



JOINT PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (JPAC) 2021 ANNUAL PLAN OF ACTIVITIES

CONTEXT

The Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) is one of three constituent bodies of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), along with the Council and the Secretariat. JPAC is composed of nine volunteer citizens, three from each country, appointed by their respective governments.

IN ACCORDANCE with Article 6(6) of the Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (ECA) among the federal governments of Canada, the United Mexican States, and the United States of America, which states that the “Joint Public Advisory Committee shall, in consultation with the Council, develop an annual plan of activities,” this annual plan is developed, taking into account the six pillars in the [CEC’s Strategic Plan 2021-2025](#) and also informed by the CEC Operational Plan.

JPAC PRIORITY TOPICS

The CEC’s Strategic Plan 2021-2025, the Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (ECA), and Chapter 24 of the United States, Mexico, Canada Agreement (USMCA, also known as CUSMA and T-Mex), establish broad areas of cooperation for the North American region. Based on these, and with equity and environmental justice as cross-cutting themes for all topics, JPAC will focus its efforts in **2021** on the following:

Climate Change

- Shared interests among the three North American countries on climate change mitigation and adaptation, including synergies to advance the region’s position as a world leader on these issues.
- GHG emissions reduction pathways of trilateral interest and impact.
- Adaptation strategies and building resilience capacity for remote, coastal and Indigenous communities.
- Best practices and lessons learned on green infrastructure and nature-based solutions for sustainable cities, and related considerations of climate mitigation/adaptation.
- Conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of coastal, island, and marine ecosystems, recognizing their role as nature-based solutions beneficial to fisheries, tourism and other economic sectors.

Indigenous Perspectives and integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) into the work of the CEC

- Respectful relationships with Indigenous communities, including the integration of TEK into environmental management, based on free, prior, informed, and culturally appropriate consent.
- Closer collaboration between JPAC and the TEK Expert Group (TEKEG).

Water

- State of the art sustainable water practices in key economic sectors (e.g., agriculture, municipal, forestry, industry, mining, energy), including transboundary environmental impacts.
- Water efficiency best practices and standards in the public and private sectors, including solid waste and wastewater-recycling infrastructure and water treatment.
- Sustainable water management practices and tools for human and ecosystem resilience (mitigation and adaptation) in response to climate change.

Trade and Environment

- Opportunities to advance environmental progress in new areas, such as hydrogen fuel production to reduce the carbon burden and emissions of global shipping, as well as a stronger focus on the economy and trade, focusing on the trade routes of the future.
- Opportunities for collaboration on the management of sustainable materials to address common marine litter and plastics issues.
- Environmentally sound management of different waste streams, including improvements to recycling infrastructure.
- Conservation and sustainable management of forests, including recognition of their role as nature-based solutions, and the environmental and economic benefits derived from trade in products from sustainably managed forests.
- Knowledge-sharing, including citizen science, to enhance the adaptive capacity and resilience of the food production sectors.
- Opportunities to make trade in North America greener and more inclusive, by creating the conditions and incentives for greater environmental collaboration and protection among relevant stakeholders.

PROPOSED CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

DATE	ACTIVITY	ADDITION INFO
May 27-June 17	JPAC-led public consultation on the kick-off projects under the 2021 Operational Plan and on potential future areas of work for the CEC	Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather input/comments from stakeholders in the region, aimed at strengthening the implementation of the five

		<p>proposed kick-off projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify potential collaborators and partners to engage during project implementation. • Gather feedback on key environmental topics of concern and/or priorities for North American communities, in line with the CEC’s Strategic Plan.
September 9-10	JPAC Public Forum (in-person/hybrid) in the margins of the Council Session, North Carolina, United States (<i>exact theme to be confirmed</i>)	Climate Change: One of the topics under this priority could be the theme for the public forum, and the forum would also include a specific focus on environmental justice/equity.
Mid-October	JPAC webinar(s) on a topic related to the post-Covid recovery and/or another topic to be defined by JPAC	Water: One of the topics under this priority could be a possible theme for the webinar.
Late November – Early December	JPAC in-person meeting in one of the three countries / topic TBC	Trade and Environment: One of the topics under this priority would be the theme for the last meeting (post-pandemic economic recovery, green jobs, promoting circular economy, green trade).