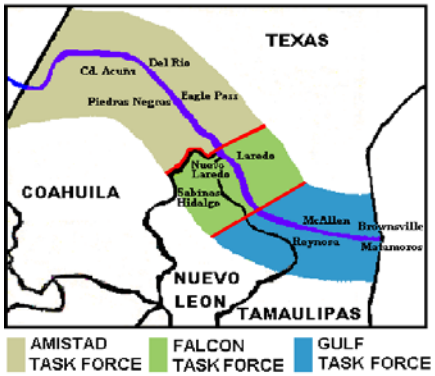
BORDER 2020

2013-2014 Action Plan

for the TX-COAH-TAMP-NL Regional Workgroup

July 2014

(original plan published in October 2012)



The **Four-State Regional Workgroup** is the most complex of the four regional workgroups, because of its geographical expanse and the number of municipalities. The region includes parts of three states and a total of at least 29 municipios on the Mexican side, and 168 cities and towns on the U.S. side. Recognizing this, the workgroup divided itself into three geographically based Task Forces—Amistad, Falcon, and Gulf, each of which has established subject-specific committees related to its priority concerns.

During the first half of 2012, the various committees have held meetings to discuss initial priorities for the Border 2020 program, and a regional meeting of leaders was held in June to develop a consensus of priorities at the task force and regional workgroup levels.

Regional Priorities

1. Improve air quality through the following approaches:
   a. Analyze emissions and emission sources in specific airsheds
   b. Engage in both road-paving and reforestation (using native species)
   c. Establish or improve vehicle inspection programs in those cities where the respective federal governments require them
   d. Increase energy efficiency at the consumption level and the use of renewable energy at all appropriate levels
2. Improve water quality by taking the following actions:
   a. Evaluate the portion of the Rio Grande watershed that is in the region
   b. Reduce contamination by providing wastewater treatment to unserved communities in the watershed
   c. Improving the existing treatment facilities by applying the most effective technologies and providing training to operators
   d. Develop more applications for the re-use of water
   e. Reduce non-native species in the water bodies
   f. Continue and expand environmental education efforts such as “Adopt the River” and “Day of the River”

3. Address problems of improper waste disposal:
    a. Develop comprehensive plans for solid waste management, including special wastes (such as sludge from wastewater treatment plants, scrap tires, and used electronic products) and hazardous wastes (residues from pesticides, extraction of fossil fuels, and medical facilities), looking for economic/productive uses of wastes whenever possible
    b. Expand environmental education related to waste issues
    c. Close and remediate open dumps wherever required by regulation
4. Assure that each project includes a component of environmental education (such as teacher training or building an environmental library), at least one indicator related to public health, and inspection and surveillance

Individual Task Force Priorities

Amistad Task Force

1. Reduction of energy consumption in buildings and street lighting
2. Increased use of alternate and renewable energy sources (such as landfill gas and solar energy)
3. Construction of sanitary landfills
4. Attention to waste disposal in gas drilling operations
5. Continuing attention to emergency response
6. Harmonization of protocols related to coal mining and remediation and to petroleum materials
7. Improvement of vehicle inspection programs in Coahuila
8. Joint programs in communication and environmental education, and development of an environmental educators group

Falcon Task Force

1. Re-use of treated water
2. Monitoring of drilling operations in the Eagle Ford Shale
3. Finalizing the cross-border contingency plan

Gulf Task Force

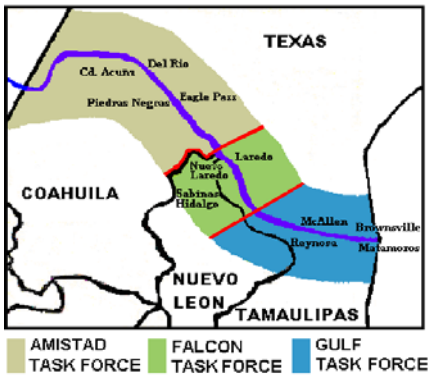
1. Improvement of water-related infrastructure, and increased attention to wáter conservation and re-use
2. Increased recycling
3. Continuing capacity-building at the local, state, and federal levels of government
4. Technical exchanges, including best practices and lessons learned

Border 2020

2013-2014 Action Plan Grid for the Four-State Regional Workgroup

Legend:

- Activity covers at least two task force areas
- Gulf Task Force
- Falcon Task Force
- Amistad Task Force



GOAL # 1: Reduce Air Pollution

Project #	Description of Project	Collaborating Organizations	Anticipated Cost	Source(s) of funding	Points of Contact	2013-2014 Target	Progress Towards Target
Objective 1: By 2020, reduce the number of vehicles operating in the border region that do not comply with the respective vehicle emissions standards, and reduce vehicle emissions at ports-of-entry through anti-idling and other feasible measures							
1.1.01	Continue to develop Coahuila's vehicle inspection program, partly in consultation with Texas regarding the latter's experience.	SEMA (State of Coahuila), COMIMSA, Municipio de Piedras Negras, Municipio de Acuña, TCEQ (State of Texas)	$700,000	SEMA (Coahuila)	Miguel Ángel Leal Reyes (SEMA) miguel.reyes@sema.gob.mx	Inspect 40% of the vehicles in Acuña, Piedras Negras, Monclova, Saltillo, and Ramos Arizpe.	Coahuila initiated vehicle inspections in border cities in June 2012. No information is available on the penetration of the program as of July 2014. SEMA and the TCEQ signed a Memorandum

							of Agreement in May 2013. The TCEQ has provided SEMA with information on how Texas operates its vehicle inspections program; additional cooperation may develop in the future.
Objective 5: By 2020, reduce emissions and associated impacts, through energy efficiency and/or alternative/renewable energy projects							
1.5.01	Implement a competitive grants program aimed at local governments, dedicated to improvements in energy efficiency.	University of Texas at Austin, LBJ School	$175,000	EPA and TCEQ	David Eaton (LBJ School), eaton@mail.utexas.edu	Complete all projects by August 2013.	All six projects were completed by July 2013. UT issued RFP in October 2012. An independent committee reviewed applications and recommended six projects that were then funded by UT—two cities, an irrigation district, and three school districts—in early 2013.
1.5.02	Initiate Phase 2 of the State Climate Action Plan (PEAC) for Coahuila: Quantification of the mitigation policies selected in Phase 1.	Coahuila State Government and BECC	$275,000	BECC	Tomás Balarezo, BECC, tbalarezo@cocef.org	Econometric evaluation of mitigation policies selected in Phase 1.	A Comité Intersecretarial ante el Cambio Climático (CICC) has been established, as well as Integrated Technical Working Groups (TWG) and the Advisory Group (AG). A consultant has been hired, and a local coordinator and local experts recruited.
1.5.03	Initiate Phase 2 of the State Climate Action Plan (PEAC) for Tamaulipas: Quantification of the mitigation public policies selected in Phase 1.	Tamaulipas State Government and BECC	$100,000	BECC	Tomás Balarezo, BECC, tbalarezo@cocef.org	Selection of a number of prioritized mitigation public policies for climate change.	Five technical groups began work in July 2012. In 2013-14, the state strategy has been redesigned. A Comité Intersecretarial ante el Cambio Climático

							(CICC) has been established, as well as Integrated Technical Working Groups (TWG) and the Advisory Group (AG). A consultant has been hired.
1.5.04	Research the potential for harnessing wind power for electricity in Tamaulipas.	SEMARNAT and SEDUMA (State of Tamaulipas)		SEMARNAT will seek funds	Delfino Ramirez, SEMARNAT, Delfino.ramirez@semarnat.tamaulipas.gob.mx	Conduct research and explore business opportunities.	A forum was held in October 2012. No information has been available since then.
1.5.05	Research the potential for harnessing wind power for electricity generation in Nuevo León.	SDS (Secretaría de Desarrollo Sustentable de Nuevo León)	$10,000	Mexican federal funds/CONACYT	Norma Rangel (SDS, Nuevo León), normaarangel@gmail.com	Establish wind monitors in selected areas of the state by the end of 2013, and begin generating wind maps in 2014.	Based on information from monitors installed by an independent party, SDS has generated a wind map with data with a resolution of 5 km. In the next stage, they will generate a map with a resolution of 1 km. They expect to have that ready in 2015.
1.5.06	Construct and operate a facility that extracts methane gas from the Nuevo Laredo landfill and burns it to generate electricity for the municipality.	Municipio de Nuevo Laredo and Setasa (Servicios de Tecnología Ambiental S.A.)	$3.5 million	Private sector; a company will be selected and then will build and operate the plant, selling the electricity to CFE and giving a portion of revenues from carbon credits to the municipio.	Sergio Martínez López sergiomartinezlopez@hotmail.com	Have the facility in full operation by the end of 2014.	A feasibility study was completed 2008 with funding from USAID. Issuance of a tender for construction has been pending for several years (the municipio needs to obtain the property title). No information was available on this project in mid-July 2014.
1.5.07	Implement a pilot program to diagnose	SEMARNAT and the Municipio of Nuevo	$50,000	EPA border grant through	Ing. Eduardo Olivares	Complete the project	The project was completed in 2013. The

	the existing Mexican fleet of heavy-duty commercial trucks in cross-border trade in the Laredo -Nuevo Laredo area, identify retrofit technologies that would reduce emissions, and share information on those technologies, their costs, and suppliers at a binational forum.	Laredo		the BECC	(SEMARNAT-Clean Transportation Program), eduardo.olivares@semarnat.gob.mx, and Osvaldo Valencia (Municipio de Nuevo Laredo—Ecology Program), valencia_osvaldo@hotmail.com	by the end of 2014.	final report generated information on 2,756 trucks and 456 companies, and offered information on retrofit technologies that could reduce emissions.
1.5.08	Establish an air quality monitoring network in the areas of Piedras Negras-Nava, Acuña, Sabinas, and Saltillo, Coahuila.	SEMA (Coahuila), Municipio de Piedras Negras, Acuña, Nava, Sabinas, Saltillo	1,400,000	SEMA Coahuila	Miguel Ángel Leal Reyes (SEMA Coahuila) miguel.reyes@sema.ob.mx	Have air quality monitoring network in operation for Piedras Negras-Nava Region, Acuña, Sabinas Region and Saltillo Region, Coahuila.	SEMA has begun working with local officials to include these projects in the plans of the applicable "Metropolitan Zones". No information on this project was available in mid-July 2014.
1.5.09	Apply retrofit technologies to public buildings in Piedras Negras and Acuña, Coahuila that will reduce energy consumption.	SEMA (Coahuila), Municipio de Piedras Negras y Municipio de Acuña	$500,000	SEMA Coahuila	Olga Rumayor (SEMA Coahuila) olga.rumayor@sema.gob.mx	Involve municipal agencies through a series of workshops and select at least 10 buildings to pilot retrofit technologies.	The project is still in the planning phase, and will be proposed to the BECC to obtain support. No information on this project was available in mid-July 2014.
1.5.10	Design and implement vehicle emission verification programs or campaigns in Tamaulipas.	SEDUMA	To be defined	SEDUMA/ SEMARNAT	Ing. Humberto Rene Salinas (SEDUMA), seduma@tamaulipas.gob.mx	Have a vehicle verification program in the border area of the state by end of 2014.	Pilot program focused on the state-owned fleet was initiated in early 2013. No information on this project was available in mid-July 2014.
1.5.11	Promote and encourage the use and exploitation of renewable energy sources and alternative energy potential in Tamaulipas.	SEDUMA	To be defined	SEDUMA/ SEMARNAT	Ing. Humberto Rene Salinas (SEDUMA), seduma@tamaulipas.gob.mx	Prepare action plan for nine wind power projects and state's strategic energy program.	Baseline information was being collected in 2013. No information on this project was available in mid-July

							2014.
1.5.12	Strengthen Tamaulipas' atmospheric monitoring system.	SEDUMA	Por definirse	SEDUMA, EPA, and BECC	Ing. Humberto Rene Salinas (SEDUMA), seduma@tamaulipas.gob.mx	By 2014, the system will operate at 100% with programmatic consistency standards.	Eight municipalities have the equipment for air monitoring of PM10 (Matamoros, Reynosa, Nuevo Laredo, Victoria, Mante, Tampico, Madero, and Altamira). Currently only three of these have their network in operation (Nuevo Laredo, Victoria, Tampico).
1.5.13	Implementation of a environmental management system as a strategy for energy efficiency in Tamaulipas.	SEDUMA/Municipios	$ 100,000	SEDUMA, EPA, and COCEF	Ing. Humberto Rene Salinas seduma@tamaulipas.gob.mx	By 2014, train 100% of the border municipalities.	State authorities trained 16 municipalities from the border region of Tamaulipas and the San Fernando Valley region. The workshop was held in Reynosa, with an attendance of approximately 100 people.

Goal # 2: Improve Access to Clean and Safe Water

Project #	Description of Project	Collaborating Organizations	Anticipated Cost	Source(s) of funding	Points of Contact	2013-2014 Target	Progress Towards Target
General							
2.0.01	Build and begin operation of a desalination plant in Nuevo León, using renewable energy as the energy source for the plant.	Servicios de Agua y Drenaje de Monterrey (SADM, Nuevo León's water utility)		SADM, BECC, and National Water Commission	Norma Rangel (SDS, Nuevo León), normaarangel@gmail.com y Carlos Avila, carlos.avila@sadm.gob.mx	Have the plant in operation by the end of 2014.	The project was cancelled.

2.0.02	Organize a "Water Awareness Summit" to educate the public in the Lower Rio Grande Valley about where their water comes from, how the planning process works, what the outlook is, and the importance of conservation.	State Representative Eddie Lucio III, TCEQ, cities and their water utilities, the Rio Grande Regional Water Authority, and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council	$10,000-15,000	Local funding efforts/sponsors	Claudia Lozano (TCEQ) claudia.lozano@tceq.texas.gov	Hold the conference in early 2013.	The first Water Awareness Summit was held in February 2013. More than 200 people attended and expressed interest in making the event annual. A second Summit was held in March 2014, with approximately 300 attendees, and a third Summit will be held in late 2014.
Objective 2: Help drinking water and wastewater service providers in the border region to implement sustainable infrastructure practices to reduce operating costs, improve energy efficiency, use water efficiently and adapt to climate change.							
2.2.01	Provide teacher training workshop(s) and/or on-site facilitators to implement educational water quality monitoring events in conjunction with 2012/13 World Water Monitoring Challenge.	Texas Partnership for Water Education (TPWE): EPA, WEAT, TAWWA Scout Troops, ISDs, informal environmental education (EE) providers	Funding needed varies with # of participants: Testing Kits $25/ 30 individuals/ site.	Various funding possibilities will be explored	Karen Bick, EPA, Region 6 (214) 665-7539 bick.karen@epa.gov	Teachers &/or students, as well as interested community members will identify monitoring site, and sampling results will be submitted to TPWE's WWMC Program Coordinator.	The project was cancelled.
2.2.02	Promote energy management practices among Texas water and wastewater utilities by conducting quarterly meetings on energy management planning, training on a pumping-system assessment tool, and on-site energy efficiency assessments (key cities include Laredo, Roma, Mission, Agua Specialty Utility District, Edinburg, McAllen, Pharr, Weslaco, Mercedes, Harlingen, and Brownsville).	Partner with a university to conduct meetings, trainings and on-site energy assessment involving engineering students. 2012 partners are the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Centers at the University of Texas at Arlington and the University of Texas Pan American.	Funding sought: $75,000/yr or $150,000	Various funding possibilities will be explored	David Reazin, EPA Region 6 (214) 665-7501	Hold quarterly meetings to develop energy management plan and benchmark energy use and costs, one PSAT training, and two on-site assessments.	The project was cancelled.

2.2.03	Organize a workshop in Laredo for water utilities and the restaurant industry to discuss best practices related to abatement of discharges of fats, oils, and grease (will also involve Nuevo Laredo).	City of Laredo water utility, Webb County, and Nuevo Laredo	$23,000	EPA border grant through the BECC	Karla Robles (City of Laredo Utilities) krobles@ci.laredo.tx.us	Hold the workshop by the spring of 2013 and then follow-up meetings with utilities to discuss implementation of FOG programs in the summer and fall of 2013.	The project was completed in January 2014. Laredo Utilities organized a binational workshop in March 2013, presenting "best management practices" with regard to management of fats, oils and grease. More than 350 people, including representatives from the maquiladora sector in Nuevo Laredo and restaurants in both cities, attended the event. Laredo Utilities then coordinated two follow-up meetings in August and December 2013, at which participants shared their experience in applying the practices, and also produced a7-minute video about FOG management, for use in education of commercial establishments. Out of 22 establishments that participated in the original workshop, 14 decreased their amount of FOG generation more than 50%.
2.2.04	Conduct training for small businesses in the Reynosa area on best practices related to discharges of fats, oils, and grease (will include before and after measures).	Municipio of Reynosa	$16,000	EPA border grant through the BECC	Mauricio Chalons (Municipio of Reynosa), 899 263-3798, ecologiareynosa@hotmail.com	Organize a workshop or training event(s).	The project was canceled.

2.2.05	Implement a public campaign to increase awareness of problems of non-point-source pollution in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, through signs posted on roadways and at public facilities, messages on a school district television station, presentations at numerous public events and meetings, and newsletters of various organizations.	Fifteen cities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) that are members of the Texas Pollution Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Task Force, Texas A&M Kingsville, school districts, and NGOs	$40,000	EPA border grant through the BECC	Javier Guerrero (Lower Rio Grande Valley TPDES Stormwater Task Force, Texas A&M University-Kingsville), 956- 457-3023 jguer0351@aol.com	Complete the project by the end of 2013.	Workshops were coordinated with the Cities of Harlingen, San Benito, La Feria, Palm Valley, Primera, Weslaco, Donna, Alamo, San Juan, La Joya, Edinburg, Palmview, and Mission. A total of 104 signs were installed by those cities at various locations, and those locations were GPS'd.
2.2.07 (Sub-obj. 2b)	Install new or upgrade selected existing sewer lines and connect them to Nuevo Laredo's wastewater treatment plant to prevent contaminated discharges through the stormwater system to the Rio Grande.	COMAPA and Municipio de Nuevo Laredo	$5,000,000	North American Development Bank (NADB)	Claudia López Aguilar (Comisión Municipal de Agua Potable y Alcantarillado—COMAPA) claudialopez@comapanuevolaredo.gob.mx	Complete the project by summer 2013.	BECC certified the project in September 2012. The objective was to address five sewer collection lines, all with upgrades. Of the five, one of them has been completed and connected to the wastewater treatment system. The remaining four collectors are under repair and are still discharging about 1.6 MGD to the stormwater system. Another discharge point from La Joya Creek was identified by COMAPA and will be repaired after an agreement is signed with a private property owner where it is located. All sewer discharges are expected to be elimina-ted by November 2014.

2.2.08	Hold workshops on energy efficiency for water utilities and perform energy audits of the utilities in five municipios in Tamaulipas—Nuevo Laredo, Reynosa, Rio Bravo, Cd. Victoria, and Matamoros	BECC and the water utilities in Nuevo Laredo, Reynosa, Rio Bravo, Cd. Victoria, and Matamoros	$250,000	EPA and BECC	Abdias Moreno (BECC), amoreno@cocef,org	Complete the project in 2014.	The project was completed. Workshops were held in 2013, and then final energy audits were presented at a meeting in Matamoros in early July 2014. The audits recommended retrofits requiring a total investment of $3.7 million, with average payback times of one-two years.
Objective 3: Work binationally to identify and reduce surface water contamination in transboundary waterbodies or watersheds.							
2.3.01	Develop and produce region-specific supplemental materials necessary to produce a *Waters to the Sea*- Rio Grande module. (*Place-based education with comprehensive watershed focus).*	Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE)- Hamline University, Harte Research Institute @ Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, EPA, WEAT, and AWWA	Approx $100,000 in 2013 $ 50,000 in 2014	Various funding possibilities will be explored	CGEE- Tracy Fredin Karen Bick, EPA, Region 6 (214) 665-7539 bick.karen@epa.gov	Recruit and establish an advisory board, produce videos and other materials, identify one or two ISDs to pilot program, and conduct training for at least 25 teachers in 2014.	The project was cancelled.
2.3.02	Conduct feasibility studies for wastewater treatment plants in the municipalities of Hidalgo and Guerrero, Coahuila.	CEAS and SEMA (State of Coahuila)	$15,000	CNA, Coahuila	Alejandra Carrera (SEMA Coahuila), alejandra.carrera@sema.gob.mx	Complete the studies by early 2014	As of mid-2013,CEAS had completed the feasibility studies and was making efforts to implement water management programs in those municipalities. No information has been available since then.
2.3.03	Design and implement local public conservation campaigns and land conservation agreements for Rio San Rodrigo and Arroyo Las Vacas.	SEMA (State of Coahuila), Municipio de Piedras Negras and Municipio de Acuña	$400,000	Coahuila will fund first part and will be seeking funding for	Alejandra Carrera (SEMA Coahuila), alejandra.carrera@sema.gob.mx	Begin implementing the campaigns and conclude the land conservation agreements by the end of 2014.	SEMA obtained funding from the EPA through the BECC in November 2013 to restore and conserve the Arroyo Las Vacas. SEMA has

				the rest			developed partnerships with TCEQ, Ciudad Acuña, local academic institutions, and UT Austin, and is finalizing the workplan. The project will promote awareness and take actions to improve the ecosystem of the arroyo.
2.3.04	Implement a program to remove invasive plants in the Rio Grande.	SEMA (State of Coahuila), CONANP, Profauna	$85,000	SEMA Coahuila, CONANP, Profauna – and will seek other funding sources	Alejandra Carrera (SEMA Coahuila) alejandra.carrera@sema.gob.mx	By the end of 2014, increase the invasive species plant removal program in the Rio Grande.	No progress yet had been made by mid-2013. No information has been available since then.
2.3.05	Organize a regional workshop to disseminate "best practices" related to water conservation policy, programs (such as EPA's Water Sense), and public education, and implement enhanced programs in at least one pair of sister cities.	City of Laredo, EPA, TCEQ, TX Water Development Board, Piedras Negras Technological Institute	$6,000	City of Laredo, EPA, TCEQ, and local sponsors	Miguel A. Pescador mpescador@ci.laredo.tx.us Debora Browning EPA, Region 6 browning.debora@epa.gov	Hold a regional workshop in Laredo by spring 2013, and implement a new campaign in two sister cities by 2014. Enlist 10 new WaterSense Partners.	Workshop was hosted by Laredo in March 2013. More than 100 persons attended. No new WaterSense Partners by mid-July 2013.
2.3.06 (Sub-Obj. 3a)	Implement a binational Lower Rio Grande Water Quality Initiative (from Falcon to the Gulf) that characterizes the state of the river, develops a strategic plan to improve environmental conditions, and proposes a monitoring plan to document progress.	TCEQ, EPA, IBWC, CONAGUA, and federal, state, and local government agencies		TCEQ, EPA, IBWC, and federal, state, and local governme nt agencies	Kelly Holligan (TCEQ), 512-239-2369, Kelly.holligan@tceq.texas.gov	Establish the collaborative partnership by early 2013, and make substantive progress on objectives by the end of 2014.	Terms of reference were developed that serve as the framework used by participating entities in the collaboration. In February and July 2013, TCEQ hosted training sessions on water quality modeling software (QUAL-TX and LAQUAL) for Mexican agency and EPA staff. In July 2014 TCEQ began taking water

							samples in the target stretch of the Rio Grande for analysis. Mexican partners have not yet set a date for their sampling.

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

Project #	Description of Project	Collaborating Organizations	Anticipated Cost	Source(s) of funding	Points of Contact	2013-2014 Target	Progress Towards Target
Objective 1: By 2020, increase local and state-level knowledge and experience in the area of sustainable material management practices.							
3.1.01	Link and promote the Mexican federal program "Green Schools" in all three Mexican states in the region and explore possible use in Texas.	SEMARNAT/Tamaulipas and state agencies in Tamaulipas, Nuevo León, and Coahuila	??	SEMARNAT	Delfino Ramirez (SEMARNAT/Tamaulipas), Delfino.ramirez@semarnat.tamaulipas.gob.mx	Reach 150 schools in the 3 Mexican States by July 2013. Hold an information exchange meeting w/Texas 2014	The program had been very successful in Tamaulipas by mid-2013. 135 schools had been registered in the Green School Program, of which 33 were in Nuevo Laredo, 50 in Reynosa, and nine in Matamoros. No information has been available from Matamoros since then, and no information is available from other states.
3.1.02	Design and implement a bilingual campaign against illegal dumping in Cameron County, Texas, using billboards, newspapers, and workshops at schools.	Cameron County and the Valley Proud Environmental Council	$10,000	Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, TCEQ	Marcie Oviedo (Lower Rio Grande Development Council), moviedo@lrgvdc911.org, (956) 682-3481	Finish the project by the end of 2013.	Cameron County and the Valley Proud Environmental Council engaged in a media campaign against illegal dumping, using billboards and newspapers throughout the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The

							two entities received numerous phone calls during the campaign, expressing concern about the trash that they had seen dumped throughout the valley.
3.1.03	Through purchase of equipment, enhance the recycling programs in three local jurisdictions and composting operations in two jurisdictions.	The Cities of Pharr, Mission, McAllen, and Mercedes, and the Town of Bayview	$160,000	Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, TCEQ, and individual local government	Marcie Oviedo (Lower Rio Grande Development Council), moviedo@lrgvdc911.org (956) 682-3481	Finish the five separate but related projects by the end of 2013.	All cities except one completed their projects(Bayview did not sign a contract with the LRGVDC). The cities expanded and enhanced their recycling capabilities at their recycling centers by purchasing mobile recycling trailers, forklifts, and other equipment. Also, Pharr has introduced Curby the recycling robot in outreach activities, and the City of Lyford hired an enforcement officer to investigate illegal dumping within the city.
3.1.04	Establish an environmental organization to develop environmental awareness and clean-up programs in Nuevo Laredo.	Keep Laredo Beautiful, Keep America Beautiful, and the Municipio of Nuevo Laredo		The City of Laredo Environmental Services local partners, and Keep America Beautiful	Ing. Marco Antonio Garza Delgado y Lic. María Guadalupe Herrera Rodríguez U.T. (Programa Zona Verde, Nuevo Laredo) Lynne Nava (Keep Laredo Beautiful), lnava1@ci.laredo.tx.us	Establish an organization in 2013 in Nuevo Laredo and affiliated with Keep America by the end of 2014.	The project's objectives are expected to be fully completed in 2014. Reciclado en Acción/Fundación Verde was established in 2013.The organization conducts environmental awareness events in Nuevo Laredo. The City of Laredo Environmental Services

							will be covering the membership fees (about $6,000) for the organization to be affiliated with Keep America Beautiful.
3.1.07	Expand a municipal recycling program started in March 2012 in Nuevo Laredo and currently consisting of placing public bins in parks, to include all elementary schools in Nuevo Laredo.	Municipio de Nuevo Laredo	???	Municipio de Nuevo Laredo	Osvaldo Valencia (Municipio de Nuevo Laredo—Ecology Program) valencia_osvaldo@hotmail.com	Install the bins at all elementary schools in 2013 and start relevant environmental education programs for students.	Environmental education conferences were resumed at city elementary schools in February 2013. No information has been available since then.
3.1.08	Extend Tamaulipas' environmental management system program (SIMA) to private institutions, schools, and shops.	SEDUMA (State of Tamaulipas)	$ 300,000	EPA/SEDUMA/SEMARNAT	Ing. Humberto Rene Salinas seduma@tamaulipas.gob.mx	Reach out to 100% of the border cities	The project was in progress in 2013. By the middle of the year, 30 schools in Matamoros were registered in the program. No information has been available since then.
3.1.09	Redesign and extend coverage of the E-conexion Newsletter as strategy to share best practices.	SEDUMA (State of Tamaulipas)	$ 30,000	SEDUMA	Ing. Humberto Rene Salinas (SEDUMA), seduma@tamaulipas.gob.mx	Extend the dissemination of the E-Conexion to 100% of the Tamaulipas municipalities.	No information has been available on this project.
Objective 2: By 2014, identify priority waste streams and by 2020 develop sustainable material management practices that strengthen their respective market value.							
3.2.01	Build capacity in scrap-tire management throughout the region.	Sustainable Development Secretariat (State of Nuevo León), and TCEQ (State of Texas)	$35,000	EPA border grant through the BECC	Norma Rangel Sevilla (SDS, Nuevo León), normaarangel@gmail.com	Prepare a "best practices" manual and perhaps hold a regional workshop	The project was completed in 2013. SDS surveyed local governments on both sides of the border and then developed a manual for local governments on best practices for scrap-tire management. Based on

							this manual SDS collaborated with the TCEQ to organize a workshop held in March 2013, attended by representatives of 10 local governments plus state and federal governments as well as private industry.
3.2.02	Use organic waste generated in Sabinas Hidalgo, Nuevo León to make compost and then apply it to agricultural uses and urban gardening.	SDS (Nuevo León), SEMARNAT, and Municipio of Sabinas Hidalgo, Nuevo León	Mexican federal funds $67,000	Municipio of Sabinas Hidalgo, Nuevo León	Norma Rangel Sevilla (SDS, Nuevo León), normaarangel@gmail.com y chel1977@live.com.mx	By the end of 2014, compost 100% of organic waste collected by the municipality from large waste generators.	This particular project has been cancelled and replaced by a related but different project in the same municipio. See project # 3.2.08 below.
3.2.03	Assess the feasibility of using scrap tires for heavy-duty road-bed construction in Brownsville, Texas.	Texas A&M University – Kingsville (TAMUK)	$15,000	EPA border grant through the BECC	Dr. Kim Jones kfkdj00@tamuk.edu	Through a demonstration project, assist communities in building capacity for scrap-tire management.	With the grant funds available, TAMUK managed a demonstration project that baled approximately 62,500 scrap tires (625 bales) and used 125 of the bales as part of the sub-base of a section of a landfill road bed in Brownsville. TAMUK is looking for an additional $15-20K to use the remaining 500 bales and complete the extension of the road.
3.2.04	Develop a composting operation in Nuevo Laredo using sludge from the wastewater treatment plant and yard wastes, and apply the product in municipal parks as well as in homes (through sales to homeowners).	COMAPA and Municipio de Nuevo Laredo	$30,000 ¿?	Municipio de Nuevo Laredo	Carlos Montiel Saeb (Comisión Municipal de Agua Potable y Alcantarillado—COMAPA) carlosmontielsaeb@hot	The program, including applications and sales, is expected to be in full operation by sometime in 2013.	As of mid-2013, the compost was being applied to the germination of seeds and vegetables in the greenhouse of the

					mail.com		municipio's Research and Environmental Education Center. No information has been available since then.
3.2.05	Implement a collection and management program for used electronic products in Reynosa, Tamaulipas.	Municipio of Reynosa	$30,000	EPA border grant through the BECC	Mauricio Chalons (Municipio of Reynosa), 899 263-3798 ecologiareynosa@hotmail.com	The project will be in full operation by spring 2013.	The program was in full operation in 2013, after the first steps were taken in August 2012. In 2013, the city collected about 27.7 tons of e-waste and sent for recycling.
3.2.06	Design and implement a state scrap tire management program that includes valuation.	SEDUMA (Tamaulipas)	$ 400,000	SEDUMA/SEMARNAT /EPA	Ing. Humberto Rene Salinas (SEDUMA), seduma@tamaulipas.gob.mx	Develop public policy and a management plan for scrap tires	No progress has been made as of mid-2014.
3.2.07	Evaluate and take advantage of energy potential of waste in Matamoros landfills.	SEDUMA (Tamaulipas)	$ 300,000	SEDUMA/EPA	Ing. Humberto Rene Salinas (SEDUMA), seduma@tamaulipas.gob.mx	Complete action plan	No progress has been made as of mid-2014.
3.2.08	Study and characterize the municipal solid waste stream in Sabinas Hidalgo, Nuevo León.	SDS (Nuevo León) and Municipio of Sabinas Hidalgo, Nuevo León	$25,156	BECC	Norma Rangel Sevilla (SDS, Nuevo León), normaarangel@gmail.com y chel1977@live.com.mx	Complete the study by 2015.	This project is a replacement for project # 3.2.02.

Objective 3: By 2020, improve knowledge in every level of government (federal, state, local) to characterize and remediate contaminated sites.							
3.3.01	Complete the remediation of old oxidation lagoons.	Municipio de Piedras Negras and SEMA (State of Coahuila)	$300,000	SEMA	Alfredo Lucero (PIedras Negras), aalm68@hotmail.com	Complete the remediation of the remaining 10.3 acres by the end of 2013, after which the municipality will develop a road extension to and a green area at the site.	Prior to 2012, 19.7 acres of the 30-acre site had been remediated. No new has been information available since then.
3.3.02	Clean up an old waste disposal site near the river banks of the Rio Grande in Eagle Pass.	City of Eagle Pass	$3.5 million	City of Eagle Pass plus an additional funding source to be determined	Hector Chavez (Eagle Pass) hchavez@eaglepasstx.us	Finish the remediation in 2013, if supplementary funding can be identified, and then develop a green area on the site.	Remediation of a portion of the site was carried out prior to 2010. The city will seek assistance through the TCEQ's Brownfields Site Assessments Program to determine whether the site meets the federal definition of a brownfields site and is eligible for funding under the EPA's brownfields program.
3.3.03	Establish a sustainable management plan for scrap tires in Piedras Negras, Coahuila.	SEMA (State of Coahuila), Municipio de Piedras Negras	$400,000	¿?	Miguel Angel Leal (miguel.leal@sema.gob.mx)	Develop plan and place in full operation by the end of 2014	By mid-2013, SEMA determined they need to perform a feasibility study on using coal pits as disposal sites for scrap tires. No information has been available since then.

Goal #4: Enhance Joint Preparedness for Environmental Response

Project #	Description of Project	Collaborating Organizations	Anticipated Cost	Source(s) of funding	Points of Contact	2013-2014 Target	Progress Towards Target

Objective 2: By 2020, at least eight (8) of the sister city joint contingency plans will be supplemented with preparedness and prevention related activities such as certified training, risk analysis, and/or capacity building.							
4.2.01	Develop an emergency response plan for the maquiladoras in Brecha E-99 in Reynosa,Tamaulipas.	CAMPIR (Comite de Ayuda Mutua del Parque Industrial Reynosa) (Reynosa Industrial Park Mutual Aid Committee)	$10,000	EPA border grant through the BECC	Dr. Emilio Sonderegger Arriola emilio.sonderegger@landisgyr.com		The project was canceled.
4.2.02	Hold a second "knowledge exchange" on risk mapping for first responders on both sides of the Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas-Tamaulipas, for the purpose of identifying and gaining access to existing sources of data on hazmat storage and determining additional needs.	Fire departments from Texas and Mexican municipalities in the Gulf Task Force area, EPA, TCEQ, and Civil Protección for both Tamaulipas and Mexico	$30,000(?)	EPA and NORTHCOM	Paige Delgado (EPA), Delgado.paige@epa.gov EPA Region 6	Hold the exchange during the first half of 2013	A first exchange was held in July 2012. As of July 2013, the project is on hold because of the uncertainty of funding from NORTHCOM.
4.2.03	Hold a binational chemical-spill exercise at the World Trade Bridge between Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas and Laredo, Texas.	Civil Protection and Fire Department of Nuevo Laredo, Tamps., and the City of Laredo Fire Department	$5,000	EPA border grant through the BECC	Lic. Juan Ernesto Rivera Gómez (Civil Protección de Nuevo Laredo), proteccioncivilnuevolaredo@hotmail.com or ernestorivera5775@hotmail.com	Hold the exercise after the Mexican federal government has approved a permit that allows hazardous waste to be transported on this bridge.	The U.S. Department of State issued a "presidential permit" in May 2014 to allow the crossing of hazardous materials, but the Mexican government is awaiting the completion of a water quality study on the Rio Grande that CONAGUA required before the permit is issued. If and when a Mexican permit is issued and both nations sign diplomatic notes, local officials will organize a binational exercise.
4.2.04	Develop a cross-border contingency plan for the Solidarity Bridge, involving first	Civil Protección and fire departments for both Colombia and	$5,000 - will be looking for	EPA, COCEF, PROFEPA, and	Jorge Camacho (Protección Civil de Nuevo León).	Add appropriate information related to	[See following project]

	responders from Colombia (Nuevo León), Nuevo Laredo (Tamaulipas), and Laredo (Texas), recognizing that Colombia, upstream from the other two cities, is much smaller and yet shipments of hazardous materials in the area are currently directed to this bridge.	Nuevo Laredo, CODEFRONT, and the City of Laredo	funders	Protección Civil	jorge.camacho@nuevoleon.gob.mx	the Solidarity Bridge to the Joint Contingency Plan for Laredo and Nuevo Laredo by the end of 2013 (see following project).	
4.2.05	Finish updating the 1998 Cross-Border Contingency Plan between the sister cities of Laredo, Texas and Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, in order to improve emergency response communication and protocols.	Laredo Fire Department, Protección Civil de Nuevo Laredo, and CILA	No cost	City of Laredo and Nuevo Laredo	Eloy Vega (City of Laredo Fire Department), evega@ci.laredo.tx.us Ernesto Rivera (Protección Civil de Nuevo Laredo), proteccioncivilnuevolaredo@hotmail.com	Hold new meetings of the staff of the two cities in 2013 in order to re-visit the language of the draft revision and possibly develop alternative language.	Laredo officials met in May 2013 to make changes to one sentence in a draft of the new cross-border contingency plan that had been originally prepared in 2009. The changes were intended to clarify that Laredo could not send personnel across the border, because of security and liability concerns, but could assist in other ways. The revised agreement was been approved subsequently by Nuevo Laredo, but has been awaiting action by the Laredo City Council since that time.
4.2.06	Update and improve the cross-border contingency plans for emergency response for the sister-city pairs of (a) Eagle Pass, Texas and Piedras Negras, Coahuila and (b) Del Rio, Texas and Ciudad Acuna, Coahuila, which will include risk analysis and development of risk maps.	City of Eagle Pass, Municipio de Piedras Negras, City of Del Rio, Municipio de Ciudad Acuña, BECC, and Consultoria y Servicios en Seguridad Industrial y Medio Ambiente	$130,000	EPA border grant through the BECC	Briselda Duarte (Border Environment Cooperation Commission), bduarte@cocef.org and M.C. Mónica de Jesús Pérez Morales (Consultoría y Servicios en Seguridad Industrial y Medio	Complete new plans by the end of 2013.	The project was completed by the end of 2013. Under contract from the BECC, two workshops were organized in the first half of 2012 for staff from the two pairs of sister cities to discuss protocols and risks. After delays and the

		S.A. de C.V			Ambiente, S.A. de C.V.)		hiring of a new contractor, additional workshops were held in July 2013. In November of that year, the two sister-city pairs each signed a Memorandum of Cooperation for new cross-border contingency plans. Each community committed to providing resources and mutual aid in case of chemical accidents.

Multi-Goal Projects

Project #	Description of Project	Collaborating Organizations	Anticipated Cost	Source(s) of funding	Points of Contact	2013-2014 Target	Progress Towards Target
Projects potentially related to some combination of air quality, water quality, water conservation, or waste management							
6.0.01	Organize educational campaigns featuring training sessions for health professionals, health students, and promotoras followed by community outreach in the Laredo and Harlingen areas in Texas, addressing how to reduce pre-natal and childhood exposure to pesticides, lead, solvents, second-hand tobacco, and diesel exhaust.	The University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio	$50,000	EPA border grant through the BECC	Claudia Miller, M.D., MillerCS@uthscsa.edu or steer@uthscsa.edu	Complete the project by the end of 2013.	The project was fully implemented in 2013. Two training sessions were held for 40 promotoras (lay healthcare workers)—20 from in the N. Laredo/ Laredo and Cameron County areas. The classes covered 17 types of potentially hazardous exposures during pregnancy and childhood, and how to avoid these exposures. Subsequent to the training, the promotoras provided

							outreach to 400 pregnant women or mothers with young children in a three-month period. Each of those families made an oral commitment to discuss lessons learned with two other families.
6.0.02	Conduct educational workshops/plays on the safe handling and disposal of pesticides for farm workers in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas and in the Laredo area.	Migrants in Action – Weslaco, Texas	$20,000	EPA border grant through the BECC	Noemi Ochoa (Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs), nochoa@yahoo.com	Produce the EPA-written play "El Moscas y los Pesticidas" using students in two cities in the first half of 2013	The project was completed in 2013-- Student groups in Laredo and Edinburg performed the play before more than 2,000 people.
6.0.03	Identify the sources of environmental health hazards through a "knowledge exchange" workshop and establish a binational database on epidemiological data related to these hazards.	Texas A&M Health Science Center, School of Rural Public Health, PAHO, BECC, HIDA-REY COBINA, Hidalgo County Health Dept.	$50,000	EPA border grant through the BECC	Genny Carrillo (Texas A&M Health Science Center, School of Rural Public Health), gcarrillo@srph.tamhsc.edu	Hold the "knowledge exchange" workshop and establish the database by the end of 2013.	Project on hold; difficulty obtaining data from the Mexican side.
6.0.04	Address children's environmental health issues in Laredo, Texas and Webb County by surveying a sample of homes and identifying health risks, tracking reported exposures through selected hospitals and clinics, developing and implementing a public outreach campaign regarding the identified risks, and identifying and publicizing two relevant online courses available for physicians.	Laredo Health Department	$50,000	EPA border grant through the BECC	Waldo Lopez (City of Laredo Health Department) wlopez@ci.laredo.tx.us	Complete the project by the end of 2013.	Laredo received an EPA/BECC Border 2020 grant in July 2013, and completed the project by the end of the calendar year. The project consisted of conducting outreach on the use of pesticides and household hazardous materials at homes and training health providers and physicians on diagnosing and treating illnesses related to

							pesticide exposure. Staff conducted field visits and distributed publications on lead and pesticides to over 120 homes. An online survey was developed to obtain information on household pesticide use. More than 135 households completed the survey. More than 50 physicians and health providers were trained on diagnosing illnesses related to pesticide exposure through the use of a web-based diagnostic tool, allowing them to assist survey respondents with symptoms related to pesticide exposure.
6.0.05	Organize an annual Environmental Summit for the public in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, in cooperation with State Representative Eddie Lucio III's office.	TCEQ, and cities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley	$15,000	Local sponsors , EPA	Imelda Pena, TCEQ Imelda.pena@tceq.texas.gov	Hold an Environmental Summit in fall of 2013 and fall of 2014.	The fourth annual Valley Environmental Summit was held in October 2013. An estimated 300 people attended. Their priority interests were illegal dumping, marine debris, and community cleanup programs. The fifth summit is scheduled for October 2014.
6.0.06	Organize an annual Environmental Summit	TCEQ and the City	$15,000	Local	Carmen Ramirez,	Hold an Environmental	The fourth annual

	for the public in Webb County, in cooperation with State Senator Judith Zaffirini's office.	of Laredo		sponsors , EPA	TCEQ , carmen.ramirez@tceq.texas.gov	Summit fall of 2013.	Laredo Environmental Summit was held in October 2013, attended by more than 400 people. Speakers discussed recycling, energy efficiency, and water conservation. The next summit is being planned for November 2014.