



NTAA Weekly Update

Week of December 14 - 18, 2020

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PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

NTAA and ITEP are pleased to announce the 2021 National Tribal Forum on Air Quality's Call for Proposals! Please [Submit a Proposal](#) if you are interested in presenting at the 2021 NTFAQ!

May 17-20, 2021

Call for Proposals NTFAQ 2021

The National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ) brings together environmental professionals from Tribes, U.S. EPA, and other agencies and organizations to **DISCUSS** current policy initiatives, **EXPLORE** up-to-date technology solutions, and **SHARE** practical knowledge and experiences from tribal air quality programs nationwide.

The NTFAQ planning committee is actively seeking proposals for presentations. Please click on this [LINK](#) for more information and instructions to submit a proposal abstract. **Deadline for submissions is February 10, 2021.**

The Forum is open to attendees from across Indian Country, as well as U.S. EPA and other local and national partners working to improve human health and the environment.

PREVIOUS FORUM SESSIONS & TOPICS

- Case Studies of Tribal Air Programs
- Air Monitoring Technology
- Indoor Air Quality Studies
- Community Outreach & Engagement
- Air Quality Policy & Regulations
- Health Impacts & Research
- Emission Inventories
- Innovative Community Projects
- Climate Change & Air Quality



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TOP STORIES

EPA - [EPA Announces Historic Agreement with Seven Mid-Atlantic Federally Recognized Indian Tribes](#)

EcoWatch – [Court Rejects Trump’s Arctic Drilling Proposal in ‘Huge Victory for Polar Bears and Our Climate’](#)

The Salt Lake Tribune – [Indigenous activists speak out against plans to import radioactive material to southeast Utah](#)

NY Times – [Claims of ‘Bleak’ Environmental Justice Record Appear to Fell a Biden Favorite](#)

Bloomberg – [Biden Enlists Team of Veteran Leaders to Fight Climate Change](#)

The Hill – [With climate team taking shape, Biden weighs picks for EPA, Interior](#)

NPR – [‘Hold Their Feet To the Fire’: Getting A COVID-19 Vaccine To Hard-Hit Indian Country](#)

HEADLINES

Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes

NY Times – [New Trump Rule Aims to Limit Tough Clean Air Measures Under Biden](#)

E&E News – [Pollution, poverty and pandemic: A community on edge](#)

NY Times – [Wealthier, Whiter Areas Are More Likely to Get Help After Fires, Data Show](#)

The Washington Post – [Trump EPA finalized rollback making it harder to enact new public health rules](#)

Medical News Today – [The impact of historical trauma on American Indian equity](#)

Sacramento News Review – [State’s largest water district ignores tribes, conservationists, ratepayers on Delta tunnel](#)

National Geographic – [Exclusive: Kids catch and spread coronavirus half as much as adults, Iceland study confirms](#)

Greenwire – [‘Good Cause’: EPA moves could obstruct Biden rules](#)

Star Tribune – [22 protesters arrested at Enbridge pipeline construction site](#)

Native News Online – [Cleveland MLB Team to Drop Indians Name](#)

National Association of Clean Air Agencies – [Washington Update](#)

Climate Change/Energy

KTOO – [Solar project in Northwest Arctic villages set to break ground next spring](#)

NY Times – [They’re Among the World’s Oldest Living Things. The Climate Crisis is Killing Them](#)

Axios – [Study finds viable pathways to "net-zero" U.S. emissions by 2050](#)

The Washington Post – [The world’s rich need to cut their carbon footprint by a factor of 30 to slow climate change, U.N. warns](#)

Reuters – [Emissions hit new record, put world on track for 3C warming -U.N.](#)

The Hill – [Government spending bill to include bipartisan energy provisions](#)

Toxics/Mobile Sources

High Country New – [New Mexico is on track to have the weakest methane emissions regulations in the nation](#)

NPR – [Biden To Nominate Former Rival Buttigieg As Transportation Secretary](#)

The Hill – [Trump admin accused of rushing to approve mining deal on land held sacred by Native Americans](#)

EcoWatch – [Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, Nestle Are Worst Plastic Polluters of 2020, Have Made ‘Zero Progress,’ New Report Finds](#)

NY Times – [New York’s \\$226 Billion Pension Fund Is Dropping Fossil Fuel Stocks](#)

Environmental Health News – [Southwest US communities and Hispanics most likely to have arsenic-laden water](#)

Indoor Air Quality

Inverse – [One Type of Indoor Area is Especially High-Risk for COVID-19 - Study](#)

GlobeNewswire – [Common Causes of Poor Indoor Air Quality](#)

Be sure to subscribe to [EPA's IAQ Bulletins](#)

UPCOMING CALLS/EVENTS/NOTICES

Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes

NEW! National Tribal Forum on Air Quality 2021 Call for Proposals!

Deadline for submissions is February 10, 2021

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The Forum is open to attendees from across Indian Country, as well as U.S. EPA and other local and national partners working to improve human health and the environment. For More Information Contact: Andy.Bessler@nau.edu, Mehrdad.Khatibi@nau.edu, and/or Christopher.Lee@nau.edu

2020 Virgil Masayesva Memorial Scholarship Recipients

Virgil was the co-founder and director of the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona. As a director, Virgil directed and managed ITEP's tribal environmental training programs and was instrumental in establishing ITEP's air quality programs including the American Indian Air Quality Training Program and the Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center and many other programs dedicated to the protection and preservation of tribal resources and tribal environmental management. [Click here](#) to see this year's scholarship recipients and [make a donation](#) to help support Native American students at NAU!

Grand Canyon Trust Teach-In on Uranium Mining and the Colorado Plateau
6-7pm MT | [Register Here](#)

Join Talia Boyd, Cultural Landscapes Program manager, Amber Reimondo, Energy Program director and Megan Kelly, Energy Program associate, online via Zoom as they kick off a new teach-in series highlighting the toxic legacy of uranium mining and milling in tribal communities. Listen in as they discuss the history of uranium mining on the Colorado Plateau and what we're working on today to break the ongoing cycle of injustice caused by America's nuclear ambitions.

Teach in Schedule – Thursdays:

- Dec. 17, 2020 — Native perspectives: uranium and the economy

EPA Burn Wise Program: Wood Smoke and COVID-19 webpage

The [webpage](#) includes basic information about the relationship between residential wood smoke and COVID -19, links to information that will help the public know the difference between symptoms from smoke exposure and COVID-19, and steps to take to reduce exposure of wood smoke. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted our routines and patterns. With more people attending school virtually and working from home this winter along with trying to save money on home heating bills, we anticipate an increased amount of residential wood burning this heating season. Smoke from wood stoves, fireplaces and firepits and can impact air quality both indoors and outdoors.

NTAA Upcoming Calls

The toll-free number is 1-800-309-2350. If you do not need to call toll free, or would like to help conserve NTAA funding, you can call 1-805-309-2350. Both numbers use code 928-523-0526#. Contact Andy.Bessler@nau.edu if you have any questions about any call! ***Registration instructions*** When you register for the GoToWebinar, please remember to include your Tribe, Region, or Organization in parenthesis after your last name. This allows you to see everyone on the call and prevents us from conducting a roll-call, ultimately saving everyone's time.

Mobile Sources Work Group: This monthly work group addresses all mobile source pollution issues.	Thursday, January 7, 2pm ET
Indoor Air Quality Work Group: Join this work group every other month to help support IAQ work throughout Indian Country.	Tomorrow, Dec. 17 at 2:30 pm ET
Wood Smoke Work Group: Join this work group every other month to address wood smoke issues in Indian Country.	Thursday, January 21, 2pm ET

EPA Policy Call: Call in to hear updates from EPA on policies, actions, and tools relevant to Indian Country and Air Quality.	Thursday, January 28, 2pm ET
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The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professional's (ITEP's) [Tribes and Climate Change Calendar](#) includes conferences, trainings, webinars and other events related to tribes and climate change.

[Click here](#) for ITEP's other trainings and events.

[Click here](#) for ITEP's new Tribal Environmental Management and Planning Online Courses. New courses have been added, so check it out!

ITEP's [FY20 AIAQTP Course Schedule](#)

Course Title	Dates	Location	Course Level
	2020		
Air Pollution Technology (<i>Postponed!</i>)	TBD	Flagstaff, AZ	2
Meteorological Monitoring (<i>Postponed!</i>)	Fall 2020	TAMS Center, Las Vegas, NV	3
Air Pollution Modeling	Fall 2020	TAMS Center, Las Vegas, NV	3
Air Quality Outreach	TBD	TBD	1
National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ) (<i>Postponed!</i>)	May 2021	Tulsa, OK	n/a
Air Quality Planning for Wildland Smoke	Anytime	Series of 6 recorded webinars	n/a
Indoor Air Quality - Independent Study	Anytime	Independent Study	1
Building Performance: Improving IAQ in Cold Climates	Open	Online	1
Building Performance: Improving IAQ in Warm Climates	In development	Online	1
Residential Building Science Review	Open	Online	1
Radon Fundamentals	Open	Online	1

Quality Assurance Fundamentals (QA 101)	Open	Online	1
Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) (QA 201-209)	Open	Online	2
Emissions Inventory Fundamentals	Open	Online	2
Emissions Inventory Advanced	Open	Online	3
<i>Note: This schedule is subject to change. For up-to-date information, course descriptions, and applications please visit http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_air/</i>			

Climate Change / Energy

Alaska Forum on the Environment: Upcoming November and December Sessions

- *December 16 - Introduction to Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG)*

Technical sessions and environmental trainings are now offered all year long, through December 2021! And to keep the tradition of the AFE event alive, enhanced content, trainings and world-renown keynotes will still take place February 8-11, 2021, also all online.

Keep an eye out on the [AFE Technical Session and Training Calendar](#), where you can view detailed session information. Additional technical sessions and new inspirational series' will be added regularly. [Register today](#) by selecting Alaska Forum Annual Subscription.

Call for Community Engagement Workshop Participants and Papers for a Special Issue

Workshop Series: Winter/Spring 2021

[Apply Here](#)

This USDA NIFA funded and professionally facilitated Engagement Workshop Series will convene a multidisciplinary group of researchers, community stakeholders, practitioners, students, funders, and policy makers to discuss the design and impacts of stakeholder engagement to address socio-environmental problems in working landscapes. The workshop series includes virtual meetings in winter/spring 2021 and a two-day in-person workshop at Penn State University, US in June 2021. Intended outcomes include 1) a special issue of a journal on workshop themes, 2) a collaboratively defined and co-produced research agenda on the “science of engagement,” and 3) formation of a new collaborative research network. Among the questions to be addressed are: *What risks does engagement entail and for whom? What challenges and risks are posed to indigenous and underrepresented communities through engagement? Which approaches effectively and equitably engage underrepresented stakeholders?* [Apply here to participate](#) in the virtual meetings and/or to submit a paper. Funding is available for travel to the

June 2021 conference on a competitive basis. More information available at the [workshop website](#). Questions or a request for more information can be sent to Georgia Hart-Fredeluces at hartgeo2@isu.edu.

ITEP's Climate Change Adaptation Training Courses registration is online!
[Learn more about the courses and register here.](#)

Toxics/Mobile Sources

The recent additions to OTAQ's website in November 2020 are listed below.
[You can access these additions as well as new press releases and Federal Register notices related to OTAQ on our website.](#)

- November 20, 2020: [EPA announces a virtual workshop on December 9-10, 2020, on the Fuels Regulatory Streamlining rule ahead of its implementation date of January 1, 2021.](#)
- November 16, 2020: [EPA releases an updated and improved emission modeling system – MOVES3.](#)
- November 5, 2020: [EPA recognizes 2020 SmartWay Excellence Awardees.](#)

MOVES3 Posted on EPA Website

EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality is pleased to announce the web posting of the latest version of the Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator, MOVES3. This state-of-the-science upgrade to EPA's modeling tools replaces the MOVES2014 series of models as EPA's latest model for estimating air pollution emissions from cars, trucks, motorcycles, and buses, as well as many categories of nonroad equipment. Compared to the previous MOVES2014 modeling tool, MOVES3 allows users to model the benefits from new regulations promulgated since MOVES2014 was released, incorporates the latest vehicle and emissions data, and has improved functionality. EPA will be publishing a *Federal Register* notice to announce the availability of MOVES3 for official purposes. The MOVES web page (<https://www.epa.gov/moves>) is the source for MOVES3 software as well as a detailed "Question and Answer" document, MOVES Policy Guidance, MOVES Technical Guidance, technical reports that document the data and algorithms used in MOVES3, tools for use with MOVES, and information on MOVES training.

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Indoor Air Quality

Four Steps to Becoming an IAQ Champion and Reducing the Spread of Viruses in Schools

The latest on-demand webinars available to view on EPA’s website outline a four-step process for implementing indoor air quality (IAQ) management strategies to reduce the spread of viruses and bacteria in schools. Identify the important steps for improving IAQ in your school or school district by viewing the webinars listed below.

- Step 1: Learn how [operating and maintaining efficient HVAC systems](#) in schools goes hand in hand with controlling the spread of airborne viruses and bacteria.
- Step 2: Learn how to [tailor your cleaning and maintenance plan](#) and procedures to help implement cleaning guidance in your school or school district.
- Step 3: Learn how to [identify additional key IAQ considerations](#) that address a range of critical areas related to controlling the spread of diseases and bacteria in schools.
- Step 4: Turn your [knowledge into action](#) by integrating what you’ve learned into your school’s plans for IAQ management, preventive maintenance, and a safe reopening and operation.

Be sure to subscribe to [CodeTalk](#), HUD’s Office of Native American Programs newsletter, for webinars and opportunities!

RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Now Hiring!

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Clean Energy for Biden (CE4B) has launched a screening committee to identify, vet and endorse highly qualified clean energy professionals to potentially serve in a Biden-Harris administration.

[Apply for this Job!](#)

If you are interested in this The Biden-Harris administration is committed to starting day one of their Administration by leading by example, making sure political appointees, including their Cabinet, and our entire federal workforce look like the country they serve. CE4B is not part of the official Biden-Harris campaign, but we are gathering names for all levels of clean energy positions within a Biden-Harris administration, with a focus on underrepresented groups. If you or someone you know would make a good addition to government clean energy leadership, please complete this application.

If you are interested in this particular role, please submit your resume to CE4B’s clean energy professionals database, which we will make available to the Biden-Harris Transition Team. Please ensure you are also signed up as a member of Clean Energy for Biden. Sign up [here](#) if you're not already registered.

NOAA Climate & Global Change Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

Deadline is January 8, 2021

We are pleased to announce the 2021 call for applications for NOAA's Climate and Global Change Postdoctoral Fellowship (C&GC) program. The fellowship program has an outstanding reputation for attracting the best and the brightest PhDs in the sciences relevant to climate change. Each appointed fellow is hosted by a mentoring scientist at a U.S. university or research institution to work in an area of mutual interest.

C&GC fellows are UCAR employees and receive a fixed annual salary, plus UCAR's benefits and allowances for relocation, travel and publications.

Appointments will be announced by April 1, 2021. For [more information go here](#) or [email us!](#)

Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes

NEW! Webinar on EPA's competitive grant programs and processes on Date: December 17, 2020 at 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

This webinar is for federally recognized tribes to learn about EPA's competitive grants process and general grant management and administrative issues. The webinar will cover grant topics including:

- How to find and apply for grant opportunities;
- EPA's Grants.gov requirements;
- Information about the competitive process; and
- Preparing proper budget detail

Participants are encouraged to raise questions for presenters to address in real time. If you are interested in applying for EPA competitive grants or are currently managing one, please consider attending this informative webinar!

How to Register:

No registration required. On the time and date of the webinar, please go to [OGD's Grant Award Process Webinar](#) and select "enter as guest" to join.

Webinar Materials (subject to change):

- [Competition Presentation - The basics on competing for EPA Assistance Programs](#)
- [Preparing and Managing Your EPA Award Presentation](#)

This event is part of the Office of Grants and Debarment [Grant Award Process Webinar Series](#) and the Office of Environmental Justice [Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples](#).

NEW! Grants GCRC, Grants GMOs, Grants JROs

Thursday, December 17, 2020 | 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment is hosting a webinar for the external EPA grants community. The webinar will cover grants topics including: how to find and apply for grant opportunities on Grants.gov, preparing a proper budget detail, and

managing a grant. In addition, we will be hosting a Q&A session during the second half of the webinar. Please pass along the following information to any recipients or potential applicants that you think may be interested. Thank you.

EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment periodically hosts webinars for the EPA grants community. If you are interested in applying for EPA grants or are currently managing an EPA grant, please consider the upcoming webinar listed below.

How to Register:

You do not need to register. If you wish to attend, just go to the following link a few minutes before the webinar starts: [Grant Award Process Webinar](#). There is no call-in number – audio will be broadcast through your computer speakers or headphones.

EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment is hosting a webinar for the EPA grants community. The webinar will cover grants topics, including: how to find and apply for grant opportunities; EPA's new Grants.gov requirement; and preparing a proper budget detail. In addition, we will be hosting a Q&A session during the second half of the webinar.

FEMA Opens \$600 Million Grant Process

The [Federal Emergency Management Association](#) (FEMA) opened applications on September 30, 2020 for two hazard mitigation grant programs totaling \$660 million. The two grant programs, the [Flood Mitigation Assistance grant](#) and the [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant, or BRIC](#), will provide funds to states, local communities, Tribes and territories for eligible mitigation activities. These programs allow for funding to be used on projects that will reduce future disaster losses and strengthen our nation's ability to build a culture of preparedness.

Both grant applications are open from *Sept. 30 to Jan. 21, 2021*. Eligible applicants must apply for funding using the new [FEMA Grants Outcome \(FEMA GO\)](#). Applications received by FEMA after this deadline will not be considered for funding.

EPA is launched a new Learning Management System (LMS) to deliver technical training to air pollution professionals in tribal, state, and local government air agencies. This new LMS is a key part of our larger plan to modernize the training that EPA and our partners deliver to air quality professionals at all stages of their careers.

The new LMS is organized around eight new air quality curricula (Functional Areas):

- Air Pollution Basics
- Air Quality Modeling
- Air Quality Planning
- Air Toxics Rule Development and Implementation

- Ambient Air Monitoring
- Emissions Inventories
- Permitting
- Source Emissions Testing and Source Emissions Monitoring

The curricula can be used as default learning plans, or learners have flexibility to design their own learning plans, drawing from materials across multiple curricula. The course materials are modularized such that learners can choose specific modules that relate to their work and professional goals, or they can access an entire course or a set of courses as part of their learning plan.

All tribal, state, and local government learners need to register to access the system. Click [here](#) to register. Step by step registration instructions are provided in the flier attached to this email. Questions about the new LMS may be addressed to apti@epa.gov.

Request for Public Nominations for Authors and Scientific/Technical Inputs and Notice of Planned Public Engagement Opportunities for the Fifth National Climate Assessment

The U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) announced the Call for Authors and Scientific/Technical Inputs for the NCA5. USGCRP is seeking nominations for authors with relevant subject matter expertise and backgrounds in the natural or social sciences. In addition, USGCRP is seeking submissions of relevant scientific and/or technical publications, including peer-reviewed and published literature (or literature that has been accepted for publication), as well as regional and topical information and information for cross-cutting or new topics since the previous assessment. *Nominations are due November 14, 2020.* To learn more about the call and access the submission portal, please visit the [Open Notice](#) on USGCRP's website. Go to the [Federal Register Notice](#) for full details.

Assistant Secretary Sweeney Announces \$3 Million Living Languages Grant Program Funding Opportunity

Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Tara Mac Lean Sweeney announced today that the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED) is soliciting applications to the Living Languages Grant Program (LLGP). This \$3 Million grant program will fund between 15 and 60 grants, ranging from \$25,000-\$200,000, to federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Native entities to document, preserve and revitalize Native languages and build active speaker capacity. IEED's solicitation for LLGP funding and details on how to apply can be found in the [Federal Register](#) and at [Grants.Gov](#).

To view and/or receive ITEP's American Indian Air Quality Training Program newsletter, [Native Voices, click here!](#)

Climate Change/Energy

Advancing Climate Adaptation and Coastal Community Resilience FY 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity

The Adaptation Sciences Program will design and implement research investments through competitions, co-develop activities with partners, and support communities of practice around adaptation pathways. It will build on and maintain strong connections established by its highly successful predecessors - the Coastal and Ocean Climate Applications (COCA) Program, the International Research and Applications Project (IRAP), and the Sectoral Applications and Research Program (SARP).

Please feel free to reach out with questions about the FY 2021 competition or the AdSci Program; you can contact Nancy Beller-Simms (Nancy.Beller-Simms@noaa.gov) or Lisa Vaughan (Lisa.Vaughan@noaa.gov) at any time. Please refer to the [upcoming events section](#) of the NOAA/CPO website for information regarding a FY21 AdSci competition information session, and finally, please feel free to share this information with your colleagues.

On-Request Technical Assistance from DOE Office of Indian Energy

Applications Due: Not Applicable

Eligible Entities: tribal governments

The DOE Office of Indian Energy provides federally recognized Indian tribes, including Alaska Native villages, tribal energy resource development organizations, and other organized tribal groups and communities, with technical assistance to advance tribal energy projects at no cost. Technical experts from DOE and its national laboratories, along with other partnering organizations, provide support to assist Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages with energy planning, housing and building energy efficiency, project development, policy and regulation, resilience, and village power.

For more information, visit the on-request [technical assistance description](#).

Join NCAI's [Climate Action email](#) listserv here!

Sign up for the [Alliance for Green Heat](#)'s newsletter!

To view and/or receive [ITEP's Climate Change newsletter, click here!](#)

Toxics/Mobile Sources

Recent additions to OTAQ's website in August 2020

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Indoor Air Quality

Resource for Healthy Indoor Air Quality

Check out the website <https://forhealth.org/> for many resources related to healthy homes and indoor air quality!

The Tribal Healthy Homes Network (THHN) has a webpage dedicated to [Funding Opportunities!](#) Additionally, THHN has developed a [Funding Guide for American Indian and Alaska Native Communities](#).

Burning wood this winter? Check out these 5 tips to keep your family and neighbors healthy

Smoke may smell good, but it's not good for you. Wood smoke consists of tiny particles that can get into your eyes and lungs, where they may cause burning eyes, runny nose, and illnesses (such as bronchitis). Tiny smoke particles can irritate your lungs, cause inflammation, and affect your immune system. Particles found in wood smoke can make [asthma](#) symptoms worse and trigger asthma attacks.

Wood smoke can also make you more prone to lung infections, likely including SARS-CoV-2, the virus that cause COVID-19. According to the [CDC](#), people who currently have or who are recovering from COVID-19 may be at an increased risk of health effects from exposure to wood smoke due to compromised heart and/or lung function related to COVID-19. Learn more [here!](#) And [best wood-burning practices](#).

Most Recent Listing: EPA Rules from the Federal Register can be [found here](#).

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