



U.S. EPA's Office of Air and Radiation: Engagement on Air Quality along the Mexico-U.S. Border

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Building the Foundation

- EPA and SEMARNAT, in consultation with local and regional partners, have a history of cross-border collaboration to improve air quality and public health outcomes along the Mexico-U.S. border
- EPA Region's 6 and 9 have been leading this work on behalf of EPA to build a foundation of productive partnerships and shared progress
- EPA's Office of Air and Radiation ("OAR" – HQ for air) is exploring ways to take a more active role in supporting cross-border collaboration on air quality management by building off the existing foundation



EPA-OAR's Key Goals

1. Strengthen partnerships and improve information-sharing and information quality
 - Expand and adapt cross-border partnerships and programs
 - Exchange data more efficiently
2. Improve air quality monitoring in Mexico
 - Provide technical assistance and capacity-building
3. Achieve emission reductions and improve air quality on both sides of the border
 - Develop new programs and/or refine existing programs to accelerate emission reductions



Planned Activities in Support of Goals

- Engage existing contacts and establish new relationships to improve understanding of issues and capacities
 - Within EPA
 - State, regional, local, tribal governments
 - U.S. and Mexican NGOs
- Participate in discussions on Border 2020 successor program
 - November 4-6 meeting in Mexico City
 - Aforementioned OAR key goals will help inform input on priorities for air

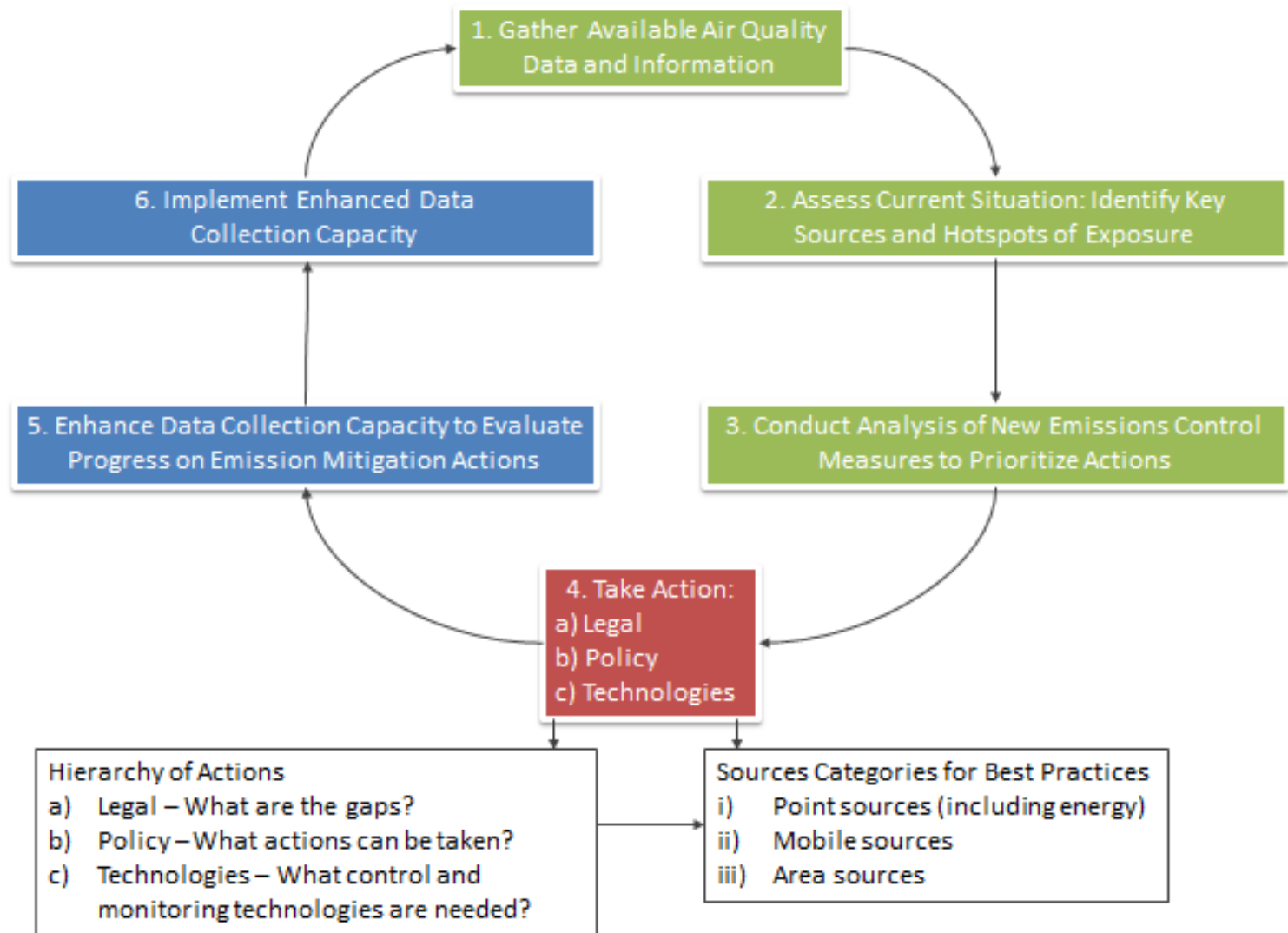


Potential Activities in Support of Goals

- Develop and implement a pilot assessment program in partnership with a border city pair in a shared cross-border urban airshed (for example, San Diego and Tijuana)
 - Assess current air quality and establish a baseline
 - Develop and implement a multi-pollutant analysis project
- Improve and sustain air quality monitoring
 - Support installation of monitors at U.S. consulates
 - Identify Mexican partner(s) to collaborate with to install and help support sustained operation of monitors
 - Explore use of compact, low-cost sensors for filling data gaps
- Expand the current EPA-OTAQ's 'SmartWay' pilot program in Mexico on supply chain efficiency to the border zone



Air Quality Management Program Framework





Next Steps for EPA-OAR

- Learn more from regional partner organizations about local priorities
 - Today!
 - Joint Action Committee meeting in Las Cruces, NM, on November 14
- Synthesize EPA and non-EPA stakeholder input in preparation for Border 2020 discussions in November
- Identify potential partners to engage with on one or more projects that focus on shared air quality objectives



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Questions?