



NTAA Weekly Update

Week of January 25 - 29, 2021

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PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

U.S EPA - [EPA Welcomes Members of the Biden-Harris Leadership Team](#)



In 2015, NTAA Executive Committee Members and Staff met with the new Acting EPA Administrator Jane Nishida (in red).

TOP STORIES

The White House - [Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships](#)

NBC News - [Biden to sign executive actions on climate change](#)

Washington Post - [Biden to place environmental justice at center of sweeping climate plan](#)

Washington Post - [A Native American may be taking control of the Cabinet department that has shaped Native American lives](#)

Indian Country Today - [Tribes welcome changes in Washington](#)

High Country News - [Reclaiming the National Bison Range](#)

Bloomberg - [EPA's Industry-Friendly Climate Rule Struck Down by Court](#)

Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes

E&E News - [Hometown pollution shaped the next EPA chief](#)

National Law Review - [Dan Utech Is EPA's Incoming Chief of Staff](#)

National Law Review - [EPA's FY2020 Annual Enforcement Results Are In](#)

The Hill - [Biden EPA asks DOJ to hit pause on defense of Trump-era rules](#)

Yale School of Medicine - [Air Pollution Linked to Increased Mental Health Outpatient Visits](#)

News on 6 - [Gov. Stitt Calls On State's Tribes To Enter Into Formal Negotiations With State Regarding McGirt Ruling](#)

NY Times - [See How the World's Most Polluted Air Compares With Your City's](#)

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

Climate Change/Energy

NY Times - [New U.S. Strategy Would Quickly Free Billions in Climate Funds](#)

PBS Newshour - [Court upholds order for Dakota Access pipeline environmental review](#)

Indian Country Today - [Navajo woman chosen to head US Indian Energy](#)

Scientific American - [Here Are All the Climate Actions Biden Took on Day One](#)

Inside Climate News - [Activists See Biden's Day One Focus on Environmental Justice as a Critical Campaign Promise Kept](#)

Reuters - [Oil-producing Native American tribe seeks exemption from Biden drilling pause](#)

Missoulian - [Montana tribes welcome cancellation of Keystone XL](#)

The Hill - [World's ice melting 57 percent faster than in 1990s: study](#)

KTOO - [Biden reinstates northern Bering Sea climate plan](#)

Indian Country Today - [Joe Biden halts drilling in Arctic refuge](#)

The Hill - [Company appeals rejection of controversial Pebble Mine](#)

Green Bay Press Gazette - [Native American traditional knowledge played key role in Wisconsin's Climate Change Report](#)

Toxics/Mobile Sources

CNBC - [Biden plans to replace government fleet with electric vehicles](#)

The Hill - [Biden's Interior Department temporarily blocks new drilling on public lands](#)

Reuters - [Tribes exempt from pause in U.S. federal drilling program -official](#)

Indian Country Today - [A decade of fending off fossil fuels](#)

Indoor Air Quality

The Hill - [Indoor portions of National Mall closed due to COVID-19](#)

Forbes - [Indoor Air Quality Takes Center Stage During Building Reopening](#)

Smithsonian Magazine - [Lead From Notre-Dame Fire Discovered in Parisian Beehives](#)

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

UPCOMING CALLS/EVENTS/NOTICES

Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes

NEW! EPA Leadership Update: The Biden Administration made several agency and departmental appointments, including individuals who will serve in an acting capacity until permanent leadership is confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Jane Nishida will serve as the Acting Administrator of EPA pending Senate confirmation of Michael Regan, the President's nominee for the role. Ms. Nishida

is currently the Acting Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of International and Tribal Affairs. Joe Goffman has been named Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR), an office he served in during the Obama Administration; for the last four years he has been the Director of the Energy and Environment program at Harvard Law School. Tomás Elias Carbonell has been named Deputy Assistant Administrator for Stationary Sources, Office of Air and Radiation

Since 2012, Tomás Carbonell has held several positions at the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), most recently as Senior Counsel and Director of Regulatory Policy for EDF's U.S. Clean Air program. His work included leading EDF's litigation and regulatory advocacy in defense of the Clean Power Plan and carbon pollution standards for new, modified and reconstructed power plants; defending Clean Air Act protections for hazardous air pollution from power plants and industrial sources; and advocacy in defense of EPA's use of rigorous health science and economic analysis. From 2008 until 2012, Tomás was an Associate at Van Ness Feldman, LLP, where he counseled diverse clients on federal legal and regulatory matters related to climate change, clean energy, and environmental and electricity regulation. He has a J.D. from Yale University, degrees in Environmental Change and Management and Development Economics from the University of Oxford, and bachelors' degrees in Chemical Engineering, Economics, and Multidisciplinary Studies from North Carolina State University.

[You can find more information here.](#)

NEW! The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is hosting a webinar specifically for students and recent-alumni of Native Serving Institutions and Tribal Colleges. The webinar will include information on how to apply to federal positions and will outline the unique opportunities at the EPA. The event is listed in the attached PDF and also posted to Handshake (need to sign in, to access) at the following [link](#).

NEW! Please join the upcoming Tribal Listening sessions hosted by ORD's Air and Energy Research Program with your respective EPA Tribal Partnership Groups.

The second will be held on *Wednesday, February 17 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm ET*. The purpose of these listening sessions is to hear from the Tribes about the challenges they are facing with wildfires and where EPA might be able to help through our scientific research.

Please click here for [registration](#) for this sessions. Tribal partners only need to access the registration link found in the attached flyer on the appropriate date and time. Second, there are two questions to answer related to the tribe's experience with wildland fires and smoke. Responses may be submitted via email at

ORDResearch@epa.gov.

NEW! The Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council, Inc. in partnership with EPA will be hosting the Tribal Children’s Health Webinar Series #2 called Navigating Wildfire Smoke Issues in Tribal Communities.

February 9; 11am – 12:30pm MST (1pm ET/10am PT) | [Register Here](#)

Pollutants from wildfires adversely affect communities and create health risks. During this webinar you will hear from tribal representatives as they share their experiences before, during, and after a wildfire. Agenda is currently being finalized and will be forth coming. We have two presenters who will be providing important information on the topic:

- Daniel Denipah, Forestry Department Director – Santa Clara Pueblo
- Kris Ray, Air Quality Program Manager – Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

Additional questions please contact Karmen@enipc.org or Margaret Chavez at mchavez@enipc.org.

Native Farm to School: Project of First Nations Development Institute

Three new webinars on best practices, resources, and strategies start next week!

Like Farm to School programs in general, Native Farm to School programs improve access to healthy local food and provide educational opportunities for students to understand local food systems, health, and science. Yet, programming for Native Farm to School distinctively relies on the traditional knowledge, community, language, and deep, rich ancestral connections to land and food. Register through the links below and learn more about the facilitators and webinar presenters [here](#).

- **Webinar 6: Finding Educational and Funding Opportunities for Farm to School Programs** | Thursday, January 28, 2021, at 12 pm Mountain: [Register here](#)

For more information, contact: Leiloni Begaye, First Nations Project Coordinator lbegaye@firstnations.org or (303) 774-7836

Wildland Fire Research Tribal Listening Sessions

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.)

Webinar—Communicating Air Quality During Fires: the Science Behind the AirNow Sensor Data Pilot

Thursday, January 28; 1-3pm EST / [Register Here](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) conducted the AirNow Sensor Data Pilot during the 2020 fire season to provide the public with air sensor information on the air pollutant, fine particulate matter (PM2.5), especially during smoke events from fires. The sensor data is shown on the [Fire and Smoke Map](#), part of the popular [AirNow.gov](#) website. This webinar will provide an overview of the AirNow Sensor Data Pilot and the development of the U.S.-wide correction equation for PurpleAir PM2.5 sensor data and its appropriateness for correcting PM2.5 measurements during smoke events.

Environmental Justice Webinar for Indigenous Peoples on EPA’s Competitive Grants Award Process

Wednesday, February 3; 2:30 – 4pm ET / [Register Here](#)

This webinar will cover EPA’s competitive grants process and general management and administrative issues. It is being offered to indigenous peoples (state-recognized tribes; indigenous and tribal community-based organizations; individual members of federally recognized tribes, including those living on a different reservation or living outside Indian country; individual members of state-recognized tribes; Native Hawaiians; Native Pacific Islanders; and individual Native Americans); other interested parties are welcome to participate. The webinar will cover grants topics, including:

- How to find and apply for grant opportunities
- EPA's [Grants.gov](#) requirements
- Information about the [competitive process](#)
- Preparing a proper budget detail

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 is Seeking Story Submissions for the STAR!

Deadline for submission: February 16th

[Click here to fill out the Google Form](#)

We are currently seeking story submissions for the 2021 Status of Tribal Air Report! The [STAR](#) is an annual publication intended to provide an understanding of the importance and impact of Tribal air programs. As such, one of the biggest components to the STAR is the unique perspectives of air programs within tribal communities. This year we are looking to provide more stories that highlight the successes and/or challenges you have faced within the last year given a specific topic. We are asking that you draft the short story or nominate someone who you may think has a great idea! If you have any questions, please contact Mariah Ashley, NTAA Program Coordinator at mariah.ashley@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, February 15, 1pm ET
Wood Smoke Work Group: Join this work group every other month to address wood smoke issues in Indian Country.	Thursday, March 18, 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
Mobile Sources Work Group: This monthly work group addresses all mobile source pollution issues.	Thursday, February 4, 2pm ET
Indoor Air Quality Work Group: Join this work group every other month to help support IAQ work throughout Indian Country.	Thursday, February 18, 2pm ET

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!

[Click here](#) for ITEP's new Tribal Environmental Management and Planning Online Courses. Sign up for a self-paced course hosted by ITEP's Waste and Response and Tribal Air Quality programs. New courses have been added, so check it out!

ITEP's American Indian Air Quality Training Program (AIAQTP) hosts the Building Performance: Improving IAQ in Cold Climates, Residential Building Science Review, Radon Fundamentals, Quality Assurance Fundamental, Writing a Quality Assurance Project Plan, Emissions Inventory Fundamentals, and Emissions Inventory Advanced.

[AIAQTP Schedule and Registration](#)

Training Title	Dates	Training Type
	2021	
QREST 101	January 16	Webinar
Indoor Air Quality in Alaska	February 16- April 16	Online Cohort
Emission Inventories: Non-point Source Emissions Calculations	February 16	Webinar
Air Quality Systems (AQS) Database	March 23	Webinar
National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ)	May 2021	Virtual Conference

Recorded Webinars

Looking for more information check out the [Tribal Air Quality Media Space Channel](#). Recent webinars include an Introduction to Air Quality Programs, Emissions Inventories, Remote Professional Assistance, and Woodstoves in Indian Country. Older classics include a series on Air Quality Planning for Wildland Smoke, Tribal Air Program and Grants, Data Management, and the Clean Air Act.

ITEP's [Tribes and Climate Change Calendar](#) includes conferences, trainings, webinars, and other events related to tribes and climate change.

Climate Change / Energy

NEW! Tribal Solar Initiative Meeting on Feb 3, 2021 11:00 AM in Central Time (US and Canada).

Please join a discussion with Tribes, Utilities, and Regulators by [clicking here](#). In November, the Tribal Solar Initiative team held three listening sessions with Tribal representatives, utility representatives, and regulators in separate meetings. This virtual meeting brings these three stakeholder groups together to discuss regulatory barriers to Tribal solar PV adoption.

The Tribal Solar Initiative is a 3-year project seeking to reduce the regulatory barriers to the Tribal adoption of solar PV. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Tribal Solar Initiative hosted by the Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association.

Virtual 2021 Southwest Adaptation Forum (SWAF)

SAVE THE DATE / April 6 – 8, 2021

The Climate Science Alliance is proud to host the [Virtual 2021 Southwest Adaptation Forum](#) (SWAF) in partnership with the [Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center](#) SWAF 2021 will bring together leaders, practitioners, and researchers from across the Southwest to explore efforts that are advancing climate change adaptation, including hands-on activities, networking, and professional training.

Itep's Climate Change Adaptation Training Courses registration is online!

[Learn more about the courses and register here.](#)

Toxics/Mobile Sources

NEW! EPA's Electric Vehicle Policies and Strategies Webinar

Tuesday, February 16; 12 – 1pm ET / [Register Here](#)

This one-hour webinar will highlight strategies that public agencies and utilities are implementing to electrify the transportation sector in an equitable way. It will feature the updated [AchiEve Toolkit](#), a free resource developed by Sierra Club, Plug In America, the Electrification Coalition and Forth Mobility that covers a wide array of policy options and case studies on topics ranging from vehicle purchase to charging infrastructure to battery recycling.

NEW! last year, the National Academy of Sciences(NAS) was evaluating potential mitigation measures for emissions and exposure to lead from aircraft operating on leaded fuel. The NAS has completed their report and there is a public webinar on their recommendations next week which can be accessed by registering [at this link](#).

2021 Clean Cities Annual Workshop

[Google Form for Topics for the 2021 Clean Cities Annual Workshop](#)

The 2021 Clean Cities Annual Workshop is event for our stakeholders traditionally hosted at the Portland International Auto Show and allowing an opportunity to learn about new and interesting topics, hear from peers about their lessons-learned and successes around clean fuels/policies and practices, celebrate clean transportation leaders in our region, and generally connect with like-minded fleet folks and industry stakeholders from across the region and clean transportation sector. In preparation for a what will likely be a virtual Annual Workshop, we are seeking input on topics for the event. Please provide your input in this very short, four-question survey - feel free to respond to Michael Graham at micheal@cwcleancities.onmicrosoft.com

The recent additions to OTAQ's website in January 2021. [You can access these additions as well as new press releases and Federal Register notices related to OTAQ on our website.](#)

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Indoor Air Quality

January National Radon Action Month

This January is National Radon Action Month (NRAM). Every January, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) urges everyone across the United States to test their homes for radon gas. [Radon](#) is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that that can seep into homes from the ground. It is both colorless and odorless, so the only way to know if you have high levels in your home is to test.

[Testing for radon](#) is easy, inexpensive and can be done yourself. Test kits can be purchased online, or individuals can hire a qualified professional to conduct a radon test. [Contact your state or tribal radon program](#) for advice.

5 Radon Health Facts You Need to Know:

1. Breathing radon in your home can cause lung cancer.
2. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.
3. Radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year.
4. Elevated radon levels have been found in every state.
5. Addressing radon in your home is one of the best ways to prevent cancer for you and your family.

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](https://www.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

Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes

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](#).**

First Nations Development Institute grant opportunity

With the generous support of the Indigenous Peoples Fund at Tides Foundation, First Nations will establish a Gather Food Sovereignty Grant that will support

work contributing to building a national movement that will fulfill a vision of Native communities and food systems that are self-directed, well-resourced and supported by community policies and systems. This opportunity is targeting emerging projects that focus on developing Tribal Food Sovereignty. Through the first round of the Gather Food Sovereignty Grant, First Nations expects to award up to 13 grant awards of approximately \$32,000 to support Native American-led food sovereignty work.

The grant period for this funding opportunity will commence March 1, 2021, and end February 28, 2022. Application on the [Gather Food Sovereignty Grant site](#).

National Environmental Leadership Award

Applications are now being accepted for EPA's National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management! [Click here to apply](#)

The National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management is the highest recognition a program and its leaders can receive for delivering excellent environmental asthma management as part of their comprehensive asthma care services. Each year, EPA honors exceptional health plans, health care providers and communities in action with this prestigious award. [Learn more here](#)

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

NEW! The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is pleased to announce the release of a new report “[Advancing the National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy into a New Decade](#)”.

The team has been working on the Strategy White Paper that we have been working on over the past year! Report is attached, as well as three fact sheets. You can find all of these materials on the website [here](#). AFWA’s press release can be found [here](#)

Thank you to the writing team: Aimee Delach, Karen Cozzetto, Nikki Cooley, Rachael Novak, Rob Croll, Bob Newman, Roger Griffis, Ted Weber, and Tracy Melvin.

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 January 2021

You can access these additions as well as new press releases and Federal Register notices related to OTAQ [on our website](#).

Indoor Air Quality

NEW! EPA’s 2021 National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management

Applications due: February 1

[Learn More Here](#) | [Apply Here!](#)

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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