



Air Quality Improvement for Environmental Justice
and
The North American PRTR Initiative:

Supporting Communities' Right to Know



Environmental Quality Unit: Topics

Geospatial Environmental Information



North American Land Change
Monitoring System

North American
Environmental Atlas

Climate Change

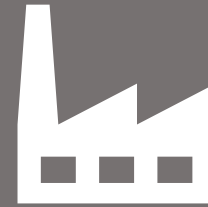


Short-Lived
Climate Pollutants

Extreme
Events

Renewable
Energy

Pollutants



Environmental
Health

North American Pollutant Release and
Transfer Register (PRTR)

Air Quality


Chemicals Management



Supply Chain
Transparency

Informed
Substitution

Air Quality (AQ) Improvement for Environmental Justice (EJ)



Create community-based partnerships to measure and mitigate emissions of and exposure to PM_{2.5} and black carbon (BC).

Overview

2022

- * AQ for EJ
- * Concept note
- * Project description
- * Technology scoping

2023

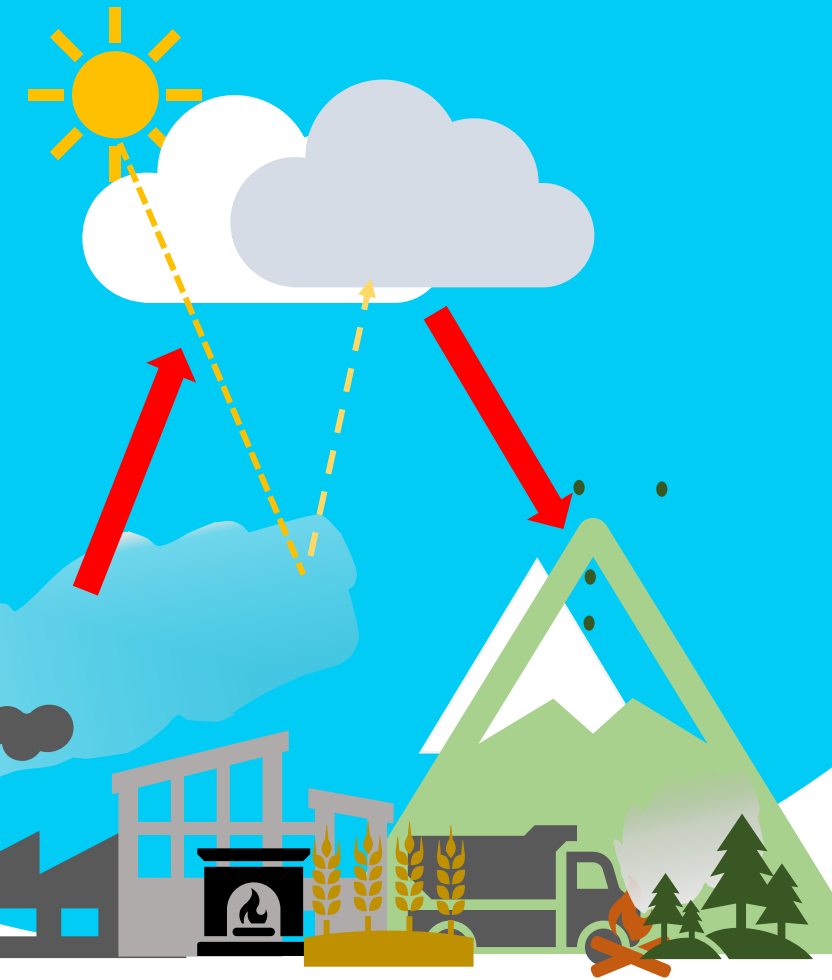
Identifying, inviting and visiting community organizations

2024

Partnerships and agreements



Black Carbon





**AAMJIWNAANG
FIRST NATION**

Sarnia,
Ontario



**FUNDACIÓN
TOSEPAN A.C**

Cuetzalan,
Puebla



COMITE CIVICO DEL VALLE, INC

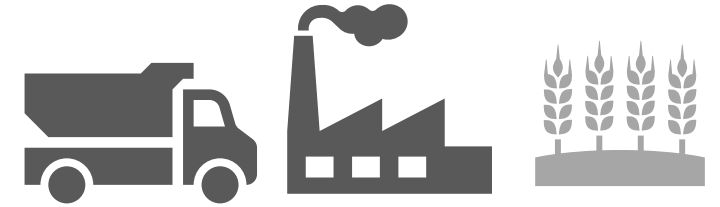
Imperial County,
California



72, 047/ 5.1% Indigenous identity
Aamjiwnaang First Nation



49,864/ 66.8% indigenous
Nahuatl population



179,702 (U.S.)
86% Hispanic

Aamjiwnaang First Nation

AQ Concerns

- More than 60 oil and gas related facilities
- Concerns about the impacts of these activities on community health and ecosystems

Current Work and Synergies

- AQ network managed by Ontario's environmental authorities, industry associations
 - SO₂, NO₂, TRS, PM_{2.5}, VOC, PAH

AQ for EJ: Provide data governance guidelines and add BC measurements for the area.



Fundación Tosepan

AQ Concerns

- 98% of rural households use firewood as their main fuel
- Incidence of respiratory illness (women and children).

Current Work and Synergies

- Energy for *Yeknemilis* (good living) project: alternative energy management model based on Indigenous and campesino lifestyles.

AQ for EJ: Help measure indoor AQ for prototypes of community-designed, efficient stoves. The data will provide a clearer picture of AQ levels in biomass-dependent rural settings.



Comité Cívico del Valle

AQ Concerns

- Industrial agricultural burning
- Border crossing emissions and Mexicali industry and city emissions

Current Work and Synergies

- IVAN community-based environmental monitoring system

AQ for EJ: Help to include BC and meteorological data in the IVAN network. Some sensors will be deployed in Mexicali.





Q & A

Looking forward:

- Build on existing local initiatives
- Learn from each other
- Understand the added value of measuring BC in communities
- Report back to the communities
- Share experiences.

The North American
Pollutant Release and Transfer Register
(*PRTR*) Initiative

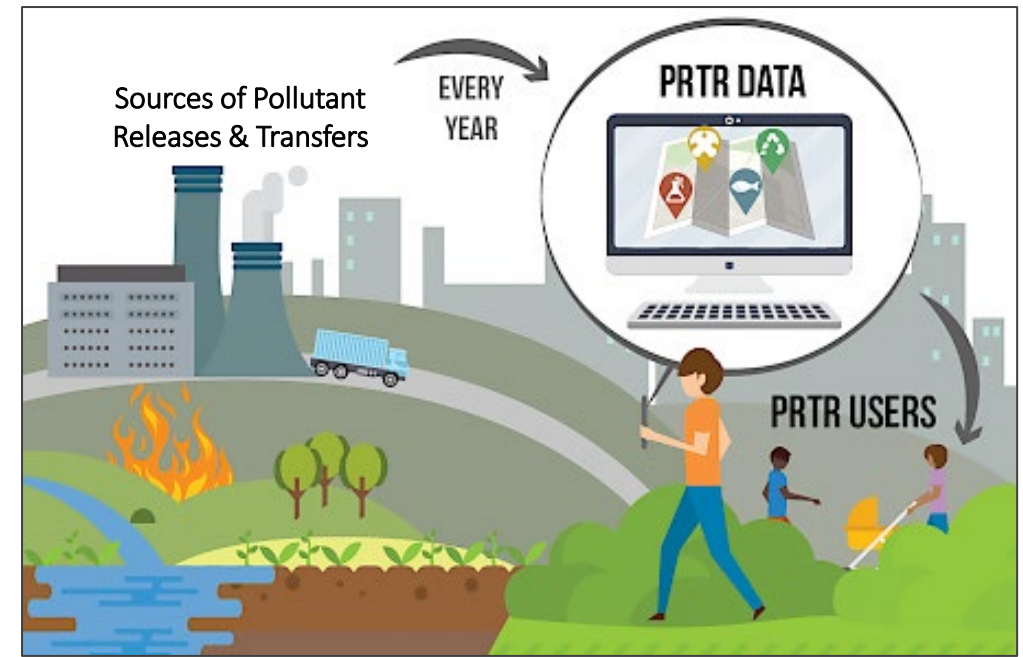
What is a Pollutant Release and Transfer Register?

Each year, industrial facilities report pollutant information to a national register:

- Releases (on site) to air, water, land, disposal
- Transfers (off-site) to treatment, disposal, recycling
- Pollution prevention activities

These data are:

- Publicly available
- Used to track industrial pollutants and inform decisions about pollution prevention and chemical safety.



PRTRs: Background

- 1984:** Bhopal – Union Carbide accident (methyl isocyanate): >500,000 people exposed; thousands dead, disabled. To this day, little accountability.
- 1986:** U.S. *Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act*: Supports public access to information on the use and release of chemicals in communities → Toxics Release Inventory (TRI)
- 1993:** Canada's National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI)
- 1994-97:** CEC Council priorities: public safety, chemicals management → North American PRTR Initiative
- 2006:** Mexico's Registro de Emisiones y Transferencia de Contaminantes (RETC).



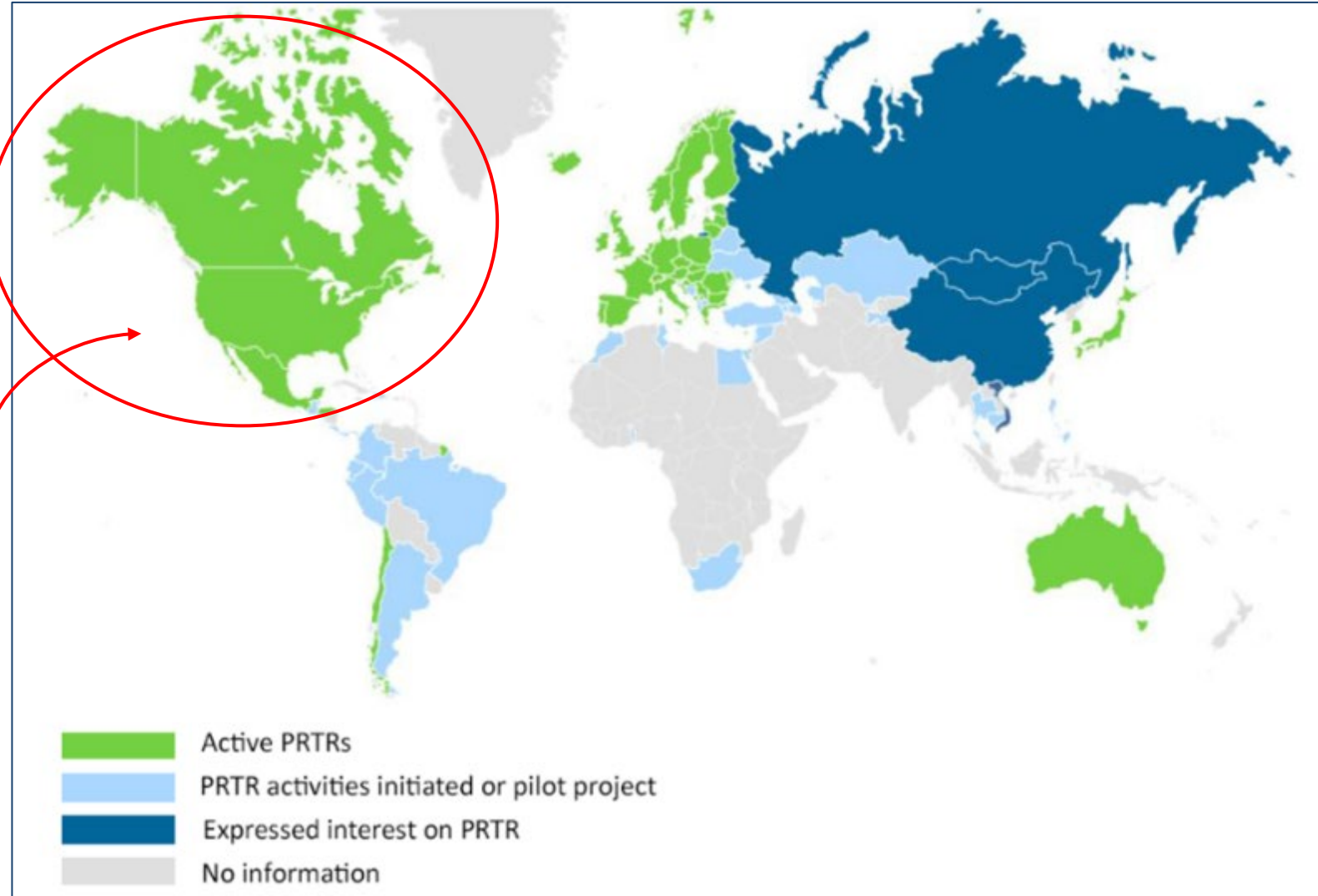
PRTRs Around the World Today

- OECD PRTR Work Group

- *Aarhus Convention*
- *Kyiv Protocol*
- *Escazú Agreement*

The NAPRTR Initiative:

- Brings together Canadian, U.S. and Mexican data and is considered to be a model of regional cooperation.



~ 40 PRTRs, 10 pilots

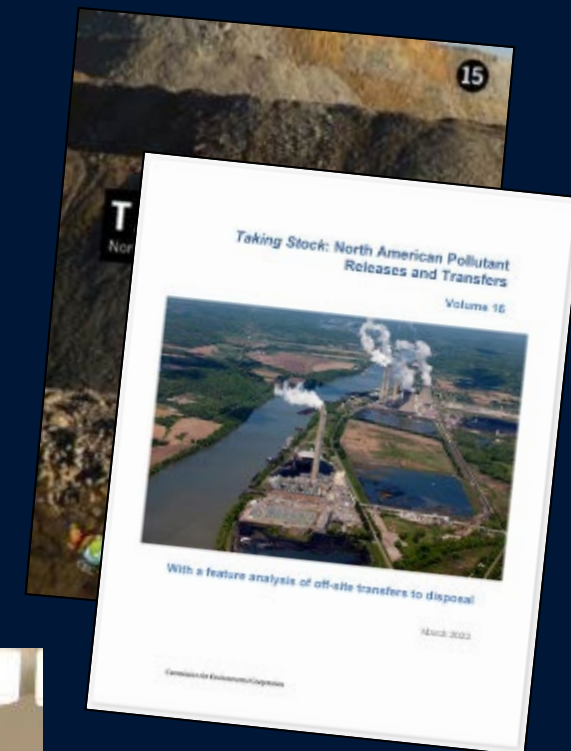
NAPRTR Initiative: Objectives

1. Improve public access to and use of regional PRTR data
2. Promote data quality and comparability to support pollution prevention
3. Engage all those concerned about industrial pollution and access to environmental information.



NAPRTR Initiative: Activities

1. *Taking Stock Online* website and integrated NAPRTR database
2. *Taking Stock* report series
3. Trilateral collaboration on data quality and comparability
4. Public engagement to share information, experiences to improve the NAPRTR Initiative.



Questions?

www.cec.org/takingstock



COMMISSION FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL
COOPERATION

COMISIÓN PARA
LA COOPERACIÓN
AMBIENTAL

COMMISSION
DE COOPÉRATION
ENVIRONNEMENTALE

