



SEMARNAT

U.S.-MÉXICO ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM: BORDER 2012 IMPROVING CHILDREN’S HEALTH

CHILDREN MAKE UP APPROXIMATELY ONE THIRD OF THE POPULATION IN THE BORDER. THEY NEED CLEAN AIR TO BREATHE, CLEAN WATER TO DRINK, SAFE FOOD TO EAT, AND A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH TO LEARN, GROW AND THRIVE. YET EVERY DAY THEY ARE EXPOSED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS THAT MAY STAND IN THE WAY OF THOSE BASIC NECESSITIES. PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) AND MÉXICO SECRETARIA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y RECURSOS NATURALES (SEMARNAT), EFFORTS TO MAKE THE WORLD A HEALTHIER PLACE, FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Lordsburg, New Mexico, Drinking Water Plant



In June 2009, Lordsburg, New Mexico began operating its new water treatment plant to meet the state and federal requirements of the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for fluoride in drinking water of 4 mg/L. Prior to construction, the City of Lordsburg reported fluoride levels as high as 12 mg/L in some of their drinking water wells used for their public water system. Excessive levels of fluoride have been known to cause adverse health effects, such as skeletal fluorosis. A secondary maximum contaminant level of 2 mg/L is also set to protect against dental fluorosis. Total project cost was approximately US\$2 Million, of which

approximately \$700,000 came from EPA’s Border Environmental Infrastructure Fund (BEIF). The project involved construction of an activated alumina treatment system at the well entry site and also included 1,200 linear feet of waterline to connect the Smith Well to the treatment plant, and 3,720 linear feet of sewer line to dispose of backwash flush water.

The project is set to benefit a population of approximately 4,400 people based on 20- year projections and these works have benefited 891 children under the age of 15 years*, representing 26.3% of the population of Lordsburg.

Links to additional information:

- www.nadb.org
- www.cocéf.org
- www.epa.gov/border2012/success/tx-nm-chihauhua/nm-lordsburg-water.html

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000. <http://www.census.gov/>

Development of Potable Water and Waste Water Treatment Infrastructure Continues in the Border Region



In order to assist in achieving Objective #1 by Goal one for the year 2012, which is to promote a 25% increase in the number of households that are connected to potable water, sewerage and waste water treatment systems under the U.S.-Mexico Border 2012 Environmental Program, in 2008 the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission (BECC) in coordination with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Mexico's National Water Commission (CONAGUA) and the water operating agencies, certified six water and sewerage projects.

Presently all of these projects are under construction, and will enable populations centers such as Ciudad Mier, Río Bravo y Nuevo Progreso, Tamaulipas; Barreales and Juárez and Reforma, Chihuahua; Tijuana, B.C., and Sonoyta, Sonora, to increase to almost 100% their, potable water and sanitary sewerage coverage, in benefit of a population of approximately 395,118 children under 15 years.*

It is estimated that when these projects have been concluded, 3368 new domestic water connections and 19,070 domestic sewerage connections will have been incorporated. It is estimated that this will require a joint investment of 551.24 million pesos, of which 271.81 million pesos will be contributed by the Mexican government, 208.25 million pesos will be contributed by the United States and 71.18 million pesos will be financed. Additionally, these projects will allow us to create better living conditions for the inhabitants of these cities and will contribute to improving their environment.

***Source:** Censo de población y Vivienda 2008, INEGI
<http://www.inegi.org.mx/est/contenidos/proyectos/ccpv/cpv2005/Default.aspx>

Environmental Education, "The Foundation for Good Citizens"

One of the objectives of Environmental Education is to contribute to the formation of citizens who are



responsible, conscientious and concerned about the environment and environmental issues; who have the knowledge, skills, goodwill, motivation and sense of commitment that will allow them to work individually and collectively to address environmental problems and prevent their recurrence. For this reason, and as part of the actions headed by the Mayor of Matamoros, Engr. Erick Silva Santos, and Jorge Mora Salinde, Environmental Control Director, during their term of office in the city government, in coordination with EPA, BECC, TCEQ, SEMARNAT and State of Tamaulipas Department of

Education, a series of programs focused on protecting the environment have been implemented. For example, the city recently concluded the 2008–2009 schoolyear with a recycling program at 50 schools. As part of the project which began at the end of January 2009, the city provided 182 classroom presentations, 22 events connected to special environmental dates, containers, logistics and publicity that reached approximately 30,000 students*. The city hired a company to collect plastics, cardboard, paper and aluminum cans and to transport these materials for their sale to another company. The city has been actively promoting environmental education in the city's schools. For the new 2009–2010 school year a call will again go out to double the number of participating schools.

*Source: Censo de población y Vivienda 2008, INEGI
<http://www.inegi.org.mx/est/contenidos/proyectos/ccpv/cpv2005/Default.aspx>

ECO-VIDA Media and Community Partnership

In June 2009, EPA Region 6 launched the Eco-Vida Program under the U.S.-Mexico Border 2012 Program, partnered with KVIA (ABC affiliate), KINT (Univision affiliate) and local stakeholders. Eco Vida is a program to promote bilingual environmental awareness and is designed specifically for television viewers and radio listeners in the El Paso, Texas, Las Cruces, New Mexico and Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico



(Paso del Norte region).

Through a series of bilingual education programs (i.e. radio programs, televised environmental messages and web-based education material), available to residents on both sides of the border, Eco-Vida has generated public understanding, support and a call for personal action that results in positive behavior changes. Paso del Norte citizens are learning about the pressing environmental challenges in their area, and Eco-Vida has provided individuals with a better understanding and knowledge on how simple daily life-style changes can make big environmental differences in their community. So far, stories on illegal dumping, how to make your home more energy efficient, smart sprinklers, recycling, green gardening, greening your pool, kids and the environment, and water conservation tips have been featured by Eco-Vida.

It is expected that this awareness program will benefit 392,329 children under the age of 15 years* in this region of the border.

Links to additional information:

www.kvia.com

www.kint.com

www.epa.gov/border2012/success/tx-nm-chihauhua/eco-vida.html

Look for the ECO-VIDA fan site on Facebook

*Sources: Censo de población y Vivienda 2008, INEGI
<http://www.inegi.org.mx/est/contenidos/proyectos/ccpv/cpv2005/Default.aspx>

U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000. <http://www.census.gov/>

Mobile Source Reductions along the U.S.-Mexico Border



Through an EPA Region 6 Grant to the Texas Clean School Bus Program in 2008, fourteen school districts located in counties that share a border with Mexico received funds to support mobile source reduction along the U.S.-Mexico Border. The school districts retrofitted their mobile source vehicles by installing a combination of diesel oxidation catalysts with an estimated reduction of PM (particulate matter) between 20 to 40 percent and either a closed crankcase filter or Flow thru Filter with an estimated reduction of PM between 80 and 97 percent.

The border counties that retrofitted school buses were:

- Cameron County retrofitted a total of 112 buses in the following independent school districts (ISD): Rio Hondo, Los Fresnos, Santa Rosa, Port Isabel and La Feria;
- Hidalgo County retrofitted approximately 112 buses in the following school districts: IDEA Academy, Donna ISD, Harligen ISD, La Villa ISD, Valley View ISD, and Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD;
- Webb County reported 72 buses retrofitted in United ISD;
- Dimmit County's Carrizo Springs ISD retrofitted 22 buses; and
- El Paso County retrofitted 16 school buses within the El Paso ISD with a combination of catalyst crankcase filters and flow thru filters.

- El Paso Sun Metro, (City of El Paso)—county public transportation retired Liquefied Compressed Natural Gas (LNG) used buses and replaced them with 65 new buses that have the latest engine technology fueled with LNG.

The installation of these equipments benefited approximately 142,495 students under the age of 15 years* living on these border counties.

Links to additional information:

www.tceq.state.tx.us
www.epa.gov/border2012/success/borderwide/mobile-source-reduction.html

*Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.
<http://www.census.gov/>
 Texas Education Agency,
<http://deleon.tea.state.tx.us/SDL/Forms/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE U.S.-MÉXICO ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM: BORDER 2012, VISIT THE

FOLLOWING WEBSITES:

SEMARNAT

www.semarnat.gob.mx

USEPA:

www.epa.gov/border2012

