

The North American AirNow-International project: Improving Air Quality Management and Public Health through Regional Cooperation

Standardizing air quality information and linking ambient air monitoring systems opens up vast opportunities to analyze and share data, and to improve air quality management and public health.

The North American AirNow-International (AirNow-I) project of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) aims to improve public health by providing a consistent set of tools to process and share information on air quality, within and among the three North American countries. A centerpiece of this initiative is AIRNow, a United States system compliant with GEO principles for distributing near-real-time information on air quality conditions. Implementation in Mexico involves connecting the country's diverse air quality monitoring systems through AirNow-I. Project partners include the national environmental protection agencies of the three North American countries, Mexico's National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change, and the air quality monitoring networks of the Mexican states and the Federal District.

To date, the cities of Monterrey and Toluca have adopted the AirNow-I system, and Mexico's Federal District has become the largest North American metropolis to share its air quality data in real-time through the AirNow platform.

The presentation will provide an overview of the project, initial results, and the contribution of this effort in the context of GEOSS.