

(2023 February 02) NACEC JPAC Recommendations on the Creation of a New Network of Communities for Environmental Justice

The CEC was one of the more promising products of the NAFTA in the view of many who were trying to get environmental safeguards into the US-Canada-Mexico trade deal. It seemed at the time as a major concession to us from the powers that be.

<http://www.cec.org/about/>

This recommendations on Environmental Justice (see PDF link below or click on footnote #2 in the CEC email) just issued by the CEC's tripartite Joint Public Advisory Council on first glance reminds me of the notice sent out the other day (forwarded to many of you from here yesterday) . . . connecting dots between network building in the Global South, most apparently in terms of political economy (flip side of economic geopolitics), and networking on Environmental Justice within North America.

<https://www.commondreams.org/news/havana-declaration-just-world-economy>

<https://progressive.international/blueprint/d3b4f9e2-3fd7-4d9a-b067-d13b073b1c3f-presenting-the-havana-declaration-on-the-new-international-economic-order/>

----- Original Message -----

Subject: JPAC Advice on the Creation of a New Network of Communities for Environmental Justice

Date: 2023-02-02 10:04 am

From: Info CEC <info@cec.org>

JPAC Advice on the Creation of a New Network of Communities for Environmental Justice

The Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) submits Advice to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) of North America, following a public consultation on a new CEC Communities for Environmental Justice Network project.

The CEC's Joint Public Advisory Committee [1] (JPAC) has just submitted Advice [2] to the CEC Council [3], regarding a new project to create a network of communities for environmental justice, following an online public consultation that took place 3–23 November 2022.

The consultation collected feedback from the public on ways to improve the project description and support its implementation, including common challenges faced by communities that have environmental justice concerns

as they work to address climate change adaptation and mitigation. In addition, participants were asked to provide direction on how to create a self-sustaining, lasting community network that might provide effective ways to share information about climate adaptation and mitigation.

The consultation also allowed participants to provide additional comments on any other aspect of the forthcoming CEC project. Some of the challenges identified by members of the public include:

- * The lack of knowledge, technical capacity and resources of some communities, as well as their limited representation in policy- and decision-making;
- * The lack of diverse approaches for addressing climate adaptation and mitigation, as well as the need for relationship-building with local communities;
- * The identification of strategies to counter diverse problems confronting communities;
- * The need to develop tools relevant to different communities' unique cultures and environments.

Public consultation highlights

The data collected showcased the importance of empowering Indigenous, local, vulnerable, disadvantaged and underserved communities to lead the process of network building.

Furthermore, members of the public stressed the importance of creating a governance structure that would include different perspectives, reflecting the perspectives of youth, women, and Indigenous Elders. The network should also provide tangible benefits to its members, promote dialogue, use diverse tools such as social media, and include resources that would support community participation.

The participants identified opportunities to create synergies with existing initiatives and emphasized that financial and human resources will be required for the community network to be self-sustaining and enduring.

JPAC believes that the recommendations are relevant to the CEC Council's strategic priorities and are confident that the CEC will find them useful as it develops and implements this project and related ones in the future. The advice was approved by the JPAC members on 25 January 2023.

About the CEC

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) was established in 1994 by the governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States through the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, a parallel environmental agreement to NAFTA. As of 2020, the CEC is recognized and maintained by the Environmental Cooperation Agreement parallel to the new Free Trade Agreement of North America. The CEC brings together a wide range of stakeholders, including the general public, Indigenous People, youth, nongovernmental organizations, academia, and the business sector, to seek solutions to protect North America's shared environment while supporting sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations. Find out more at: www.cec.org [4].

The CEC is governed and funded equally by the Government of Canada through Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Government of the United States of Mexico through the *Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales*, and the Government of the United States of America through the Environmental Protection Agency. . . .

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About the CEC SEM Process

The CEC Submissions on Enforcement Matters (SEM) process supports public participation in effective enforcement of environmental law in North America. If you have reason to believe that an environmental law is not being effectively enforced by Canada, Mexico or the United States, the SEM process may help address your concerns.

As of 1 July 2020, the CEC's SEM process is governed by Articles 24.27 and 24.28 of the Environment Chapter of the free trade agreement between Canada, Mexico and the United States (CUSMA, T-MEC, USMCA).

Want to learn more about the SEM process? Watch this two-minute short

film [15] about a community in Chiapas, Mexico for an introduction.

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Links:

[1]

<https://cec.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5fa638f92a1d9b74d1d595b81&id=953e3e738c&e=aa8b27dcc6>

[2]

<https://cec.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5fa638f92a1d9b74d1d595b81&id=98e482f9ac&e=aa8b27dcc6>

[3]

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[4]

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[13]

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[14]

<https://mailchi.mp/cec/jpac-advice-on-the-creation-of-a-new-network-of-communities-for-environmental-justice?e=aa8b27dcc6>

[15]

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