



Building cooperation in North America to address global environmental challenges



**UNEP in
NORTH AMERICA**

The United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Regional Office for North America was established in Washington, D.C., in 2000. Our mission is to support UNEP's work around the world by fostering cooperation and building partnerships between North American stakeholders and the broader international community on pressing environmental issues.

The UNEP Regional Office for North America seeks to collaborate with the US and Canadian Governments, civil society, the private sector, and academic and scientific communities to promote the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in a way that protects and restores the quality of the natural environment, improves the livelihoods of people, and broadens the prospects for future generations.

UNEP Successes

Repairing the ozone hole through the Montreal Protocol, preventing over 20 million cases of skin cancer and providing climate benefits equal to 135 Gigatonnes (Gt) of CO₂.

Administering the Minamata Convention to protect human health and the environment from the toxic effects of mercury – now signed by almost 130 countries.

Eliminating leaded gasoline globally through the Partnership for Cleaner Fuels and Vehicles.

Delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals



Preserve and improve air quality to address health issues by working with cities to overcome challenges that allow them to continue to thrive and grow, while reducing pollution.



Advance the environmental rule of law by convening governments, experts and other stakeholders and bridging the science policy interface.



Promote sustainable consumption and production by halving food waste in households and retail globally by 2030, and reducing food loss across the supply chain.



Minimize the impact of harmful substances on the environment and people through the sound management of chemicals and waste such as phasing out lead in paint globally.



Strengthen the evidence base for the illegal trade in wildlife and timber, while helping to establish national policies and raising awareness on the issue to decrease demand.



Reduce the impact of marine debris on economies, ecosystems and human health, by enhancing international cooperation, informing the public and sharing best practices.



Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging the scaling up of clean and renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and energy conservation; and support adaptation efforts.

Our Plan

- Partner with key US and Canadian government agencies and North American-based institutions to transition to a low-carbon economy and implement the Sustainable Development Goals
- Analyze the state of the environment based on the best available science in North America and the world through the Global Environment Outlook (GEO)
- Focus on the environment and health including the elimination of lead paint globally by 2020 through the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint and improving global air quality by reducing short-lived climate pollutants
- Raise awareness and encourage mobilization to address the supply and demand side of the illegal trade in wildlife
- Share best practices to cut global food waste at the retail and consumer level by half by 2030
- Ensure sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic
- Mobilize international cooperation to find solutions for the impact of marine debris on the economy, ecosystems and health

Contact:
Regional Office for North America
United Nations
Environment Programme
900 17th Street NW, Suite 506
Washington, D.C. 20006

+1 202.785.0465
unep.rona@unep.org
www.unep.org/rona
[@UNEPRONA](http://www.facebook.com/RONA.UNEP)