



**Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) Activity Report
to the Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)
since September 2016**

This table is intended to provide Council with an overview of JPAC activities since the September 2016 Regular Session of Council to assist discussions during the annual joint Council/JPAC sessions in 2017.

Please note that JPAC activities have been undertaken in accordance with Article 16(4) of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC), which states that JPAC “may provide advice to Council on any matter within the scope of this agreement [...] and on the implementation and further elaboration of this agreement, and may perform such other functions as the Council may direct”; and with Article 16(5), which provides that JPAC “may provide relevant technical, scientific or other information to the Secretariat, including for purposes of developing a factual record under Article 15. The Secretariat shall forward to the Council copies of any such information.”

Please note the internal Council policy for producing responses to JPAC advice states that a response should be sent out **“within eight weeks of receiving the advice.”**

JPAC Activity and Context	Description	Status or Result
SEPTEMBER 2016		
Joint Public Advisory Committee Regular Session 16-01 “Biodiversity and Climate Change” 8-9 September 2016 Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico	The public forum brought together regional leaders, nongovernmental organizations, academic experts and members of the public; to discuss of the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, from an environmental and economic perspective. In particular, participants addressed how biodiversity contributes to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and also examined emerging research on ecosystem-based adaptation.	As a result of the meeting, the JPAC members agreed to provide the Council with an Advice: Advice to Council No: 16-02 Re: Outputs from the JPAC Workshop in Mérida (September 2016) on “Biodiversity and Climate Change” <i>(Distributed on 13 December 2016)</i>
OCTOBER 2016		
Session 16-03 of the Alternate Representatives 28 October 2016 Ottawa, Ontario, Canada	The JPAC Chair, Lindsay Brumwell, participated in the face-to-face meeting of the Alternate Representatives, which had as a main objective to discuss the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process for developing the 2017-2018 Operational Plan • Framework for public engagement in CEC activities • 2017 CEC Council Session 	The JPAC participation included a proposal on how the JPAC can help engage the public in a meaningful way, including in the development of the 2017-2018 OP.
NOVEMBER 2016		
Joint Public Advisory Committee Regular Session	This public forum brought together a variety of stakeholders, to examine the links between innovation in clean energy and energy efficiency, in the context of addressing climate change and advancing clean and secure	As a result of the meeting, the JPAC members agreed to provide the Council with an Advice:

<p>16-02 “Advancing Sustainable Clean Energy Cooperation in North America” 7 November 2016 Ottawa, Ontario, Canada</p>	<p>power.</p> <p>More specifically, participants discussed viable clean energy sources and their current use in North America, the role of energy efficiency in achieving emission reductions while maintaining a reliable energy supply, as well as emerging policy considerations regarding new energy technologies.</p>	<p>Advice to Council No: 17-01 Re: Outputs from JPAC Public Forum in Ottawa (November 2016) on “Advancing Sustainable Clean Energy Cooperation in North America” <i>(Distributed on 27 April 2017)</i></p>
<p>US NAC & GAC Meeting Conference Call 16 November 2016</p>	<p>The JPAC Chair, Lindsay Brumwell, provided a report on JPAC activities since the last US NAC and GAC meeting, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the Alt Reps meeting held in Cuernavaca, Mexico on April 27-28 and in Ottawa on October 28 • Joint JPAC-TEK Advice to Council 16-01 and Council Responses to JPAC Advices • JPAC Regular Sessions 16-01 (Merida), 16-02 (Ottawa) and 16-03 (Long Beach) • Election of the JPAC Chair 2017 (United States) 	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p>
<p>DECEMBER 2016</p>		
<p>Joint Public Advisory Committee Regular Session 16-03 “Greening Freight Operations Across North America” 12 December 2016 Long Beach, California, United States</p>	<p>The public session looked at how to facilitate continental trade and economic growth while lowering freight-related GHG emissions over the long-term.</p> <p>In particular, participants exchanged ideas on current initiatives for reducing the emissions from freight transportation in North America, on work done by port authorities to green their operations and achieve climate commitments, and at existing and planned initiatives to address shipping emissions in the three countries.</p>	<p>The meeting was organized in collaboration with the CEC Secretariat program on Environmental Quality and Climate Change. to inform future areas of work.</p> <p>In the margins of the public event, the JPAC members met to plan their 2017 activities and decided that “Trade and Environment” would be the overarching theme for the upcoming year.</p>

<p>Advice to Council No: 16-02 Re: Outputs from the JPAC Workshop in Mérida (September 2016) on “Biodiversity and Climate Change” <i>(Distributed on 13 December 2016)</i></p>	<p>JPAC Advice to Council 16-02 outlined a series of observations and recommendations based on input provided by invited experts and participants who attended the meeting in Mérida. These included, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JPAC believes that the Parties should strengthen their mutual efforts to research and understand the reciprocal relationship of climate and biodiversity, and to communicate these inter-related risks and concerns, with an emphasis on the human health and economic benefits from addressing climate change and biodiversity loss. • JPAC urges the Council to assure the continued vitality of CEC programs by directing the Secretariat to continue and expand its work on biodiversity and climate change. • JPAC recognizes that collaborative governance takes time, trust, and interdependence. However, the work of addressing trade and environmental issues in the North American context has never been undertaken because it is easy, but rather because it is vital to the health and wellbeing of our peoples and the security of our North American economy. 	<p><i>No response to date</i></p>
JANUARY 2017		
<p>JPAC Chair visit to CEC Secretariat 16 January 2017 Montreal, Quebec, Canada</p>	<p>Visit of the newly elected 2017 JPAC Chair to the CEC Secretariat in Montreal, to meet with staff and discuss CEC’s upcoming activities.</p>	<p>As the new JPAC Chair for 2017, Eric Dannenmaier visited the CEC Secretariat to share his vision for his tenure, and to discuss how the JPAC can participate more actively in the Secretariat’s activities, as well as increase public engagement.</p>
FEBRUARY 2017		
<p>JPAC Member participation in Secretariat’s activities 28 February–2 March 2017 Toronto, Ontario, Canada</p>	<p>JPAC member, Gustavo Alanís-Ortega, attended the “North American Workshop on Food Waste Reduction and Recovery,” in representation of the Chair.</p>	<p>The feedback gathered during the workshop was reported back to the JPAC members during a working meeting that was held in the margins of their Regular Session (17-01) on “Reducing and Managing Food and Organic Waste Streams in North America,” that was held in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas. Several recommendations were incorporated in the JPAC Advice to Council.</p>

MARCH 2017		
<p>GSC meeting with JPAC and TEK OP 2017-2018 sub-committees</p> <p>22 March 2017 Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, Mexico</p>	<p>JPAC and TEK subcommittee representatives, met with the GSC to discuss the OP 2017-2018 project proposals that were cleared by the Alt Reps for public consultation.</p> <p>The meeting served as an opportunity for the JPAC members to provide input on the proposals and share the results of the public consultation. The representatives from the TEK Roster were also invited to identify additional opportunities to apply TEK to the project proposals.</p>	<p>The GSC reviewed comments received from the JPAC and TEK OP subcommittee members. Their feedback was passed on to the project proponents, in order to further develop the project descriptions.</p>
<p>Joint Public Advisory Committee Regular Session 17-01 “Reducing and Managing Food and Organic Waste Streams in North America” 23 March 2017 Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, Mexico</p>	<p>The public forum brought together citizens, experts from academia, government, and the private sector, to discuss issues, challenges and opportunities for reducing, recovering, diverting and processing food and organic waste.</p> <p>In particular, participants discussed best practices and emerging technologies for diverting and processing organic waste, reduction and recovery programs for food waste, as well as legal and institutional barriers to reducing waste from formal and informal human settlements.</p>	<p>As a result of the meeting, the JPAC members agreed to provide the Council with an Advice:</p> <p>Advice to Council No: 17-02 Re: Outputs from JPAC Public Forum in Tuxtla Gutiérrez (March 2017) on “Reducing and Managing Food and Organic Waste Streams: Challenges and Opportunities in North America” <i>(Distributed on 29 May 2017)</i></p>
<p>US NAC & GAC Meeting Conference Call 28 March 2017</p>	<p>JPAC Chair, Eric Dannenmaier, provided a report on JPAC activities since the last US NAC and GAC meeting, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JPAC Regular Sessions 16-03 (Long Beach) and 17-01 (Tuxtla Gutiérrez) • JPAC-led public consultation on the 17-18 OP • Appointment of two new Canadian Members 	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p>

APRIL 2017		
<p>Advice to Council No: 17-01 Re: Outputs from JPAC Public Forum in Ottawa (November 2016) on “Advancing Sustainable Clean Energy Cooperation in North America” <i>(Distributed on 27 April 2017)</i></p>	<p>JPAC Advice to Council 17-01 outlined a series of observations and recommendations based on input provided by invited experts and participants who attended the meeting in Ottawa, Ontario. These included, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to promote energy independence for North America • Develop a common methodology to track progress in achieving energy goals across multiple jurisdictions • Consider the importance of hydropower and nuclear generation in providing relatively clean baseload energy and achieving energy and climate change goals • Promoting energy efficiency and renewables in vulnerable, rural, remote communities • Extend the CEC’s North American Energy Management Project 	<p><i>No response to date</i></p>
MAY 2017		
<p>CEC Youth Innovation Challenge, evaluation by JPAC Members 2-4 May 2017</p>	<p>A JPAC member from each country participated in the evaluation process for the CEC Youth Innovation Challenge.</p>	<p>A number of semi-finalists were selected to move forward to the next evaluation phase.</p>
<p>Session 17-01 of the Alternate Representatives 3 May 2017 Montreal, Quebec, Canada</p>	<p>The JPAC Chair, Eric Dannenmaier, participated in the face-to-face meeting of the Alternate Representatives, which had as a main objective to discuss the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEC Operational Plan 2017-2018 • 2017 Council Session • Mandate of the Roster of Experts on Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) • NAPECA 2017-2018 • CEC Operational Plan 2015-2016 	<p>The JPAC Chair shared the draft program for the upcoming JPAC meeting on 27 June, and invited comments from the Parties. He also agreed to make the in-camera session with the Council more interactive, and to put forward a proposal that would be shared prior to the meeting.</p>
<p>Advice to Council 17-02 Re: Outputs from JPAC Public Forum in Tuxtla Gutiérrez (March 2017) on “Reducing and Managing Food and Organic Waste</p>	<p>JPAC Advice to Council 17-02 outlined a series of observations and recommendations based on input provided by invited experts and participants who attended the meeting in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas. These included, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and facilitate innovations in food waste reduction and organic waste diversion in North America. 	<p><i>No response to date</i></p>

<p>Streams in North America” <i>(Distributed on 29 May 2017)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In order to properly address food loss and waste, consider the importance of assessing the whole food value chain: producers, distributors, retailers, consumers, and waste processors.• Develop a North American standard terminology regarding food products labeling.• Continue work on assessing the interconnections between food production and biodiversity in North America.• Promote North American leadership and coordination to address food loss and waste.	
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