

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



**Solicitation No. SOLTA15-010**

**JUNE 19, 2015**

**REGION 6**

**BORDER 2020 PROGRAM**

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## 1.0 OVERVIEW

June 19, 2015

The Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC), in coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), through this Request for Proposals (RFP), is requesting proposals from eligible applicants (Section 3.0) for projects addressing the “Project Types” being solicited to achieve the Goals and Objectives of the U.S.-Mexico Border 2020 Program (Border 2020 Program) in the New Mexico-Texas-Chihuahua and Texas-Coahuila-Nuevo Leon-Tamaulipas border regions for 2015–2017. The border region as defined herein is that area within 100 kilometers (approximately 62 miles) of either side of the U.S.-Mexico border. Eligible applicants must submit project proposals by **August 3, 2015** directly to the BECC as specified in Section 5.0 of this RFP. **In general, BECC anticipates that most of the funded projects will average approximately \$50,000.** The complete list of the Project Types can be found in Appendix 2.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

The Border 2020 Program is a bi-national collaborative effort whose mission is to protect human health and the environment in the U.S.-Mexico border region. The Border 2020 Program continues to target and focus on underserved communities that may be disproportionately impacted by environmental risks. BECC is an international organization established for the purpose of preserving, protecting, and enhancing the environment in the U.S. – Mexico border region. The BECC and the EPA have established a partnership wherein the BECC will administer the RFP, oversee the receipt and review of proposals, coordinate project selection, monitor project performance, and manage the EPA Border 2020 Program funds. The EPA will provide the funds selected projects for the BECC to award, administer, and manage the implementation of projects in the New Mexico-Texas-Chihuahua and Texas-Coahuila-Nuevo Leon-Tamaulipas regions.

To review background information and Goals and Objectives of the Border 2020 Program refer to the Program web page: <http://www2.epa.gov/border2020>. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the Border 2020 New Mexico-Texas-Chihuahua and Texas-Coahuila-Nuevo Leon-Tamaulipas Regional Workgroup Action Plans to learn about ongoing efforts that may compliment new efforts

## 3.0 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The selection process includes a preliminary assessment of the applicant’s fulfillment of the eligibility criteria as required by this RFP and specified below. **Project proposal applicants must meet the following threshold eligibility criteria to be considered:**

- A. The following groups may apply for funding:
- U.S. and Mexican non-governmental organizations;
  - U.S. and Mexican local and state governmental agencies;
  - Industry associations, and universities;
  - U.S. tribes; and
  - Mexican indigenous communities

\*For-profit entities will not be considered for funding.

- B. The Border Program's contribution will be no more than \$100,000 per eligible project. Proposals that request more than \$100,000 will not be considered for funding (in general, the average project funding is expected to be \$50,000).
- C. To be considered, the proposal should address fulfillment of one of the "Project Types" described in **Appendix 2**;
- D. A proposed project requiring the purchase of equipment or construction of facilities, must comply with Section **6.2.C.7** and **6.2.C.8**, or it will not be considered.
  - Proposals will not be accepted if the main focus of the proposed project is construction or rehabilitation.
- E. Projects must be completed within 18 months or less of signature of the Technical Assistance Agreement (TAA) or they will not be considered. (The TAA is the contractual document that will formalize the agreement between the Project Sponsor and BECC for project funding.)
- F. If the applicant is committing funds in its proposal (s), they must furnish Letter/s of Acknowledgement from any entity that is contributing additional leveraged resources to the proposed project. **Any leveraged resources noted in proposals that are not accompanied by a Letter of Acknowledgement and/or Commitment of funds, will not be considered.**
  - The letter should mention the quantity or type of monetary and/or in-kind resources that will be provided for the proposed project.
  - All letters of acknowledgement must be submitted **electronically with the application** (in PDF format) with a signature from the entity providing the leveraged support.
- G. Late proposals will not be considered for funding.
- H. Binational partner participation in all project proposals is encouraged.
- I. For those proposals that require a permit to comply with the legal framework, a description must be provided in the proposal and must include the following:
  - Status of the permit
  - Governmental agency involved
  - Process timeframe

#### 4.0 TIMETABLE FOR RFP PROCESS THROUGH PROJECT SELECTION

The RFP opening date is **June 19, 2015**, and interested applicants will be able to access the RFP on the BECC's web page, ([www.becc.org](http://www.becc.org)), on this date.

**In order to receive any updates for this RFP, interested applicants need to confirm their intent to participate by e-mail to the BECC's main point of contact for this RFP Abril Quiroz, Contract Officer at: [aquiroz@cocef.org](mailto:aquiroz@cocef.org)**

#### 4.1 Schedule and Process

<b><u>JUNE 19, 2015</u></b>	The Request for Proposals is issued for the New Mexico-Texas-Chihuahua and Texas-Coahuila-Nuevo Leon-Tamaulipas U.S.-Mexico border region. The BECC will answer any general inquiries on the RFP process from interested applicants.	
<b><u>JUNE-JULY 2015</u></b>  <b>RFP Workshops</b> * * hours and venues to be announced	<b>RFP Workshop in Vinton TX, for the Paso del Norte Region</b>	<b>June 24</b>
	<b>RFP Workshop in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua</b>	<b>June 26</b>
	<b>RFP Workshop in Harlingen, TX, for the Gulf Region</b>	<b>June 26</b>
	<b>RFP Workshop in Presidio, TX, for the Junta de los Rios Region</b>	<b>June 29</b>
	<b>RFP Workshop in Eagle Pass TX, for the Amistad Region</b>	<b>June 30</b>
	<b>RFP Workshop in Piedras Negras, Coahuila</b>	<b>June 30</b>
	<b>RFP Workshop in Laredo TX, for the Falcon Region</b>	<b>July 1</b>
	<b>RFP Workshop in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas</b>	<b>July 13</b>
	<b>RFP Workshop in Reynosa, Tamaulipas</b>	<b>July 14</b>
<b><u>AUGUST 3, 2015 - 5:00 P.M.</u></b> (Juarez, Chihuahua, MX/ El Paso, TX, US time)	Deadline for receipt of project proposals. See Section 6.0 for more detailed instructions to submit the proposals.	
<b><u>SEPT 23, 2015</u></b>	Notification to applicants of proposal selection results. Selected applicants will be expected to submit a work plan within 30 days of notification.	

## 5.0 INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS

The proposals shall address one or more of the listed "Project Types" in **Appendix 2**, for the New Mexico-Texas-Chihuahua and Texas-Coahuila-Nuevo Leon-Tamaulipas border regions. Each proposal should identify the organization that will administer the project.

- 5.1 Proposals must be submitted via email to [aquiroz@cocef.org](mailto:aquiroz@cocef.org) by **August 3, 2015 before 5:00 P.M.** (Juarez, Chihuahua, MX/ El Paso Texas, U.S. time). **No other forms of transmission will be accepted or reviewed. Late proposals will not be accepted.**

Applicants are strongly encouraged to **confirm receipt of their proposal** with BECC's representative mentioned herein.

- 5.2 Inquiries concerning this RFP may only be submitted by e-mail to [aquiroz@cocef.org](mailto:aquiroz@cocef.org) prior to the proposal due date. (see section 4.1). Telephone inquiries will not be accepted.

## 6.0 PROPOSAL PREPARATION PROCEDURES

### 6.1 Proposal Format

- A. All proposals must be written in Microsoft Word (Times New Roman) with a format of at least 1" margins and size 12 font. **Do not submit proposals in PDF format.**

- B. Proposals should not exceed 5 single-sided pages and must include the proposed budget, but not including the standardized cover page and any Letter/s of Acknowledgement as explained in Section 6.2.C. **Proposals in excess of 5 single-sided pages will be disqualified.**
- C. Project proposals shall be in either English or Spanish. Applicants should prepare proposals in their preferred language.

#### 6.2 Submittal of Proposals

- A. Applicants shall submit project proposals with a cover page that clearly identifies the RFP number (**SOLTA15-010**), title of project, and the name and address of the applicant that is submitting the proposal.
- B. When e-mailing proposals for submission, include the following in the Subject Line of your transmission: **"Solicitation No. SOLTA15-010"; title of project and name of applicant.**
- C. In addition to the coversheet, the proposal itself should include the following information:
  - 1. Project title that clearly describes the project. **Title should not exceed 10 words.**
  - 2. Legal name of applicant's organization or institution, name and title of main point of contact, location address, phone number and email address. If applicant is a non-profit organization, include non-profit status (i.e.501(c) (3) and/or CLUNI registration number.
  - 3. Brief statement of how project accomplishes the Project Type(s).
  - 4. Project description should briefly identify the following:
    - Purpose and goal of the project.
    - Benefits to the public or environment (e.g. how will the project improve the environment and/or public health, and how many people are estimated to directly benefit by the project's outputs/outcomes).
    - The outputs and outcomes used to reach measurable environmental results and how those results will be measured (see text box for examples).

## Explanation of Outputs and Outcomes

### Outputs

Measurable environmental activities or efforts produced or provided over the life of the proposed project.

### *Outputs Examples*

- A) *Develop and implement a monitoring system for evaluating coastal water quality.*
- B) *Remove 80,000 scrap tires by September 2014 from the local Centro de Acopio.*

### Outcomes

The results, effects, consequences, or impacts that will occur from the activities and/or efforts outlined in the project proposal.

### *Outcomes Examples:*

- A) *Improves the timeliness and accuracy of beach closures after release events*  
*Reduces by XX% the number of illnesses related to beach water contamination.*
- B) *Reduce the number of mosquito-related illnesses in the scrap tires project area.*

**\*\*\*NOTE: Documentation (i.e. activity reports, before-and-after photos showing progress, etc.) verifying the development and implementation of an Output activity will be required to support the resulting Outcomes purported by project.**

- Long-term self-sustainability (explain how this project will sustain itself after Border 2020 funding runs out).
  - Leveraging of resources (e.g. in-kind resources, committed partnerships, applicant funds, and other source of funds).
  - A project timeline (in table or chart format) outlining how the project is expected to be completed within 18 months or less from signing of the Technical Assistance Agreement (TAA).
  - Qualification/expertise of staff implementing the project.
5. Estimated project budget (e.g., salaries, breakdown of sub-contract cost, travel, equipment, supplies, leveraged resources, etc.). **Budget and cost amounts must be submitted in U.S. dollars** Please provide estimated funds needed (i.e. requested Border 2020 funds, leveraged funds and total amount). Projects that leverage resources will improve their scoring under the evaluation criteria of this solicitation.
  6. In some cases (projects that entail data or samples collection and their analysis), the proposed projects may require a Sampling Analysis Plan (SAP) or a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) that will entail additional time and cost. We recommend that this additional cost be factored into the proposal. A SAP or QAPP may be needed prior to a project start when the project has activities that require data collection or sampling programs. The



SAP or QAPP is required to ensure that the data is collected, preserved, analyzed, and interpreted appropriately:

<http://www.epa.gov/quality/faq6.html>

7. The funds to be allocated under this RFP are not intended for the exclusive purpose of purchasing general equipment, construction of facilities, and/or other rehabilitation of infrastructure. Applicants that require the purchase of equipment as part of the project proposal will need to clearly identify equipment in the proposed budget and explain its purpose and how it will benefit the overall project. In general, equipment purchases should not exceed \$5,000. Projects requesting equipment purchases in excess of \$5,000 must be approved by the BECC. In addition, proposals may not be accepted if the main focus of the proposed project is construction or rehabilitation.
8. Funding of projects that include tasks for construction or rehabilitation of facilities, as referenced herein, will be limited to those activities that serve a technical purpose for overall project implementation. Projects with a minor construction activity may be considered if the principle intent of the project is to resolve an environmental or public health issue.
9. In the interest of dedicating as much resources as possible to the project itself, for the environmental and human health benefits in the communities involved, an indirect cost rate of no more than 10% is highly recommended.

## **7.0 PROPOSAL EVALUATION, SELECTION AND AWARD**

- 7.1 Projects will be reviewed and evaluated based on completeness and how directly they address the evaluation criteria referenced in Appendix 1.
- 7.2 Once projects are selected for funding, the BECC will provide the applicant with instructions on the next steps. In general, after notice of award and submission of an acceptable work plan, the BECC will issue a Technical Assistance Agreement (TAA) for Border 2020 funding. The TAA will also require funding recipients to periodically report project results to the appropriate Border 2020 task force(s). The Task Forces are created to address specific regional and community identified concerns, implement projects, and make recommendations to the Border 2020 entities. Further information on how to report to Task Force will be provided at the time that the TAA is signed.
- 7.3 Project sponsors will be required to provide technical reports and invoices on a quarterly basis.

**APPENDIX 1**  
**PROJECT CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS**

		<b>Max Points</b>	<b>Evaluator's Score</b>
<b>1) Fulfills Border 2020 Priorities (Project Types)</b>		<b>30</b>	
A.	Degree that project proposal addresses one of the identified project types.	<b>20</b>	
A.1	Degree that the proposal addresses the project type description	12	
A.2	Is the proposal addressing two or more project types	5	
A.3	Does the proposal meet one of the goals/objectives for the B2020 Program but does NOT meet one of the project types?	3	
B.	Does the proposal identify the critical federal, state, and local governmental agencies required for the development of the project and their roles for the successful outcome. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting documentation demonstrating coordination with relevant federal, state, or local agencies must be provided.</li> </ul>	<b>10</b>	
<b>2) Project Design and Leveraging</b>		<b>35</b>	
A	Degree that project proposals clearly identifies:	<b>25</b>	
	I. Project team's expertise (5 points)	5	
	II. Project planning and Scope (8 points)	8	
	III. Tasks and/or activities definition (7 points)	7	
	IV. Budget that will achieve indicated objective(s) (5 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on Project Implementation vs. overhead cost</li> </ul>	5	
B	Degree that proposed budget leverages other resources and binational coordination (e.g. matching funds or in-kind services from applicant, other agencies, private sector, and/or Border 2020 partners)	<b>10</b>	
B.1	Does the proposal consider a financial leverage (percentage of the total budget).	8	
B.2	Does the proposal submit at least two support letters from relevant organizations crucial to the successful outcome of the project	2	
<b>3) Programmatic Performance/Results (for C, D and E - YES - maximum possible points, NO - Zero points)</b>		<b>35</b>	
A	Degree that environmental results (outputs - outcomes) are clearly identified, correlated and measurable	15	

B	Degree that the project demonstrates long term self-sustainability. (i.e. The proposal should identify the means to provide continuity after Border 2020 funds have been exhausted)	7	
C	The project's outputs and outcomes are binational in nature.	5	
D	Is project is planned to begin and end within 18 months and in accordance with the proposed schedule; and applicant has organizational experience and plan for the timely and successful achievement of the objectives of the project.	5	
E	Has the applicant's past performance been successfully completed and managing previous assistance agreements. <i>(If the applicant does not have any relevant or available past performance or reporting information, please indicate this in the proposal and you will receive a neutral score for this sub-factor. A neutral score is half of the total points available in a subset of possible points. If you do not provide any response for this item, you may receive a score of 0 for this factor).</i>	3	
	<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>100</b>	

## APPENDIX 2

**This RFP considers only those objectives that have been identified as priorities for the Program.**

### **GOAL 1. - Reduce Air Pollution**

**Objective 1.** - By 2020, in accordance with the NAFTA, promote the reduction of the number of vehicles operating in the border region that do not comply with the respective vehicle emissions' standards and reduce vehicle emissions at ports-of-entry through anti-idling and other feasible reduction measures.

**Project type 1:** Support the development of vehicle emissions programs in collaboration with governmental entities in order to improve compliance, enhance detection and correction of non-compliance vehicles. In addition, capacity building activities to reduce air pollution, in the border cities or at the Ports of Entry (POE), which may include the enforcement of environmental compliance at the time of used vehicle importation. These efforts can be, but not limited to:

- Vehicle inspections and maintenance initiatives.
- The establishment of vehicle emission verification procedures at Ports of Entry or within border communities.
- Training in maintenance efforts to improve vehicle emissions performance to comply with national standards for auto mechanics, drivers or governmental officials responsible for vehicle emission control, in order to implement feasible reduction measures.

**Objective 2.-** By 2020, reduce pollutant emissions in order to approach attainment of respective national ambient air quality standards (i.e. National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) or Norms as they are referred in Mexico) in the El Paso, Texas–Dona Ana County, New Mexico and at State of Chihuahua's border cities' air sheds.

**Project type 1:** Establish joint collaboration strategies with governmental and/or non-governmental regulatory and planning agencies to identify and implement air pollutant reduction strategies to achieve better air quality in the Paso del Norte region (PdN).

Projects should promote, expand, and be consistent with the strategies identified in PROAIRES (Mexico's air shed management plan) or U.S. Clean Air Act (USCAA) State Implementation Plans (SIPs.) Scopes of projects may include:

- Emissions inventories, modeling, and/or strategies to improve air quality for specific pollutants.
- Projects and technologies to reduce air pollutant emissions of priority pollutants for the regional air basin.
- Environmental education and outreach.

Proposals should be supported with well-defined measurable emissions reduction outcomes or other tangible benefits for the improvement of air quality, as well as, coordination mechanisms with responsible authorities of the air management plans in the US or Mexico.

**Objective 3.** – By 2018, maintain effective Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network (AAQMN) and provide real-time access to air quality data produced at New Mexico/Texas /Mexico air sheds.

**Project Type 1:** Initiatives for this objective should aim to ensure the long term sustainability and data quality for the El Paso, Texas – Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua air quality monitoring network. Proposals may include the following:

- Design and develop mechanisms to ensure sustainable operations for Ciudad Juarez’s AAQMN considering the need for laboratory analysis, data validation, Quality Assurance (QA) or Quality Control (QC), consumables, parts and data publication and outreach. Projects should include public dissemination of data utilizing existing National and local air quality information systems (SINAICA in Mexico and LEADS, ZIA and AirNow in Texas, New Mexico and EPA, respectively)

**GOAL 2: Water – Improve Access to Clean and Safe Water**

**Project type 1:** Efforts under this goal should be targeted to capacity building proposals that incorporate replication strategies, on proper maintenance and/or decommissioning of septic tanks, water conservation and pollution prevention in order to better understand, plan and maintain cleanup sources of drinking water on future groundwater supplies in New Mexico-Texas-Chihuahua border, specifically in Dona Ana County, New Mexico (particularly those communities along the corridor between El Paso, Texas and Las Cruces, New Mexico) and Luna County, New Mexico and El Paso County, Texas. These efforts can include:

- Working with state or local agencies to identify the communities using septic tanks.
- Conduct outreach to residents through community workshops, to ensure that residents who are using a septic tank are properly maintaining them and if applicable, have properly decommissioned their septic tanks.
- Address sanitation issues related to decentralized systems (i.e. septic tanks, cesspools) through community workshops and training.
- Bring awareness to the need for removal of dormant or abandoned septic tanks/cesspools

**Objective 2.** - Help drinking water and wastewater service providers in the border region to implement sustainable infrastructure practices to reduce operating costs, improve energy efficiency, use water efficiently and adapt to climate change.

**Project type 1:** Conduct energy and/or water audits on small water drinking systems that serve communities with less than a population of 5,000 users, to identify recommendations on how to improve efficiency and provide cost-savings measures for that system.

The energy and/or water audit should at a minimum address but not be limited to: gather basic system information, determine flows into and out of the distribution system based on estimates or metering, calculate the performance indicators, assess where the water losses appear to be occurring based on available metering and estimates, analyze data gaps, consider options and making economic and benefit comparisons of cost-benefit potential actions and recommend the appropriate interventions needed to improve performance for the system.

**Project type 2:** Outreach and education to improve water quality within the Gulf Task Force Region, on the following topics:

- Outreach to the community on Fats, Oil & Grease Management;
- Outreach to the community on Beach Clean-ups and/or illegal dumping in watersheds;
- Outreach and education with community officials or water districts on Storm water regulations; or regulations on Industrial Pretreatment (40 CFR403 and NOM 001-002).

Education workshops should measure an increase in participants' knowledge on the subject through a measuring tool.

**Objective 3.** - Work bi-nationally to identify and reduce surface water contamination in Trans - boundary water bodies and watersheds.

**Objective 3a.** - Develop a binational watershed protection plan in the Lower Rio Grande below Falcon International Dam. Initial activities could include partnership building, watershed characterization, definition of goals/identification of solutions, determination of waste load, load allocations for each country, and development of an implementation plan.

**Project type 1:** Continue to support activities that meet objective 3a– The proposals should address any water quality sampling and collection, data analysis, modeling and surveys still required by the bi-national workgroup on this project. In addition, the work should also support any additional training or workshops needed, among others, by the Amistad and Falcon Task Force, as well by the Texas-Coahuila-Nuevo Leon –Tamaulipas, Regional Work Group.

### **GOAL 3: Promote Materials Management & Waste Management, & Clean Sites**

Waste management programs and services have not kept pace with border communities' needs and the current waste management structure is not adequate to meet these increasing needs. It is necessary to collaborate at all levels to ensure that limited resources are applied in a way that deters additional threats of land contamination and prevents adding to legacy land contamination in the region. It is necessary to expand knowledge and experience on how to apply a material life cycle approach to existing international policies to implement sustainable materials management programs especially E-waste, used cars, household appliances, tires and improve infrastructure and services to manage discarded materials.

**Objective 1.** - By 2020, increase local and state-level institutional knowledge and experience in the area of sustainable material management practices.

**Project type 1:** Proposals should be aimed to build capacity and establish strategies to improve infrastructure to minimize waste, maximize collections systems, support secondary materials markets, and reduce overall disposal in landfills and open dumps. Proposals may include, but not be limited to:

- Develop comprehensive plans for hazardous and solid waste management, and find economic/productive reuse where possible, including: sludge from wastewater treatment plants; household hazardous waste; used electronics; agricultural pesticides; food scraps, process chemicals from oil and gas exploration, and medical waste.

- Increase environmental education on waste management issues and food recovery programs.
- Assist rural communities to build capacity for identifying relevant waste streams (i.e. used oil, household hazardous, electronics, tires, etc.) and implement comprehensive waste management practices.
- Develop a scrap tire management and disposal plan for long term sustainable solutions of the regional scrap tire problem in rural communities.

All proposals should include an educational component on sustainable materials management, address infrastructure and collection of recyclables and special wastes and propose existing market value options.

The projects should be aligned with municipal or state priorities and demonstrate measurable quantities of special waste reduced, reused, or recycled. The projects should: a) define cleanup activities and demonstrate increased collection or alternative disposal options provided to residents or industries; b) demonstrate an increase in the number of citizens that receive both solid waste disposal and recycling service and; c) include an educational campaign.

**Objective 2.** - Identify priority waste streams and by 2020 develop sustainable material management practices that strengthen their respective market value.

**Project type 1:** Identify priority waste streams in the municipalities from Four States region and develop sustainable waste management programs for those municipalities to include strengthening the market value of the waste.

**Project type 2:** Develop sustainable management practices to address used electronics, household hazardous waste, and tires in the Region which will include an educational component to promote recycling and solid waste practices.

Projects submitted under this objective, should take into consideration the life cycle analysis and the support recycling markets for the materials contained in the waste that would otherwise be lost in landfills. In addition, projects should be aligned with municipal or state priorities and demonstrate measurable quantities of special waste reduced, reused, or recycled. The projects should: a) define cleanup activities and demonstrate increased collection or alternative disposal options provided to residents or industries; b) demonstrate an increase in the number of citizens that receive both solid waste disposal and recycling service and; c) include an educational campaign.

#### **GOAL 4: Enhance Joint Preparedness for Environmental Response**

**Objective 2.** - By 2020, at least eight (8) of the sister city joint contingency plans will be supplemented with preparedness and prevention related activities such as certified training, risk analysis, and/or capacity building

**Project type 1:** Conduct bi-national training to both U.S. and Mexican local emergency responders, on incidents involving Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, or Explosive (CBRNE), and/or all hazards response skills enabling them to respond safely and effectively to these types of incidences.



The proposals should include a letter of support from both U.S. and Mexican sister-cities and tribes involved. Proposals should document close coordination with local agencies. Training topics should include at least two of the previously identified CBRNE topics. Training topics should also be identified as priorities for the local agencies. Generally, the course should present information regarding immediate response actions associated with life safety, preservation of property, and restoration of an incident site, as well as information related to the identification of hazards.

Below are examples of critical skills sets that may be included in the training:

- Identify potential targets for a CBRNE attack.
- Describe the wide-ranging implications of biological agents when used as weapons.
- Describe the threats associated with chemical weapons and the proper response to a chemical hazard incident.
- Identify radiological sources and hazards.
- Operate various chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear dissemination devices.
- Evaluate a hazardous area using various monitoring and sampling tools.
- Perform mass casualty triage and evacuation operations at a CBRNE/all-hazards mass casualty incident.
- Perform mass casualty decontamination operations in response to a CBRNE incident.
- Initiate preliminary stages for implementation of the Incident Command System by emergency responders.

**Project type 2:** Conduct bi-national training to U.S. and Mexican local emergency responders, specifically on HAZMAT incidences only.

The proposal should include agreements signed by officials of the sister-cities or tribes that benefit from this course. The training should include specific HAZMAT topics that the locals have identified as a priority. Proposals that are of a train-the-trainer HAZMAT course will be given higher preference to those that are not train-the-trainer model course.

**Project type 3:** Conduct bi-national: 1) tabletop drill with functional drill/exercise or 2) Full Scale Drill/Exercises to test local sister city plans. In order to meet the definition of bi-national, the drills/exercises should go beyond a simple notification to the local sister-city pair and demonstrate actual coordination of resources (expertise, equipment, personnel, etc.) between the sister-cities.

The proposal should include a letter of support from both the U.S. and Mexican sister-city pair or tribe selected and should coordinate with not just the local fire departments but other relevant stakeholders (i.e. Customs and Border Protection, Medical Institutions/Hospitals, Law Enforcement, local businesses, schools or other local, state or federal entities located within that region). The type of HAZMAT incident selected should be identified by the locals as a priority for that region. As with any emergency response drill/exercise conducted, bi-national pre-meetings and post-meetings are expected, including a final after-action report with specific recommendations on how to improve the local sister-city plan and what additional training is recommended.

**Project type 4:** Develop a hazardous materials risk analysis.

The risk analysis should identify facilities within the region that store or transport hazardous materials, including the type of materials and quantity. The risk analysis developed should be a geographic



information system (GIS) analysis that is able to be accessed by both US and Mexican responders. If there is sensitive information that is included, then the system should be secured and only authorized US and Mexican representatives should be given access to the information. The risk analysis should address, at a minimum, mitigation measures to risks identified, as well as gaps and needs. The analysis should not only include information from existing government databases and reports, but also input or coordination with other local stakeholders such as industry, etc.

#### **GOAL 5. – Enhance Compliance Assurance and Environmental Stewardship**

**Objective 4.** - By 2020, implement at least five (5) binational workshops targeted to environmental enforcement professionals, including ports-of-entry customs professionals (i.e. Department of Homeland Security-Customs and Border Protection), to promote the exchange of information and improve understanding of each Country's respective compliance and enforcement programs and tools, including field studies.

**Project type 1:** Proposals should consider events for information exchange to improve understanding each Country's respective compliance and enforcement programs and tools including field inspections and case development practices.

Projects submitted under this objective should target the development of a bilingual curriculum and stakeholder workshop that covers but is not limited to educating and training stakeholders on US and Mexico's environmental import and export laws and regulations. The training should be geared towards federal environmental enforcement and POE customs personnel, as well as include participation of custom brokers, freight and shippers staff from companies involved in cross border movement of hazardous chemicals accordingly to the type of goods transported in the Ysleta – Zaragoza POE and or at other major POE such as Laredo – Nuevo Laredo POE. Focus on improving enforcement by strengthening federal agency's coordination in both sides of the border with custom brokers, truckers and shippers, focusing on legal framework and case development, harmonizing knowledge on enforcement through better case development and intelligence – led enforcement tools. Workshop should at a minimum educate approximately 50 stakeholders from the various areas mentioned above.

#### **Fundamental Strategies**

##### **Promoting Environmental Health**

In 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency and Border Health Commission (BHC) signed a Collaborative Agreement to work on strengthening the link between the environment and public health.

**Project type 1:** Projects presented under this fundamental strategy should increase engagement and participation by the community and stakeholders to better manage the environment and public health issues along the border. The proposals should focus on developing a certified environmental health curriculum in order to train the border community health workers or "promotoras" to use the curriculum in border communities. The curriculum should go through the proper State Agency that provides continuing education credits for promotoras such as the Texas Department of State Health Services or the Office of Community Health Workers of the New Mexico Department of Health. The curriculum should:

1. Focus in one or several area(s): lead, mercury, pesticides, and other heavy metals in the environment, air quality, water quality, waste or climate change as any of these relate to the environmental health impact they have on people, especially children.
2. Have the capacity of replicating it in other areas along the U.S.-Mexico border. In addition, “promotoras” who receive this training, will also receive certified continuing education credits in either New Mexico or Texas or both states.
3. Empower promotoras and ultimately the community with a clear and concise message on the impact the environment has on health and protective measures that can be taken.
4. Work with “promotoras” on both sides of the U.S – Mexico border.

### **Building Capacity towards Climate Change Resiliency**

**Project type 1:** The Border 2020 climate change efforts should focus on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and on actions to help border communities become more resilient to the effects of climate change. Prior binational efforts to create GHG emissions inventories in border-states have helped to identify sources of GHG emissions, and more effectively forecast GHG emissions. Such efforts have provided governments with the data necessary to support GHG emissions reductions, through climate change action planning.

Proposals may include, but not be limited to:

- Proposals that incorporate green infrastructure elements can be, but not limited to demonstrative and/or experimental pilot projects with capacity building purposes.
- GHG emission inventories for border municipalities.
- Vulnerability Assessments for climate change.