



Bahrain-United States Free Trade Agreement

Environment

The Environment Chapter of the Bahrain-United States Free Trade Agreement sets out the Parties' commitments regarding environmental protection.

Environmental Protection

The Kingdom of Bahrain and the United States each committed to effectively enforce its environmental laws on a sustained basis and to ensure that their laws provide for high levels of environmental protection.

The Agreement also includes commitments to provide certain procedural guarantees that ensure fair, equitable, and transparent proceedings for the administration and enforcement of environmental laws.

In addition, it calls for the encouragement of the development of voluntary measures and market-based mechanisms for achieving and maintaining high levels of environmental protection. Relevant authorities are required to ensure that opportunities exist for the public to provide input concerning the implementation of the Environment commitments.

Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Cooperation

As a complement to the Agreement, the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government of the United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Cooperation that will establish a Joint Forum on Environmental Cooperation, develop a plan of action, and set priorities for future environment-related projects.

The Memorandum provides for enhanced bilateral cooperation in environmental protection and the promotion of the highest standards in environmental regulations.

The following subject areas reflect priorities for environmental cooperation between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United States:

Environmental Laws and Regulations

- *Strengthening the capacity to develop, implement, and enforce environmental laws and regulations.*

Environmental Impact Assessments

- *Improving the public and private capacity to conduct environmental impact assessments in Bahrain.*

Environmental Incentives/Voluntary Programs

- *As a complement to the enforcement of environmental laws and regulations, encouraging the development of incentives and voluntary mechanisms to contribute to the achievement and maintenance of high levels of environmental protection.*

Air Quality

- *Developing projects and programs to improve air quality and reduce the adverse health impacts of air pollution.*

Public Participation in Environmental Protection

- *Promoting both the development of opportunities for public participation in environmental protection efforts and the building of public access to information and access to justice on environmental issues.*

Protection of Water Resources

- *Improving water resources management.*

Coastal Protection and Preservation of Marine Resources

- *Protecting coastal environmental zones and estuaries and preventing the over-exploitation of living and nonliving marine resources.*

Protection of Endangered Species

- *Strengthening the capacity to protect endangered species.*

Environmental Technology and Business

- *Promoting the growth of the environmental technology business sector.*