ENVIRONMENT AND THE BORDER REGION

We believe that the challenges and opportunities across the Border region demand informed civic participation, strong leadership and cross-border understanding, and collaboration. Our series of Border Briefs highlights issues and offers critical insight to drive new solutions and foster greater action for the Border region. The key takeaways below offer a glimpse into the challenges and opportunities that exist. Scan the QR code below or visit borderpartnership.org to read the full brief.

Key Takeaways:

- ❑ The Border is an arid region with **declining water supplies due to climate change** reducing river flows and rapid depletion of slowly recharging groundwater. Growing water demand for urban, agricultural, recreational, industrial, and ecosystem uses have increased conflict over domestic and international allocation of this key resource.
- ❑ Despite progress on water and wastewater infrastructure, air quality, and hazardous and solid waste, **urban and industrial expansion and booming trade have increased environmental challenges** in the region.



Burgeoning human population and economic growth at the Border have combined to produce numerous environmental impacts with transboundary effects.

- ❑ Debates about environmental effects of the North American Free Trade Agreement led to creation of the trilateral Commission on Environmental Quality, the North American Development Bank, the United States-Mexico Border Environmental Program (Border 2025), and other institutions to address Border environmental issues. However, due to population growth, urban expansion, economic growth, and expanding bilateral trade, these **institutions lack the capacity, funding, and authority to resolve transborder environmental challenges**.
- ❑ Disadvantaged U.S. and Mexican Border communities **characterized by poverty, substandard housing, inadequate water and wastewater infrastructure, and lack of access to health care and education** are disproportionately impacted by the region's environmental problems.
- ❑ **Improved management of the Border's ports of entry** would significantly improve local air quality, benefitting the health of millions of Border crossers and nearby residents.

U.S.-MEXICO BORDER PHILANTHROPY PARTNERSHIP

The U.S.-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership is made up of more than 400 members from academia, business and corporate entities, government, philanthropy, and nonprofit organizations spanning all regions of the U.S. and Mexico. Together, we share a common vision and commitment for a thriving border region. Visit www.borderpartnership.org to learn more.

Read the full brief: