

U.S- Mexico Border 2012 Environmental Health Workgroup: Forming Border-wide Partnerships

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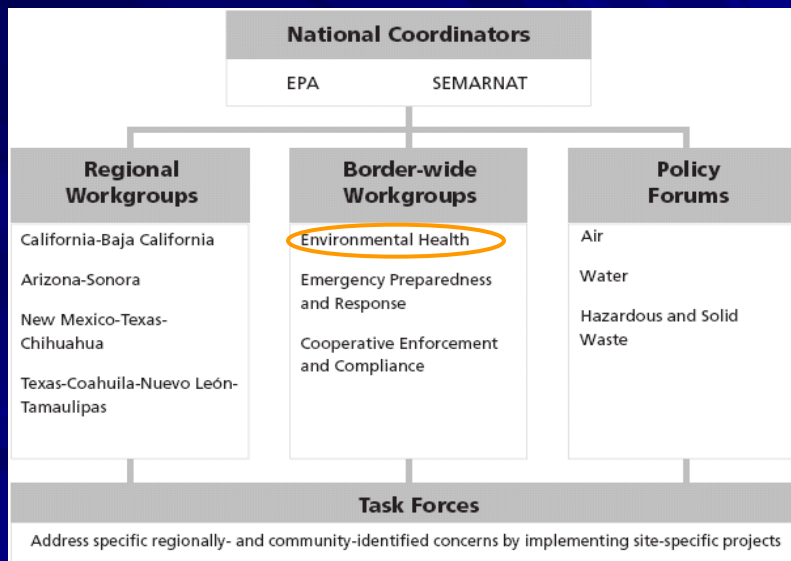
Background



Border 2012

- Joint Program with EPA and SEMARNAT to improve public health in the US-Mexico border in a ten year goal strategy
- Mission: “To protect the environment and public health in the US-Mexico border region, consistent with the principles of sustainable development”
- The bottom up approach:
 - local communities → environment/health agencies →
 - border wide workgroups → policy makers

Border 2012 Structure



Border Partners

- Mexico Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources of the United States of Mexico (SEMARNAT)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Mexico Secretariat of Health (SALUD)
- Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)
- 10 border states
- Tribes
- Academia

EHWG Roles

- Coordinate **border-wide** Environmental Health issues
- **Improve the capacity** of state, tribal, and local health and environmental agencies to **assess the relationship** between human health and environmental exposures
- Increase the **opportunities** for stakeholders on the border to participate in **environmental health initiatives**
- Improve **public awareness and understanding** of environmental exposure conditions and health problems by providing information and educational opportunities

Regional Task Force Roles

- Address specific regional/community-identified concerns
- Implement site-specific projects, or to address issue-specific concerns.
- Develop project proposals and identify proposed funding sources

Indicators

- Creation of Border Indicators Taskforce (December 2003)
- Assess Data availability (September 2005)
- Selection of potential environmental health indicators (December 2005)
- Proof of Concepts Projects (present)
 - Air
 - Water
 - Tires

2007 and Beyond- Focus Areas



- Environmental Monitoring
- Health Surveillance
- Capacity Building
- Communication
- Policy Development

Other Environmental Health Projects

- Pesticide study with Texas A&M to evaluate clinical outcomes of promatora training (HRSA)
- E- Group
- Assessment of best practices of interventions regarding air quality/respiratory diseases (National Center for Farmworker Health)
- Healthy places/communications
- Best practices for pesticides in Arizona/Sonora

For Additional Information

Environmental Health Workgroup:
<http://www.epa.gov/ehwg>

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