share information with complementary air programs, (Border 2012 and the US–Canada Air Quality Committee)
- Establish protocols to share information on air-related activity in each country
- With results of the work outlined above, provide detailed information layers for the North American Environmental Atlas
- Provide for enhanced stakeholder input, public education and information dissemination



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Conclusion

- Revitalization of air quality work by the CEC North American Air Working Group and the Secretariat is timely and important
- Planning, research, and implementation will facilitate and/or directly yield significant environmental and public health benefits
- Fostering relations and new connections with North American air quality groups/programs ensure coordinated complementary efforts
- Detailed strategy for 2010–2015 will be submitted to the Council in 2009, as we go forward with inventory and monitoring work this year and next.



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