



# Tracking pollutant releases and transfers in North America

2013–2014 Activity

## North American Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR)

The North American Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) involves the compilation, analysis, and dissemination of information on the sources, amounts, and handling of toxic substances released or transferred by industrial facilities in North America, based on data reported to the pollutant release and transfer register of each country. The main products of this activity are Taking Stock Online, a website featuring information and a searchable database, and the *Taking Stock* report.

## Key Accomplishments

- The CEC's *Taking Stock Online* website, which provides increased visibility and awareness of North American industrial pollution data and important contextual information for interpreting the data, is more frequently accessed and cited by a variety of stakeholders in the three countries
- The CEC has continued to act as a catalyst for North American PRTR cooperation and information exchanges, aiming to improve PRTR data comparability and provide a more complete picture of North American industrial pollution
- In October 2014, the CEC published the fourteenth edition of the *Taking Stock* report, which explored changes in PRTR reporting from 2005 through 2010, including a focus on releases from the pulp and paper sector, and analyses of releases of substances of special concern for human health and the environment
- The CEC published an updated *Action Plan to Enhance the Comparability of PRTRs in North America*, which contains recommendations for improving the quality and comparability of data across the region
- Outreach efforts included public meetings to share knowledge and ideas with a wide range of stakeholders of the North American PRTR activity (including governments, industry, nongovernmental organizations, academia, and citizens); webinars/tutorials on using *Taking Stock Online*; and collaboration with industry on existing and potential pollution prevention and sustainability efforts

## Products

- Report: *Taking Stock - North American Pollutant Releases and Transfers, vol. 14: Exploring Changes in PRTR Reporting, 2005–2010*
- *Taking Stock Online*: features customized, searchable access to the North American PRTR database, with data from all three countries for the years 2005 through 2012
- Public meeting held in November 2014 in Mexico City, on the use of PRTR data to support environmental sustainability in the automotive manufacturing sector and supply chain
- Webinar on how to use *Taking Stock Online*: <[www.youtube.com/user/CECweb](http://www.youtube.com/user/CECweb)>

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## Partners, Stakeholders and Beneficiaries

Partners include PRTR officials from Canada, Mexico and the United States. Stakeholders and beneficiaries include representatives of communities, industry, academia, governments and nongovernmental organizations concerned with North American environmental pollution.

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### About the CEC

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) was established by the governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States through the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, the environmental side agreement to NAFTA. An intergovernmental organization, the CEC is composed of a Council of cabinet-level environmental officials from the three countries, a Joint Public Advisory Committee and a Secretariat that provides operational support for cooperative work between the three countries. The organization brings together citizens and experts from governments, nongovernmental organizations, scientists, researchers and businesses to seek solutions to protect North America's shared environment while supporting sustainable economic development.

