



NTAA Weekly Update

Week of December 21 - 25, 2020

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Most Recent Listing: EPA Rules from the Federal Register can be found here.	14

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

Vox – [After decades of activism, the Navajo coal plant has been demolished](#)



Explosions bring down the three smokestacks at Navajo Generating Station on December 18. *Wahleah Jones/Native Renewables*

TOP STORIES

Indian Country Today - [Deb Haaland: 'Honored and ready to serve'](#)

The Hill - [Haaland nomination generates excitement in Native American communities](#)

Nature - [The latest on Biden's science team: veteran regulator to be EPA head](#)

The Guardian - [Air pollution a cause in girl's death, coroner rules in landmark case](#)

The Medium - [Tribal Governance: What It Is and Why It Matters](#)

HEADLINES

Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes

The Spokesman-Review - [Difference Makers: Twa-le Abrahamson-Swan is a 'modern-day warrior' who has coordinated wildfire, pandemic relief on reservations](#) (*Editor's Note: Ms. Abrahamson-Swan served on the NTAA Executive Committee for several years*)

The Conversation – [Wildfire smoke changes dramatically as it ages, and that matters for downwind air quality – here's what we learned flying through smoke plumes](#)

Scientific American - [Large Methane Leaks Reveal Long-Standing Shortfalls in Oversight](#)

Weather Channel - [Moon's Gravitational Forces Control Release of Methane Gas in Arctic Ocean, Finds Study](#)

U.S. EPA - [EPA Issues Stronger Lead Regulations to Protect Children's Health](#)

Nature - [Can Joe Biden rebuild the ravaged US Environmental Protection Agency?](#)

Bloomberg - [Republican Threatens 'Brawl' on Biden's EPA, Interior Picks](#)

U.S. Government Accountability Office - [Action Needed to Ensure EPA's Enforcement and Compliance Activities Support Its Strategic Goals](#)

The Hill - [Trump officials wrongly awarded Alaska grant in bid to open Tongass forest to logging: watchdog](#)

WPDE News - [Lumbee Tribe Recognition Act does not pass Senate](#)

Great Falls Tribune - [Little Shell Tribe navigates new territory 1 year after gaining federal recognition status](#)

KPCW - [New Study Shows Air Pollution Exposure with Lower Test Scores](#)

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

Climate Change/Energy

Axios - [Breaking down the scale of Capitol Hill's climate and energy deal](#)

Politico - [Trump takes aim at Covid stimulus bill, raising specter of veto](#)

The Hill - [Biden assembles team to enact ambitious climate agenda](#)

Yale Climate Connections - [Climate change alters a Louisiana tribe's way of life](#)

NY Times - [Biden's Twin Climate Chiefs, McCarthy and Kerry, Face a Monumental Task](#)

AP - [Arizona migrant border deaths on track for record amid heat](#)

Climate Signals - [Western Wildfire Season 2020](#)

Toxics/Mobile Sources

NCPR - [St. Regis Mohawk Tribe gets money for electric vehicles, thanks to Volkswagen](#)

Forbes - [Taking A Look At Biden's Climate Plan For Cars And Trucks](#)

NY Times – [Biden pick Pete Buttigieg for transportation secretary](#)

Washington Post - [Federal lead-pipe rule overhauled for first time in decades](#)

NPR - [Big Oil Evaded Regulation And Plastic Pellets Kept Spilling](#)

Indoor Air Quality

The Guardian - [Wood burners triple harmful indoor air pollution, study finds](#)

Air Quality News - [Improving indoor air quality is key to stopping spread of Covid-19](#)

The Leader Call - [Technology installed in Choctaws' buildings to neutralize COVID-19](#)

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

UPCOMING CALLS/EVENTS/NOTICES

Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes

NEW! On Friday, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an [Emergency Use Authorization for the Moderna vaccine](#) for the prevention of COVID-19 for individuals 18 years of age and older. This EUA represents

the second vaccine authorized for the prevention of COVID-19. Operation Warp Speed and private sector partners now begin distributing the first allocation of doses to sites designated by the public health jurisdictions and five federal agencies with which OWS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have been working to plan distribution. HHS Secretary Alex M. Azar II and Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher C. Miller [have issued statements on this next step](#).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has updated information and recommendations for [winter holidays](#). The safest way to celebrate the holidays is at home with the people who live with you. [Travel](#) and [gatherings](#) with family and friends who do not live with you can increase your chances of getting or spreading [COVID-19](#) or the [flu](#). Travel may increase your chance of spreading and getting COVID-19. CDC continues to recommend postponing travel and staying home, as this is the best way to protect yourself and others this year.

Please visit the [IHS coronavirus webpage](#) for the latest information.

NEW! Wildland Fire Research Tribal Listening Sessions

January 26, 2021; 2-4pm EST / [Register Here](#)

January 27, 2021; 2-4pm EST / [Register Here](#)

EPA Office of Research and Development's (ORD) Air and Energy National Research Program invites tribes to participate in the Wildland Fire Research Listening Session! This session will include:

- A short overview of current ORD research on wildland fires. • Listening sessions for tribes to inform ORD's update to its Wildland Fire Research plan.
- Overview of key resources currently available to tribes ([AirNow Fire and Smoke Map Pilot Project](#), Smoke Sense, [Smoke Ready Toolbox for Wildfires](#), Wildfire Smoke Guide, etc.).

NEW! Updates to Asthma Management Guidelines

The [National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute](#) (NHLBI), part of the National Institutes of Health, has just released updates to its Asthma Management Guidelines, which help health care providers around the country treat people with asthma. The new recommendations focus on six priority topic areas for methods used to manage asthma:

1. **Inhaled corticosteroids** help control inflammation in the airways and can be used for recurrent wheezing or persistent asthma.
2. **Long-acting antimuscarinic agents**, a type of inhaled medication that helps keep airway muscles relaxed, can be used with inhaled corticosteroids for long-term asthma management.
3. **Reducing exposure to indoor asthma triggers** can be done using a number of methods, many of which will be familiar to members of [AsthmaCommunityNetwork.org](#)

4. **Immunotherapy**—allergy shots containing very small amounts of allergens—can help some people with allergic asthma become less sensitive to allergens.
5. **Fractional exhaled nitric oxide tests** can help some patients manage asthma and providers confirm an asthma diagnosis. These tests measure nitric oxide, which can increase when airways are inflamed.
6. **Bronchial thermoplasty**—a procedure that uses heat to reduce muscle around the airways—can help treat some adults with persistent asthma.

To read about the new recommendations in more detail, [download the full report](#) from NHLBI.

NEW! FEMA is seeking feedback on the recently updated [“Comprehensive Preparedness Guide \(CPG\) 101: Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans](#) (this link is to draft pdf document 2.4Mb).”

“Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101: Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans” provides guidelines on developing emergency operations plans and promotes a common understanding of the fundamentals of community-based, risk-informed planning and decision making to help planners examine a threat or hazard and produce integrated, coordinated and synchronized plans.

FEMA will host a series of 60-minute webinar sessions to discuss changes to the updated CPG 101 and gather feedback from whole community partners. The sessions will include facilitated discussions with stakeholders to help improve the existing draft. For more information about the FEMA planning guides and webinars please visit: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/plan>.

Please provide any comments, or recommendations by the close of business on January 25, 2021. Email feedback or any questions to NPD-Planning@fema.dhs.gov.

FEMA Tribal Affairs: Tribal governments and their members are an essential part of our nation’s emergency management team. Effective relationships with tribes are necessary to fulfill FEMA’s mission of working together to improve our nation’s disaster preparedness and response. FEMA is committed to supporting Indian Country in its efforts to build more resilient and better prepared communities.

The FEMA National Tribal Affairs Advisor is: Denise Bambi Kraus at (202) 212-7215 or Bambi.Kraus@fema.dhs.gov.

NEW! The 2020 Tribal Air Resources Journal in Region 5 has been released!

The Tribal Air Resources Journal was started by Tribes in EPA Region 5 to better publicize Tribal Air Quality Program achievements, progression, and struggles to their Tribal communities as well as in Indian Country. The Journal provides Tribes

with a platform to promote their accomplishments and successes along with sharing obstacles and setbacks encountered along the way. **You can access the 2020 Tribal Air Resources Journal on [NTAA's website here](#).**

National Tribal Forum on Air Quality 2021 Call for Proposals!

Deadline for submissions is February 10, 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.

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

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.

Planning Call for the National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ): This monthly call works to plan the 2021 NTFAQ.	Monday, January 4, 3:30pm ET
Mobile Sources Work Group: This monthly work group addresses all mobile source pollution issues.	Thursday, January 7, 2pm 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

Indoor Air Quality Work Group: Join this work group every other month to help support IAQ work throughout Indian Country.	Tomorrow, February 18, 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
<p><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></p>			

Climate Change / Energy

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

NEW! SAVE THE DATE: Solutions for Managing In-Home Environmental Asthma Triggers During the Pandemic

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

Webinar: 2:00–3:00 p.m. EST | Q&A: 3:00–3:30 p.m. EST

Join the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and experts from around the country for a live panel discussion about strategies for and lessons learned about delivering in-home asthma care and environmental interventions during the pandemic, including virtual home visits. Please visit

www.asthmacommunitynetwork.org/node/17205 for more information.

NEW! Comment Period Open for EPA's Indoor airPLUS Version 2 New Construction Specifications

EPA's Indoor Environments Division has opened a public comment period with the release of newly proposed requirements for the Indoor airPLUS Program, EPA's voluntary label for improved indoor air quality (IAQ) in new homes. EPA is requesting feedback from interested parties and stakeholders on the proposed Version 2 of the Indoor airPLUS New Construction Specifications. EPA seeks to continuously improve its Indoor airPLUS program guidance and materials in response to partner and stakeholder feedback, revised industry standards, and evolving best practices in building science and home performance. More information on Indoor airPLUS can be found online at epa.gov/indoorairplus. EPA is conducting a comment period December 18, 2020 through March 17, 2021 on these draft specifications. The draft documents and instructions for submitting comments [are available here](#).

When sending feedback to Indoor_airPLUS@epa.gov, you are encouraged to use the Word Document Comment Tool for formatting your comments. If you chose another format, please send your comments in an attachment with your name and organization at the top. Where possible, please reference the specific item numbers and, if applicable, provide suggested changes that would address your concern. Please do not submit marked-up versions of the draft specifications as your attachment.

EPA representatives held the [Indoor airPLUS Version 2 webinar](#) on November 10 to provide context and background on many of the newly proposed

Indoor airPLUS Version 2 Construction Specifications. To access the recording, please [enter your information and click “Register”](#).

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

RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Now Hiring!

NEW! National Program Coordinator

The National Program Coordinator aids and supports the National Program Director and National Program Manager in implementing [Trees, Water & People’s](#) (TWP) programs on U.S. Tribal Lands. This position will provide technical and operational support to TWP’s Landscape Regeneration programs, including reforestation, agroforestry, rangeland management, and riparian restoration. They will be responsible for monitoring project outputs over time, evaluating outcomes, mapping intervention areas, grant prospecting and writing, and contributing to TWP’s marketing / communications efforts.

TO APPLY: Email your cover letter and resume to Dr. Valerie Small, valerie@treeswaterpeople.org All Required Skills must be addressed in your application. Please tell us where you found the job posting and no phone calls. Candidates selected for interviews will be emailed directly which are slated to begin in January. Members, citizens or direct descendants of a US Tribe are highly encouraged to apply.

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

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.

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

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 December 2020

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Indoor Air Quality

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](#).

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](#).

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

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