

# 2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Governmental Advisory Committee to the United States Representative to the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation

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<b>1. Department or Agency</b>		<b>2. Fiscal Year</b>	
Environmental Protection Agency		2024	
<b>3. Committee or Subcommittee</b>		<b>3b. GSA Committee No.</b>	
Governmental Advisory Committee to the United States Representative to the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation		1914	
<b>4. Is this New Fiscal Year?</b>	<b>5. Current Charter</b>	<b>6. Expected Renewal Date</b>	<b>7. Expected Term Date</b>
No	06/03/2022	06/03/2024	
<b>8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?</b>	<b>8b. Specific Termination Authority</b>		<b>8c. Actual Term Date</b>
No	Continuance E.O. 14109		
<b>9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year</b>	<b>10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?</b>	<b>10b. Legislation Pending?</b>	
Continue	No	Not Applicable	
<b>11. Establishment Authority</b> Presidential			
<b>12. Specific Establishment Authority</b>	<b>13. Effective Date</b>	<b>14. Committee Type</b>	<b>14c. Presidential?</b>
E.O. 12915	05/13/1994	Continuing	No
<b>15. Description of Committee</b> Non Scientific Program Advisory Board			
<b>16a. Total Number of Reports</b> 1			
<b>16b. Report Date</b>	<b>Report Title</b>		

GAC Advice letter to EPA

01/19/2024 Administrator: Cities and Climate  
Change

**Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1**

**17a.** 1 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 1  
**Open**

**Meetings and Dates**

Purpose	Start	End
To provide advice to the Administrator on Identifying exemplary cities in North America that serve as examples of successful: Climate governance that advances urban climate adaptation.	12/07/2023	12/07/2023

**Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1**

	Current FY	Next FY
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.00	0.00

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its  
purpose?**

Committee accomplishes its purpose through advice letters.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

As called for in its authorizations, the GAC is comprised of representatives from state, local, and Tribal governments.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

The GAC typically meets twice a year to discuss North American environmental issues related to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation. The Fall meeting is to discuss the CEC's Draft Operational Plan. The Spring meeting is to advise the EPA Administrator on deliverables for the annual summer Environmental Ministers meeting. In FY 2023, the GAC had two meetings. The first meeting took place December 9, 2022 and the second on May 18, 2023. The chair also participated in the Annual Environmental Ministers meeting virtually.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

The GAC is authorized authorized under Article 11 of the Environmental Cooperation Agreement (ECA) between the United States, Mexico and Canada, in parallel with the United States of America, United States of Mexico, and Canada (USMCA) trade agreement; and was established pursuant to Executive Order 12915, entitled "Federal Implementation of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation". The GAC was continued under the authority of Executive Order 14109.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or**

## partially closed committee meetings?

No meetings were closed or partially closed.

## 21. Remarks

All members are Tier 1 (parent committee members). There are no Tier 2 (subcommittee) members serving.

## Designated Federal Officer

Oscar Carrillo Designated Federal Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Abkowitz, Kendra	08/25/2021	10/25/2025	Tier 1, Chief Sustainability & Resilience Officer, City of Nashville, Nashville, TN	Representative Member
Cole, Brad	10/28/2023	10/25/2025	Tier 1, Executive Director, Illinois Municipal League, Springfield, IL	Representative Member
Drago, Leonard	02/05/2019	10/25/2025	Tier 1, Ombusman/Tribal Liaison, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Phoenix, AZ	Representative Member
Etsitty, Stephen	10/28/2023	10/25/2025	Tier 1, Executive Director, Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency, Window Rock, AZ	Representative Member
Favors, Sonja	10/28/2023	10/25/2025	Tier 1, Alabama Dept. of Env. Management, Montgomery, Alabama	Representative Member
Good, Gail	10/28/2023	10/25/2025	Tier 1, Dir. Air Management, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, Madison, WI	Representative Member
Gray, Terrence	10/28/2023	10/25/2025	Tier 1, Director, Rhode Island Dept of Env. Manager, Providence, RI	Representative Member

Janecka, Robert	08/25/2021	10/25/2025	Tier 1, Commissioner, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Austin, TX	Representative Member
Kring, Debra	02/05/2019	10/25/2025	Tier 1, Council Member, City of Mission, Kansas	Representative Member
Moore, Julia	02/05/2019	10/25/2025	Tier 1, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Montpelier, VT	Representative Member
Morales, Erich	02/05/2019	10/25/2025	Tier 1, Division Chief, El Paso County Attorney's Office, El Paso, TX	Representative Member
Nunez, Austin	08/25/2021	10/25/2025	Chairman, San Javier District, Tohono O'odham Nation, Tucson, Arizona	Representative Member
Wagner, Gerald	08/25/2021	10/25/2025	Tier 1, Environmental Director, Blackfeet Nation, Browning, Montana	Representative Member
Weintraub, June	08/25/2021	10/25/2025	Senior Epidemiologist, San Francisco Dept of Public Health, San Francisco, CA	Representative Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 14**

### **Narrative Description**

The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) supports the agency's mission of protecting human health and the environment. The work of the GAC supports the EPA Administrator in achieving the goals of safeguarding the natural environment--air, water, and land, via trilateral activities in the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC). The CEC is a trilateral institution created by the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC) and funded by the Governments of the United States, Mexico, and Canada. The GAC provides the EPA Administrator with policy perspectives from state, local and tribal government representatives. Their advice is useful to the U.S. Government as it negotiates the cooperative 5-Year Strategic Plan, and the Operational Plan with Canada and Mexico and prepares for the

outcomes of the annual Environment Ministers Council Session. Each year the committee reviews and provides advice on two major CEC products. One is the Operational Plan and the other is the CEC's Annual Council Session, and other topics as directed by the EPA Administrator. Every five years the Strategic plan is also reviewed by the GAC. The Operational Plan addresses key issues in the CEC Strategic Plan, which sets tri-lateral priorities for environmental management in North America. The current five priority areas in the CEC Strategic plan are: 1) Clean Air, Water and Land, 2) Preventing & Reducing Pollution in the Marine Environment, 3) Circular Economy and Sustainable Materials Management, 4) Shared Ecosystems and Species and 5) Resilient Economies and Communities and 6) Effective Enforcement of Environmental Laws. There is also a cross cutting approach on "Innovative and Effective Solutions and Diverse and Inclusive Stakeholder Engagement and Public Participation." The GAC produced two advice letters in FY-2023. One on January 20, 2023, based on their December 9, 2022 meeting, related to engaging subnational governments in climate implementation of the CEC. EPA responded to their letter on February 17, 2023. The second letter is from June 23, 2023, based on their meeting on May 18, 2023. This letter contains recommendations on three topics: 1) Best Practices & Strategies for Climate Adaptation in Vulnerable Communities, 2) Local Government Actions to mitigate climate challenges and 3) Implementation of Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge into the CEC's work. EPA responded to the GAC's letter on July 20, 2023.

**What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements

☐

Other

☐

### Outcome Comments

NA

### What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None

☐

Unable to Determine

☒

Under \$100,000

☐

\$100,000 - \$500,000

☐

\$500,001 - \$1,000,000

☐

\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000

☐

\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000

☐

Over \$10,000,000

☐

Cost Savings Other

☐

### Cost Savings Comments

NA

### What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

235

### Number of Recommendations Comments

There have been 241 recommendations since the inception of the GAC. There were six recommendations in in FY-2023: 1. CEC's Climate Adaptation Initiative 2. Early Warning Systems for Climate Disasters 3. Nature-based Climate Adaptation Actions 4. Best Practices & Strategies for Climate Adaptation in Vulnerable Communities 5. Local Government Actions to mitigate climate challenges 6. Implementation of Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge into CEC work.

### What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

0%

### **% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

See description of accomplishments above. For more detailed information please see U.S. Government Response letters at committee website:  
<https://www.epa.gov/faca/nac-gac>.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

0%

### **% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

See description of accomplishments above. For more detailed information please see U.S. Government Response letters at GAC website: <https://www.epa.gov/faca/nac-gac>.

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

### **Agency Feedback Comments**

The committee's recommendations are always in the form of letters. The agency responds with a letter informing the GAC of the status of their advice i.e., whether they have implemented their recommendations or whether the EPA has decided on an alternative direction.

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **Action Comments**

NA

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No



**Grant Review Comments**

NA

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Access Comments**

N/A