

LAW AND POLICY

Goal

The goal of the Law and Policy program area is to address regional priorities regarding obligations and commitments in NAAEC related to enhancement of compliance with and enforcement of environmental laws and regulations, environmental standards, environmental performance and the continued development and improvement of environmental law and policy. Program initiatives monitor and report on regional trends in implementing and enforcing environmental laws and standards, including innovations in regulation, economic instruments and voluntary initiatives.

Program Initiatives

Work in this area is divided into three program initiatives. The first, Environmental Standards and Performance, focuses on NAAEC objectives of strengthening regional cooperation in the development and improvement of environmental laws and regulations. This initiative is designed to strengthen cooperation in the development and continued improvement of environmental technical requirements and standards by promoting exchange of information and sharing best practices.

The second, Enforcement Cooperation, responds directly to the Parties' obligations for the effective enforcement of their respective environmental laws and regulations. In response to the Council mandate to ensure regional cooperation in enforcement matters, the program supports a regional forum of senior enforcement officials. It also addresses enforcement and compliance capacity building needs and provides information and analysis on the Parties' enforcement and compliance activities.

The third, Environmental Policy, examines leading-edge policy initiatives in priority areas and shares best practices among public and private sectors.

Environmental Standards and Performance

- Comparative Report on Environmental Standards
- Environmentally Sound Management and Tracking of Hazardous Waste

Enforcement Cooperation

- Enforcement and Compliance Cooperation

Environmental Policy

- Sustainable Use and Conservation of Freshwater in North America
- Environmental Management Systems to Promote Compliance and Environmental Performance