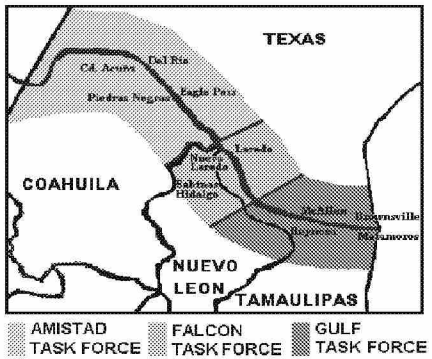
BORDER 2020

2017-2018 Amistad Task Force Action Plan

TX-COAH-TAMP-NL Regional Workgroup

October 2017



The Four-State Regional Workgroup is the most complex of the four regional workgroups because of its geographical extension and the number of municipalities. The region includes parts of three states and at least 29 municipalities 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 established subject-specific committees related to its priority concerns.

Border 2020 has five goals and the regional work groups propose projects to implement these goals. These projects are tracked in two-year revolving work plans. The 2017-2018 version is the second of its kind. Several projects have been carried over from the 2015-2016 Action Plan. Due to consensus by the Four State Workgroup, a sixth goal for health and education projects was included. Projects are organized by Border 2020 goals and objectives.

In October of 2016, the three task forces held meetings to discuss initial priorities for the 2017-2018 Action Plan as well as several conference calls with leaders to develop a consensus of priorities at the local and regional workgroup levels.

Regional Priorities

Goal 1: Reduce Air Pollution

a) Implement atmospheric monitoring programs under the same criteria of analysis and promote the dissemination of results in the four states
b) Set actions in accordance with the public policies of micro and macro-economic analysis of climate change state programs
c) Promote the implementation of the PROAIRE air quality program and its strategies in the border communities

Goal 2: Improve Access to Clean and Safe Water

a) Continue to improve energy efficiency for water operators in border municipalities
b) Continue the water conservation programs and encourage the reuse of treated water for irrigation
c) Strengthen wastewater sanitation programs and actions
d) Disseminate green infrastructure actions for sustainable development of border communities
e) Promote strategies for adequate wastewater management in Tamaulipas border municipalities

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

a) Increase institutional capacity at the local and state levels for sustainable practices in solid waste management
b) Develop collection and comprehensive waste management programs for used electronics for municipalities in the border area

c) Develop collection and comprehensive waste management programs for proper disposal of household hazardous waste for municipalities in the border area
d) Continue efforts to implement comprehensive scrap tire management programs
e) Strengthen operations of the sanitary landfills in border municipalities, with plans to capture and take advantage of the biogas and convert to energy
f) Develop comprehensive actions to eliminate unauthorized open-air dump sites
g) Encourage municipal programs for holistic waste management
h) Promote the integral waste management in the Mexican municipalities

Goal 4: Enhance Joint Preparedness for Environmental Response

a) Continue the binational relationship in emergency response for training, equipment and drills
b) Promote the creation of risk atlases for waste management and hazardous materials in border communities
c) Carry out the required border studies for the protection of local communities
d) Generate a diagnosis of equipment, training, and ability to respond to an emergency in border municipalities

Goal 5: Enhance Compliance Assurance and Environmental Stewardship

a) Implement binational workshops targeted to environmental enforcement professionals, including ports-of-entry customs professionals, to promote the exchange of information and improve understanding of each country's respective compliance and enforcement programs
b) Promote the updating, sharing and application of municipal environmental regulations in border communities
c) Carry out the land management plans in the states and municipalities along the border region
d) Establish regulatory and operational mechanisms for the control of wild hogs

Promote Cross-Cutting Efforts Related to Environmental Health & Environmental Education

a) Develop a study that identifies the five top main risks on environmental health in border communities

Fundamental Strategies

a) Promote actions and environmental education programs on waste, recycling, water and fauna in the Kickapoo reservation
b) Implement a study related to the handling and disposal of used accumulators and their impact on public health
c) Establish a binational bilingual program for education purposes on environmental and public health topics according to regional priorities.

Amistad Task Force

Goal 1: Reduce Air Pollution

1. Establish and strengthen vehicle emissions programs in Acuña, Piedras Negras and Nava
2. Promote initiatives to develop energy efficiency and reforestation programs in the industrial sector in Acuña and Piedras Negras
3. Promote the implementation of strategies by the SEMARNAT PRO AIRE air quality program in Acuña, Piedras Negras and Nava

Goal 2: Improve Access to Clean and Safe Water

1. Conduct water quality monitoring of tributaries along the Rio Grande in Acuña and Piedras Negras
2. Develop Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) workshops in Acuña and Piedras Negras, replicating the model in Laredo

3. Promote and develop green infrastructure projects and water conservation programs in Acuña and Piedras Negras

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

1. Promote the implementation of integrated solid, household hazardous waste and used electronic programs in Acuña and Piedras Negras
2. Strengthen scrap tire management programs and promote scrap tire reuse for projects in Acuña and Piedras Negras
3. Promote initiatives to develop plastic bag reduction programs in Acuña and Piedras Negras

Goal 4: Enhance Joint Preparedness for Environmental Response

1. Update the directory of emergency response personnel in the Acuña-Del Rio and Eagle Pass-Piedras Negras and develop a knowledge exchange workshop in Eagle Pass
2. Coordinate two emergency response tabletop exercises and joint response drills between Eagle Pass and Piedras Negras and Del Rio and Acuña

Promote Cross-Cutting Efforts Related to Environmental Health & Environmental Education

1. Develop awareness programs on vector borne illnesses such as Zika and Dengue virus in Acuña and Piedras Negras
2. Launch a binational environmental education program on recycling, energy efficiency and water conservation in Eagle Pass and Piedras Negras using social and broadcast media

GOAL # 1: Reduce Air Pollution

Project N°	Description of Project	Collaborating Organizations	Anticipated Cost	Source(s) of Funding	Contact(s)	Objective 2017-2018	Status Complete Ongoing; New for 2017	Progress Towards Target
1.5.01	**Coahuila Climate Action Plan** Initiate Phase 2 of the State Climate Action Plan (PEAC, in Spanish) for Coahuila: quantification of mitigation policies selected in Phase 1.	Coahuila State Government and BECC	$275,000	BECC	Tomás Balarezo, BECC, tbalarezo@cocef.org	Organize meetings with the technical work groups, the advisory group, and the Climate Change Committee.		The project is currently in the Microeconomic and Public Policy Phase for Coahuila. Meetings have been held with the Technical Working Groups, the Advisory Group, and the Climate Change Committee. The Action Plan is ready and is in the process of being published in the Official Journal of the State.
1.5.02		SEMA (Coahuila),	12 Million	SEMARNAT	Santiago Barrios,	Initiate the project. It is		The project has been authorized and is in the review phase prior to

	Air Quality Network in Coahuila Establish an air quality monitoring network in the areas of Piedras Negras-Nava, Acuña, Sabinas, and Saltillo, Coahuila.	Municipalities of Piedras Negras, Acuña, Nava, Sabinas, Saltillo	Pesos		SEMA/Coahuila, santiago.barrios@sema.gob.mx	currently in the review phase prior to bidding.		bidding. Three air monitoring stations were installed and have been operating for a year.

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

Project N°	Description of Project	Collaborating Organizations	Anticipated Cost	Source(s) of funding	Points of Contact(s)	Objective 2017-2018	Status Complete Ongoing; New for 2017	Progress Towards Target
	Objective 1: By 2020, increase local and state-level knowledge and experience in the area of sustainable material management practices.							
*3.1.03	**Construction of and Equipment for Type A Landfill in the Coal Deposit Region**	SEMA, SEMARNAT, Municipalities of Múzquiz and Sabinas	25 Millones Pesos	SEMARNAT PEF 2015	Oscar Flores, SEMA, oscar.flores@sema.gob.mx 01152844 698-1091 ext. 7268	Construction and operation.		Conduct soil studies. Under analysis prior to request for bids. The project is still in progress. The bidding process for the project ended and the technical studies are ready. The construction of the landfill started in September 2017.
*3.1.04	**Construction of and Equipment for a**	SEMA, Municipality of Juárez and Progreso	8 Millones Pesos	PEMEX Hydrocarbon Fund	Oscar Flores, SEMA, oscar.flores	Construction and operation.		Under analysis prior to request for bids. The project is still in progress.

	Regional Landfill in the Municipalities of Juárez and Progreso, Coahuila				@sema.gob.mx 01152844 698-1091 ext.7268			The construction of the landfill was completed. Municipalities will receive the equipment in September 2017.
*3.1.05	**Construction of and Equipment for Two Urban Solid Waste Transfer Stations in the Municipality of Múzquiz, Coahuila**	SEMA, Municipio de Múzquiz	8 Millones Pesos	PEMEX Hydrocarbon Fund	Oscar Flores, SEMA, oscar.flores@sema.gob.mx 01152844 698-1091 ext.7268	Construction and operation.		Under analysis prior to request for bids. The project is still in progress. The transfer stations are currently in the bidding process for funds, and will be installed after the construction of a landfill in the coal region
3.1.06	**RECOLECTRÓN Program** Collection program for used electronics in the municipalities. Inform and educate the population of the benefits of reusing used electronic products.	SEMA, Municipalities of Acuña, Allende, Nava and Sabinas	2 Million Pesos $16,777	SEMA Border 2020	Griselda Salas Alemán, SEMA, griselda.salas@sema.gob.mx Oscar Flores, SEMA, 01152844 698-10-91 ext.7268 oscar.flores@sema.gob.mx	Continue collecting tons of waste. Conduct an assessment as well as training of municipal ecology staff on used electronics and implement actions for adequate disposal.		To date 44.89 tons has been collected. More than 442 tons of used electronics was collected, surpassing the goal of 259 tons that was set by the current six-year administration. The project is in progress.
3.1.07	**Responsible Disposal of Tires**	Municipality of Acuña, Coahuila	$12,000	Municipio de Acuña, Coahuila	Biól. Carlos Alejandro Flores Diego,	Continue collecting tons of waste.		A regulatory framework regulates management and a program is underway for storage, but infrastructure is required for final disposal. . The municipio created a

	Operation of a scrap tire disposal center. Using three slices, reduce the volume and risk of standing water, a breeding ground for mosquitoes (vectors for dengue fever).				Director of Ecology, floresdiegocarlos@yahoo.com.mx 01152877773-1458			certification program for auto body shops and generators that manage scrap tires, which requires these establishments to cut the tires in three pieces to properly dispose them, and maintain their operating license. To date more than 58,000 tires were collected, mitigating about 95% of vectors. The project is in progress.
3.1.08	**Disposal of Used Electronic and Hazardous Waste** Create a storage center for the special management of waste, in which small generators can adequately dispose of items according to norms.	Municipality of Acuña, Coahuila	$12,500	Municipality of Acuña, Coahuila	Biól. Carlos Alejandro Flores Diego, Director de Ecología, floresdiegocarlos@yahoo.com.mx 01152877773-1458	Continue collecting and disposing of electronic and hazardous waste.		The regulatory framework was approved by the city council as well as changes to municipal environmental regulations regarding an approval for an operating license for six months and certification of training workshops. . To date 29 tons of waste have been collected. The program is carried out in coordination with SEMA. The municipio made an agreement with Promotora Ambiental (PASA)—a waste services provider-- to pick up hazardous and electronic waste from generators in the community. PASA ships the waste to a storage facility in Piedras Negras and to a refinery for final disposal.
3.1.10	**Electronic Waste Recycling**	Grupo Ecológico Green Tec-Osos del Instituto	$36,054	Border 2020	Ing. Víctor Ibarra, Instituto Tecnológico	Conduct workshops and campaigns at schools and public events		Public events on used electronics were conducted in Piedras Negras, resulting in the collection of more than 15 tons in the collection

	Develop an educational campaign aimed at reducing used electronics by creating an integrated electronic waste recycling program and promoting sustainable practices.	Tecnológico de Piedras Negras			de Piedras Negras, ing_victor_m@prodigy.net.mx 01152878135-0185	on used electronics.		centers that were installed by the municipio. The Technological Institute of Piedras Negras organized workshops and awareness campaigns on used electronics in more than 16 schools in Piedras Negras and Eagle Pass, training more than 103,500 residents on the proper management of used electronics, which resulted in the collection of more than 61 tons. The project ended in June.

*Projects that are not in the border area