Our History and Commitment to Lead
Canada, Mexico and the U.S. Climate Alliance joined forces in November 2017 at COP23 under the North American Climate Leadership Dialogue (NACLD) to accelerate climate policy efforts across North America. In September 2018, at the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco, partners agreed to build on that effort by working together to advance an ambitious climate agenda, and agreed to report on progress in 2019, at the UN Secretary General’s Climate Summit. NACLD members are pleased to report that under the NACLD, partners have advanced key climate priorities, both as individual jurisdictions, and collectively.

Incorporating the Human Cost of Climate Change
In June 2019, Canada and the U.S. Climate Alliance collaborated with two U.S.-based think tanks, Resources for the Future and the Climate Impact Lab, to facilitate a policy dialogue on the social cost of carbon (SCC). The SCC is a regulatory tool used to estimate the incremental costs associated with—or conversely, the incremental benefits from avoiding—the release of an additional tonne of carbon dioxide emissions. The workshop focused on the application of the SCC in federal and state policymaking and the research that is currently underway to both refine the methodologies underlying SCC estimates and ensure it reflects the best available scientific knowledge. In addition to updating the SCC, these think tanks are developing a tool that would enable states to more accurately use the costs of climate change in their policy formulation. Ongoing collaboration on the SCC will ensure that the latest scientific methods and advancements are incorporated into the international and sub-national work.

Making Progress to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants
Short-lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs) are globally recognized as potent greenhouse gases and pollutants that have a substantial warming effect on climate, and mitigation of these substances is key to ensure environmental and human health. As individual jurisdictions, partners are all implementing strategies to reduce SLCPs. In the last year, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New York, Vermont and Washington joined California in legislating or regulating hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) through substantially similar policies that are rebuilding a national strategy that supports American innovation and phases-down powerful HFCs. Virginia and New Mexico initiated rulemaking processes to reduce methane emissions and waste from the oil and gas sector, while Colorado is
goals. Partners also continued the advancement of the Powering Past Coal Alliance, which now accounts for 91 members, of which 32 are national governments, including Canada, Mexico and 9 are U.S. Climate Alliance Members.

Driving Clean Transportation

The transportation sector remains one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in North America. Recognizing the need to address this amongst linked North American markets, in June 2019, California and Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding to advance improvements in vehicle efficiency, clean vehicles and low-carbon fuel standards. Subsequently, 24 U.S. state governors announced the Nation’s Clean Car Promise, committing to maintain strong national standard on vehicles emissions and to defend states’ rights to protect public health. Nine states, through the Transportation and Climate Initiative, announced the development of a new cap-and-invest proposal to reduce transportation emissions, with an aim to finalise the proposal by the end of 2019. Mexico is working on an Electro Mobility Strategy, whose main objective is to promote and position zero-emission vehicles as a viable and sustainable alternative. In addition, at the beginning of September 2019, Mexico presented the Sustainable Transportation Program that plans to reduce pollutant emissions generated by cargo and passenger vehicles.

Natural and Working Lands

As part of an ambitious nature agenda, and to help address the impacts of climate change on ecosystems, Canada committed to conserve 17% of terrestrial areas and inland water, and 10% of coastal and marine areas by 2020, supported by significant federal investment in various programs. Since the end of 2018, Canada has increased its terrestrial conserved area from 11.2% to an estimated 12.6%. The marine target has been achieved, with the marine conserved area increasing from 7.9% at the end of 2018 to about 13.8%. Work continues on improving the representivity and ecological connectedness of our network. By June 2019, Mexico has extended the establishment of protected natural areas, representing 11.14% of national land area and 22.05% of the marine surface. In addition, Mexico has strongly promoted...
Voluntary Areas for Conservation, a tool that allows indigenous people, social organizations, moral, public or private persons to voluntarily allocate their land and resources to environmental conservation actions. To date there are 339 areas of this type that represent 506,912 hectares.

Natural and Working Lands (NWL) offset more than 14% of the US Climate Alliance’s GHG emissions and have the potential to increase carbon sequestration and reduce GHG emissions through conservation and improved management. Many of these stewardship activities will also increase the climate resilience of urban and rural communities, farms, forests, watersheds and coastal areas. Alliance states are working through the Natural and Working Lands Working Group (NWL WG) to 1) improve inventory methods for land-based carbon flux; 2) identify best practices to reduce GHG emissions and increase resilient carbon sequestration; 3) advance programs that facilitate the enhancement of resilient carbon sequestration; 4) undertake actions that support the maintenance of NWLs; and 5) integrate actions into state GHG mitigation plans by 2020. These goals are codified in the NWL Challenge, which 17 Alliance states have adopted.

In the Summer of 2019, the U.S. Climate Alliance launched a $500,000 grant program to fund research and implementation into natural climate solutions that will help member states achieve their commitments under the Natural and Working Lands Challenge.

Senior officials from Canada and Mexico met with U.S. Climate Alliance governors to reiterate their commitment to North American climate leadership, and share perspectives on how to raise ambition through common sense solutions that benefit the region.

Speaking with a Unified Voice
Senior officials from Canada and Mexico met with U.S. Climate Alliance governors to reiterate their commitment to North American climate leadership, and share perspectives on how to raise ambition through common sense solutions that benefit the region. At the Global Climate Action Summit, the U.S. Climate Alliance also convened a ministerial roundtable, with senior officials from Canada, Mexico and 16 other countries, to discuss the central role sub-nationals play in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. Canada hosted a dialogue with NACLD partners and stakeholders to explore opportunities to deepen collaboration across the region on priority policy areas.