

JOINT PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (JPAC) 2022 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 the CEC cooperative work program.

JPAC 2022 PRIORITIES

JPAC is committed to supporting the CEC’s mission of facilitating effective cooperation and public participation to conserve, protect and enhance the North American environment. As such, JPAC will continue to support the CEC’s efforts to have a diversity of public participation in its various activities and cooperative work program, especially through the organization of events and public consultations, among others. The CEC’s Strategic Plan 2021–2025, the Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (ECA), and Chapter 24 of the United States, Mexico, Canada Agreement establish broad areas of cooperation in the North American region. Based on these, and with Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and Indigenous perspectives as cross-cutting themes, JPAC will focus its efforts in **2022** on the following:

Increased collaboration with the other CEC constituent bodies and the TEK Expert Group (TEKEG)

- Increase dialogue with the Council and Alternate Representatives from Canada, Mexico and the United States, through informal meetings and communications.
- Continue to seek opportunities to increase collaboration with the TEKEG through videoconferences, meetings and joint events.
- Continue to support the TEKEG and the CEC’s efforts to increase the integration of TEK and Indigenous perspectives in CEC programs and activities.
- Continue to support the CEC and build upon recent successes to increase public participation and the dissemination of the work of JPAC and the CEC, including enhanced collaboration with relevant stakeholders, such as academia, research centers, nongovernmental organizations, etc.

- Continue to support the Parties' efforts in ensuring that CEC officials, JPAC members and other experts are granted comparable privileges and immunities across the three countries.
- Continue to support the CEC's efforts to increase the involvement of youth in CEC programs and activities.

Climate Change

- Continue to build upon efforts to increase knowledge sharing, public dialogue, and public engagement in North America through JPAC events by addressing topics such as:
 - approaches for a North American natural carbon inventory, including terrestrial, marine, and living biomass;
 - reconciling Indigenous protection of natural carbon reserves;
 - GHG emissions reduction pathways of trilateral interest and impact (e.g., cross-boundaries transmission lines, marine industry, transboundary emissions, tariffs, and social costs);
 - climate change mitigation and adaptation, including synergies to advance the region's position as a world leader on these issues.

Water

- Build upon the success of the JPAC 2021 transboundary water webinar to increase knowledge-sharing and public dialogue through JPAC events by addressing water-related topics such as:
 - 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.
- Support the TEKEG, as appropriate, in the implementation of the project *Indigenous approaches to freshwater management in North America*.

Trade and Environment

- Organize a virtual round table to identify opportunities:
 - to advance environmental progress in new areas, such as green energy and hydrogen fuel production to support transition toward a more sustainable society;
 - to make trade in North America greener and more inclusive, by supporting producers of sustainable goods and creating the conditions and incentives for greater environmental collaboration and protection across the three countries;
 - to promote sustainable production in different sectors (e.g., agriculture).

Throughout all activities, JPAC will seek to integrate Indigenous perspectives into its work and events, while being respectful of relationships with Indigenous communities. This will include the integration of TEK, when appropriate, based on free, prior, informed, and culturally appropriate consent.

Perform such other functions as the Council may direct

- In accordance with Article 6(4) of the Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (ECA), JPAC may pursue additional activities during the calendar year.

PROPOSED CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

DATE	ACTIVITY	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
14 March–4 April 2022	Public Consultation on the Supply Chain Transparency project description	
April 2022	Meeting with the CEC Secretariat Communications Team	During monthly JPAC videoconference call
April 2022	Joint JPAC/TEKEG videoconference	
29 April–1 May 2022	Pre-Council Session workshop in Tlalmanalco, Mexico with youth and Indigenous communities	In addition to the participation of a select group of Mexican stakeholders, this event will include the participation of JPAC members, TEK Expert Group representatives and Secretariat staff
Spring/summer 2022	Meeting with Catherine Stewart, Canada’s Alternate Representative	
13 July 2022	Joint JPAC/TEKEG in-person meeting in the margins of the JPAC Public Forum and Council Session, Merida, Mexico	
14–15 July 2022	JPAC Public Forum (hybrid) on the margins of the Council Session, Merida, Mexico	Theme from Council: Community-led environmental education for sustainable development (<i>“Integración de la educación ambiental popular para el desarrollo sustentable”</i>)
Fall 2022	JPAC Regular Session 22-02 in Canada (<i>Exact theme TBD</i>)	
Fall/Winter 2022	Post-Council Session workshop with youth and Indigenous communities	Follow-up to the Tlalmanalco event

	<i>(virtual) (TBC)</i>	
Fall/Winter 2022	1 virtual round table on trade and environment	
Winter 2022	Joint JPAC/TEKEG videoconference	