

“THREE COUNTRIES. ONE ENVIRONMENT.”



cec.org



THE COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

When the governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States finalized the *North American Free Trade Agreement*, they also agreed on a side accord: the *North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation*. That accord created the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC).

How we work

The CEC draws its expertise from across North America. We accomplish our work through the combined efforts of our three main bodies:

The Council, composed of cabinet-level environment officials from our three countries, is the CEC's governing body and sets overall direction.

The Secretariat provides administrative, technical and operational support to the Council and manages the CEC's cooperative work program. It also has special responsibilities to investigate and report on certain issues.

The Joint Public Advisory Committee — made up of five citizens from each country — advises the Council and provides information to the Secretariat. JPAC promotes continental cooperation in ecosystem protection and sustainable economic development, and supports public participation and transparency in the actions of the Commission.



WHAT HAPPENS IN ONE PLACE AFFECTS US ALL



425 million people share the North American ecosystem. Air, water and migratory species flow across the borders of Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Expanding trade and open markets require unprecedented collaboration to protect our environment. The CEC supports the protection of our shared environment in an era of freer trade. We do not enforce regulations or conduct tests ourselves. Instead, we provide tools and information so all of us — citizens, industry and government — can better collaborate to protect our common environment, as our continental economy grows.

A continental perspective requires new ways of understanding our shared natural heritage. We grow that understanding.

WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT OUR SHARED ENVIRONMENT



Public participation: a key to sustainability

Engaging the public is central to our mandate, from holding citizen consultations, to inviting comment on our reports and research. Our program activities, workshops and local events bring leading researchers and analysts together with the public — assessing environmental challenges and developing workable solutions.

Investigating the enforcement of environmental law

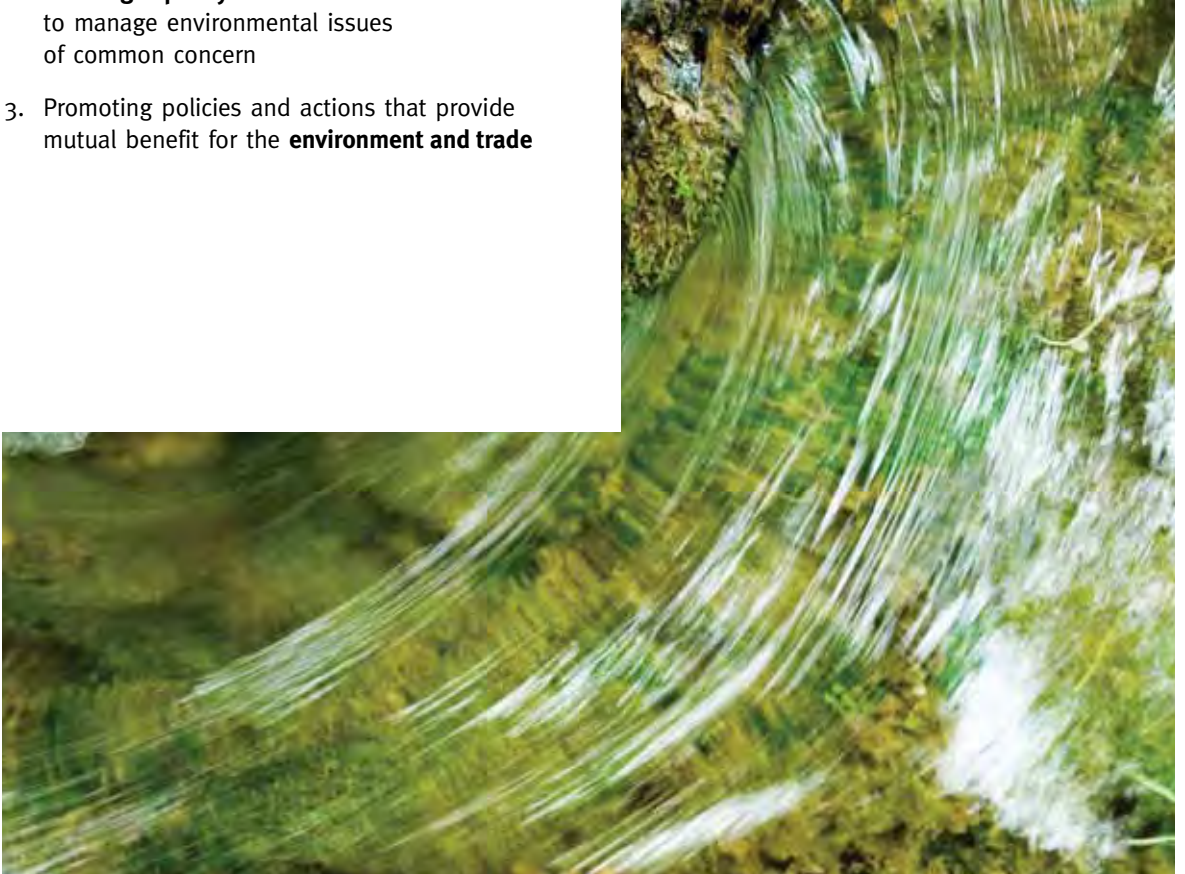
The North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation allows any person or nongovernmental organization that believes government is failing to effectively enforce its environmental laws to bring their concerns to the CEC. Such citizen submissions can trigger investigations and the publication of a factual record.



OUR PRIORITIES

The CEC's cooperative work program engages our three countries in a united effort to protect the North American environment. The CEC's work is focused on three key priorities:

1. Ensuring better **information** to improve environmental **decision-making**
2. **Building capacity** in all three countries to manage environmental issues of common concern
3. Promoting policies and actions that provide mutual benefit for the **environment and trade**



FIND OUT MORE

The CEC's 2006-2008 Operational Plan details several projects in support of our key priorities:

INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING

- Monitoring and Assessing Pollutants across North America
- Tracking Pollutant Releases and Transfers in North America
- Enhancing North American Air Quality Management
- Mapping North American Environmental Issues
- Reporting on the State of the North American Environment
- Managing CEC Environmental Information

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Strengthening Wildlife Enforcement Capacity
- Improving Private and Public Sector Environmental Performance
- Building Local Capacity for Integrated Ecosystem Management and to Conserve Critical Species and Spaces
- Sound Management of Chemicals

TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT

- Promoting the North American Renewable Energy Market
- Encouraging Green Purchasing
- Harnessing Market Forces for Sustainability
- Trade and Enforcement of Environmental Laws
- Guidelines for Risk Assessment of Invasive Alien Species and their Pathways
- Ongoing Environmental Assessment of NAFTA

To learn more about our work,
visit our web site at www.cec.org.



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