

Contact: Laura Sitkin
Tel: 617- 495-0562
Email: laura_sitkin@harvard.edu

NEW GRANTS ADDRESS BORDER AIR QUALITY

Cambridge, MA, – The Border Ozone Reduction and Air Quality Improvement Program has awarded four new applied research grants for projects designed to reduce high levels of harmful ozone and other air pollutants and to facilitate the creation of shared cross-border environmental standards in the Mexicali, Baja California, and Imperial Valley, California, border region.

LASPAU: Academic and Professional Programs for the Americas, an affiliate of Harvard University, began the program in 2002 with a \$2 million seed grant from InterGen, a power generation firm with projects around the world, including operations in Mexico. The program is one of a number of InterGen's sustainable development initiatives.

The aim of the Border Ozone Program is to facilitate partnerships between academia and the industry, civic, and government sectors, with the shared goal of maintaining improved air quality in the border region. The research funded to date has generated essential information for future policy directions and practical solutions for air quality problems in the region. The current grant award winners represent the third round of funded projects.

The following individuals received grants in the second round of funding:

- Allen Blackman, senior fellow at Resources for the Future, an organization that seeks to improve environmental and natural resource policymaking worldwide through high-quality, objective social science research, is evaluating the benefits and costs of cross-border electric power transmission and possible offsets in Mexicali and the Imperial Valley.
- Marco Antonio Carrillo Maza, director of postgraduate studies at Universidad de CETYS, is conducting research to support a municipal inspection program to reduce vehicle emissions, the single largest contributing factor to atmospheric pollution in the Mexicali area.
- Marco Antonio Reyna Carranza, a professor at the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, is creating a binational epidemiological surveillance system to identify the relationship between air pollution and morbidity rates.
- Rick Van Schoik, managing director of the Southwest Consortium for Environmental Research and Policy (SCERP), is designating a binational common airshed in the Mexicali-Imperial Valley and San Diego-Tijuana regions with the goal of reducing emissions and encouraging the trading of offsets. The grant funds will also support a bilateral conference to share findings on air quality research that will inform the new airshed.

LASPAU is a nonprofit organization that designs, develops, and implements academic and professional exchange programs on behalf of individuals and institutions in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

LASPAU is currently seeking additional sources of funding for the Border Ozone Program. For further information please contact Laura Sitkin at 617-495-0562 or laura_sitkin@harvard.edu.