



Improving the Economic and Environmental Performance of the North American Automotive Industry Supply Chain



Many of the cars we drive are truly North American products: they may be built in the United States with an engine made in Canada and a transmission from Mexico. Those parts, along with thousands of others made and assembled by companies across the continent, form a vast supply chain connecting all three countries.

The challenge in North America now is to build cars that are better environmental performers, precisely as the auto industry attempts to harness innovation to restructure its market share worldwide. This project seeks to support the “greening” of the automotive supply chain by helping each link in the process to become more energy- and environmentally efficient, more effective in the use and recycling of materials, and ulti-

mately contribute to lower emissions and fuel consumption.

Through an innovative partnership already on track in the United States—the Suppliers Partnership for the Environment—the CEC will help connect Canadian and Mexican suppliers to make this environmental initiative North American, just like the supply chain itself.

The project will create a network of industry partners to share best practices from work already done in the United States and share information highlighting how companies in the automotive supply chain are improving the environment and creating economic opportunity throughout the manufacturing process in each of the three countries.

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Accomplishments

Work on greening North America's automotive supply chain began in 2007 with discussions to extend the Suppliers Partnership in Canada and Mexico, as well as early work on a "roadmap" strategy for pursuing sustainability with suppliers in the three countries. The project was put on hold in 2009 due to economic challenges facing the auto industry at that time.

Related CEC Initiatives

The CEC project, **Improving Conditions for Green Building Construction in North America**, has similar goals in terms of greening the North American building construction industry.



Partners

Several dozen automobile companies and their suppliers are already members of the Suppliers Partnership and work closely the **US Environmental Protection Agency**. This project will actively seek new members from Canada and Mexico, working closely with industry associations.

About the CEC and its partners

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) is the trilateral organization that supports cooperative work on the environment between the governments of the Canada, Mexico and the United States. The CEC is composed of a Council of the top government environmental officials from each country, a Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) and a Secretariat that provides operational support. The CEC brings together experts across governments, nongovernment organizations, scientists, researchers and businesses to seek solutions to protect North America's environment while supporting trade. **www.cec.org**

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