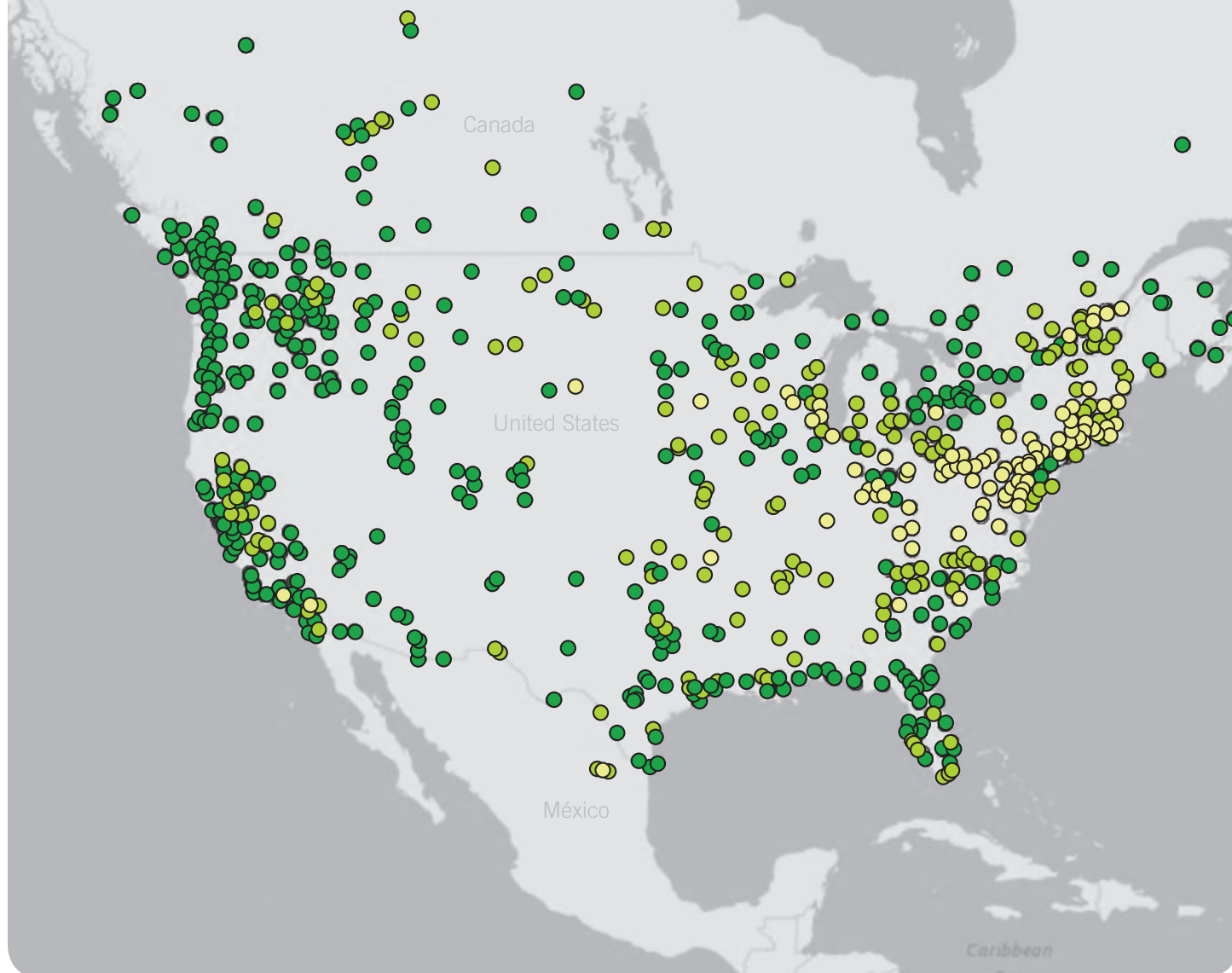


# Capacity for sharing air quality data expanded through the AirNow-International system



2013–2014 Project

## North American AirNow-International Project

As part of the trilateral effort to promote healthy communities, this work supported and improved the management and sharing of ambient air quality data, and public access to it, through AirNow-International. In particular, it supported Mexico's efforts to connect its diverse air quality monitoring systems with the AirNow system used by Canada and the United States. Data can now be accessed on air quality conditions for locations across the three countries.

## Key Accomplishments

- Air quality monitoring networks in five major metropolitan areas (including Mexico City), accounting for half the urban population Mexico, now in the AirNow-International (AirNow-I) community
- Citizens from Canada, Mexico and the United States now able to access comparable information on air quality conditions from selected cities across North America
- Improved air quality data processing, leading to greater efficiency and effectiveness of air quality management decisions using the AirNow-I system (for instance, Monterrey data processing times reduced by 80%)
- Experts from Canada and the United States provided input on the proposal for a national air quality index for Mexico, which would inform the public about air quality conditions

## Products

- The AirNow-I system now operational for use by and sharing information with the air quality monitoring networks of Monterrey, Nuevo León; Toluca, Estado de México; Mexico City; Guadalajara, Jalisco; and Guanajuato, Guanajuato

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## Partners, Stakeholders and Beneficiaries

Partners include the US Environmental Protection Agency, *Instituto Nacional de Ecología y Cambio Climático*, Environment Canada, *Secretaría de Desarrollo Sustentable del Estado de Nuevo León*; *Secretaría del Medio Ambiente*, *Gobierno del Distrito Federal de México*; *Secretaría del Medio Ambiente*, *Gobierno del Estado de México*; *Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo Territorial*, *Estado de Jalisco*; and *Instituto de Ecología del Estado de Guanajuato*.

Stakeholders and beneficiaries include federal, state and local air quality management agencies throughout North America; the general public, through accessibility to real-time information supporting individual health-based decisions; academic institutions, through access to information supporting air quality research; industry and NGOs, through information to support advocacy and inform constituencies; and the media, through access to reliable air quality information to inform the public.

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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.

