

2002 Recommendations at a Glance

WATER RESOURCES

- **Watersheds** - Foster U.S.-Mexico cooperation on shared rivers and other surface waters, using a watershed approach. Place emphasis on sustainable management, more efficient use of water, conservation, innovative technology, and ecosystem needs.
- **Groundwater** - Initiate a border-wide groundwater assessment program to systematically analyze priority trans-boundary aquifers. Use this scientific foundation as a springboard for addressing complicated policy issues such as groundwater rights, protection, and competing uses.
- **Education, Research** - Increase public education to enable border-region residents to actively engage in the protection of their water supplies. Bolster binational research efforts by sharing U.S. technical knowledge and resources with Mexican water agencies and universities to develop comparable data sets that are readily available.

POWER PLANTS

- **Airsheds** - Pursue airshed-based emissions caps that address power plants and other pollutant sources affecting the border. Build on airshed discussions initiated by local partnerships, the U.S.-Mexico Binational Commission (BNC), and the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC).
- **Public Involvement** - Increase public awareness of power plants' environmental and human health effects as well as their economic effects. Publicize emissions data, conduct trans-boundary environmental impact statements, and move discussions forward to harmonize different emissions standards, involving the public at each step.
- **Alternatives** - Intensify focus on other solutions besides power plants to meet energy supply needs. Promote wind and solar options; support dry cooling and emission-reducing technologies where appropriate; increase energy efficiency and conservation; and consider market-based incentives, including emissions trading.

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2002 Recommendations at a Glance *(continued)*

HUMAN HEALTH

- **Education** - Harness a variety of communications tools to increase public education about the links between the state of environmental infrastructure and the state of human health in the border region.
- **Data Gaps** - Fill data gaps in existing databases containing statistics on health issues in border communities on both sides of the border. Make emissions inventories more robust, and link exposure data to health data.
- **Infrastructure** - Step up the pace for improving the environmental infrastructure in the region, especially for air, water and solid waste, in the certainty that improvements in human health will result.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION

- **Coalitions** - Assign top priority to natural resources conservation initiatives that bring together broad coalitions of consumers including ranchers, farmers, environmental groups, and other types of interest groups.
 - **Multidisciplinary Approach** - Foster a greater multidisciplinary approach to natural resources conservation policy, recognizing that federal policies on immigration, homeland security, and other issues may greatly complicate conservation work – especially on tribal lands.
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