

**EPA's International Program:
Catalyzing Global Partnerships to Protect U.S. Health and the Environment**

Why is EPA's International Program important?

- Global environmental issues such as air pollution, water pollution, marine waste, toxic pollution and climate change increasingly affect the environment of the United States and the health of its residents.
- Strong collaboration with other countries and with international partners is essential to understanding these problems and developing common and coordinated solutions.
- EPA's Office of International and Tribal Affairs enhances U.S. leadership by strengthening and maintaining the agency's technical cooperation with other countries and international organizations on behalf of the United States.

What specific problems and challenges does EPA's International Program address?

- Reduces global exposure to dangerous toxic substances that can cause serious long-term health problems in children and adults, including:
 - Mercury: Global sources of mercury, a potent neurotoxin, contribute about 70 percent of mercury emissions deposited to the United States and must be addressed globally.
 - Lead: EPA been instrumental in global efforts to reduce exposure to lead, another potent neurotoxin, in gasoline and lead-based paint.
- Works to reduce air and water pollution from global shipping and land-based sources of marine pollution through international conventions under the International Maritime Organization and the promotion of targeted technical approaches, such as the Trash-Free Waters program.
- Addresses global impacts of air pollution and climate change by providing technical assistance and leadership for global partnerships and conventions and sharing effective U.S. approaches such as the energy efficiency labeling program, ENERGY STAR, and AirNow, which provides air quality monitoring data to the public in real time.
- Enhances bilateral and multilateral cooperation by working closely with its partners around the world to address specific environmental challenges, including environmental issues along the Mexican and Canadian borders, air pollution in China, electronic waste in Africa, vehicle emissions with Europe and air pollution and climate change in the Arctic.
- Strengthens environmental provisions of trade agreements, such as the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), by providing essential technical expertise during their development.

What will we lose if this program is eliminated or significantly cut?

- EPA, on behalf of the United States, will lose its ability to identify and address emerging environmental threats before they become critical, and EPA no longer will be engaged in global efforts to solve these critical environmental problems.
- The United States will lose its ability to help address Mexico and Canada's environmental challenges, which often adversely affect the United States. Environmental problems along U.S. borders will not be funded or managed in a coordinated and efficient manner, leaving states along the U.S. border to struggle with these issues on their own.
- EPA will become further isolated from the latest innovative science, policy and technological advances around the world and, in turn, the U.S. market for innovative environmental technologies will be adversely affected.
- The United States will reduce and ultimately relinquish its current leadership role in global environmental efforts.

How does this program achieve results?

- Collaborates with key partners such as Canada, Mexico, Europe, China and Japan and international organizations such as the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, UN Environment (formerly UNEP), World Health Organization, International Maritime Organization, the World Bank and the Arctic Council.
- Provides analytical and capacity-building assistance through sharing of data, technical approaches and best practices.
- Supports the dissemination and use of environmentally friendly technologies and environmentally supportive investment and financial instruments.
- Leverages efforts of other U.S. government agencies, including the Department of State, the Agency for International Development, the Office of U.S. Trade Representative and the Department of the Treasury.

Successes of the International Program

Mercury Convention: EPA led the technical work to develop the UN Minamata Convention on Mercury to reduce global mercury pollution; it became effective in 2017. EPA also worked with UN Environment to establish the Global Mercury Partnership to reduce the use and emissions of mercury globally.

Lead Reduction: EPA was instrumental in developing and implementing the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles, which successfully helped to eliminate lead from gasoline around the world, resulting in enormous economic and health benefits. The partnership is now working with countries to reduce sulfur content in gasoline and diesel fuel and decrease particulate emissions from vehicles to improve public health around the world.

Vehicle Emissions: EPA worked with global partners on sharing the agency's rigorous approach to vehicle emissions testing and strengthening vehicle regulatory programs worldwide in response to the Volkswagen diesel emissions scandal.

Air Pollution: EPA assisted in the development of air quality monitoring stations at U.S. Embassies in China and other countries, providing real-time air quality data to raise awareness and protect the health of U.S. citizens serving abroad and local populations. EPA also has shared its AirNow program with China and other countries to provide accurate and real-time air quality data and protect public health.

Environmental Enforcement: EPA provides essential expertise to strengthen global enforcement of environmental laws through the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement, the International Law Enforcement Academy and in cooperation with INTERPOL.

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