

U.S. and Mexican Border Municipalities
-- Letter of Understanding Template --
U.S.-Mexico Border Scrap Tire Integrated Management Initiative

Please print your municipality's Letter of Understanding on your organization's letterhead and have it signed by the highest organizational authority possible. Please confer with the EPA's Ellie Kanipe, kanipe.ellie@epa.gov if you would like to modify the letter.

[Date]

Mr. Matthew Hale
Border 2012 Waste Policy Forum Co-Chair
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Mail code: 5304P
Washington, DC 20460

Mr. Edgar Del Villar Alvelais
Advisers Coordinator for the Undersecretary of Environmental Promotion and Regulations
Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources
Av. Revolución 1425
Col. Tlacopac, San Ángel
A. Obregón 01040, D. F. México

Dear Mr. Hale and Mr. Del Villar:

Subject: Tire Initiative Letter of Understanding

The Municipality of (Insert municipality name) sees the importance of providing long-term solutions to address the problem of U.S.-Mexican border scrap tire piles. We understand that the **U.S.-Mexico Border Scrap Tire Integrated Management Initiative** (hereinafter the "Tire Initiative") provides concrete actions that when employed have great potential to contribute significantly to the prevention of future border scrap tire piles.

The Municipality of (Insert municipality name) understands the importance of the Tire Initiative considering:

- The interest of the U.S. and Mexico to promote policies that enhance environmental quality and sustainable development through the implementation of initiatives like the Tire Initiative;
- That scrap tire piles throughout the border region are encroaching on the natural landscape and present a significant waste management problem;
- That scrap tire pile fires cause severe air quality issues from their emissions of dense smoke and noxious fumes and generate significant amounts of liquid wastes that can contaminate soil and ground and surface water; and
- That scrap tires serve as breeding grounds for mosquitoes, rodents and other disease vectors.

Therefore, the Municipality of (Insert municipality name) does hereby sign this Letter of Understanding to collaborate on the Tire Initiative, a framework defining the principles and actions fundamental to developing sustainable scrap tire management plans.

The Tire Initiative's Principles follow:

PRINCIPLE 1: Better understand the problems contributing to scrap tire generation.

PRINCIPLE 2: Prevent new tire piles.

PRINCIPLE 3: Clean-up "legacy" (existing) tire piles using environmentally sound and cost effective solutions.

PRINCIPLE 4: Involve stakeholders and communities in creating solutions.

The Tire Initiative's Actions follow:

ACTION 1: Gather information to better understand scrap tire generation (including sources of substandard tires and illegal tire entry into Mexico), illegal scrap tire dumping, and methods for effective management of scrap tires.

ACTION 2: Consider federal, state, and local-level regulatory options to administer scrap tire management programs.

ACTION 3: Encourage development and implementation of a variety of environmentally acceptable and economically promising end-use markets for scrap tires to increase recycling and reuse. (Our plan is that this will be done through economic, regulatory, and technology development incentives.)

ACTION 4: Abate tire piles by seeking funding to eliminate legacy scrap tire piles, and invest in and adequately manage temporary storage and transfer stations to facilitate recycling and/or reuse of scrap tires.

ACTION 5: Involve the U.S. and Mexican governments, the private-sector, academics, and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Scrap Tire Integrated Management Initiative.

ACTION 6: Establish and implement educational outreach programs on scrap tire recycling and reuse opportunities geared towards a diverse audience of stakeholders.

The Tire Initiative was signed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Mexican Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) in October 2006 as a result of commitments made by the United States and Mexico during the 2004 Binational Commission meeting.

By signing this Letter of Understanding, the Municipality of (Insert municipality name) is:

INDICATING our awareness and understanding of the Tire Initiative and its Principles and Actions which are stated in full above;

EXPRESSING our support and collaboration with the Tire Initiative; and

COMMITTING to work together to leverage our existing resources to implement activities which support each of the above Actions while maintaining consistency with each country's waste management policies.

The Municipality of (Insert municipality name) believes that together we can prevent the creation of additional scrap tire piles and clean up our border communities.

Sincerely,

Municipality of (Insert municipality name)

Cc: Alfonso Flores, Border 2012 Waste Policy Forum Co chair, SEMARNAT
Ellie Kanipe, EPA Headquarters
Emily Pimentel, EPA Region 9
Robert Snowbarger, EPA Region 6
State Contacts