



## The North American Clean Energy Partnership Initiative

Through NAFTA, the United States, Canada, and Mexico established a new global standard for economic integration. We have achieved thriving commercial relationships and deeply connected supply chains. Total two-way goods trade between the United States and its NAFTA partners has grown a remarkable 307 percent since the agreement came into force, reaching nearly \$1.2 trillion in 2014.

Increased trade drives job creation and economic growth. NAFTA built a solid foundation upon which North American competitiveness can continue to be enhanced to the benefit of all our citizens. As we prepare for new challenges and opportunities in the global marketplace of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, we must effectively leverage this regional economic integration to ensure continued growth and prosperity.

The North American Clean Energy Partnership Initiative (NACEPI) is one such effort. Clean Energy is one of the most dynamic, fast-changing, and transformative sectors of the global economy. There is growing global consensus that the world must deal with the threat of climate change, in part through the deployment of clean energy technologies. The developed and developing world alike is choosing to promote clean energy development through policy incentives, which should create opportunities and drive investment in almost all markets.

Through NACEPI we will be working together to make North America the dominant player in the use and export of clean energy and environmental technology. This will entail supporting the development of business linkages among clean energy technology companies in the United States, Mexico, and Canada, with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This will include connecting North American SMEs to multi-national corporation supply chain opportunities and facilitating access to government and multilateral development bank procurement tenders.

The successful participation of small and medium-sized enterprises in the global marketplace is essential to our regional prosperity. SMEs are vital drivers of our respective economies. In the United States, 63 percent of net new private-sector jobs are generated by SMEs. These SMEs account for 33 percent of the total value of U.S. exports.

The first activity in the launch of NACEPI will be a networking of North American clean energy companies at Centrallia in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, May 25-27, 2016 (<http://www.centrallia.com/>). This face-to-face business matchmaking event will serve as a foray into connecting North American clean energy companies. Other activities and venues for additional networking are under review.

The primary goal of this initiative is to strengthen business linkages among North American SMEs and develop partnerships that improve their competitiveness. This will in turn expand opportunities for these North American clean energy companies in markets outside the region.

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Office of North America is leading this Initiative, in cooperation with Global Affairs Canada, the Embassy of Canada in the United States, and Mexico's Secretaría de Economía. For more information please contact:

[Stephen.Sullivan@trade.gov](mailto:Stephen.Sullivan@trade.gov).

