

# UPCOMING CALLS/EVENTS/NOTICES

## *Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes*

### **The Biden Administration releases a [National Strategy for COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness](#) and Executive Orders**

A fact sheet that highlights the national strategy can be found [here](#). In addition, last Friday, the Department of Health and Human Services Acting Secretary, Norris Cochran sent a [letter notifying the extension of the Public Health Emergency for COVID-19](#) for another 90 days but also stated that it will likely remain in place for the rest of 2021 and when a decision is made to terminate the declaration or let it expire, HHS will provide 60 days' notice prior to termination.

**COVID-19 Vaccine:** CDC updated their [resource page on the COVID-19 vaccine](#). On this page you can find information on vaccine data, where to receive the vaccine, and more. CDC updated information pages on the [Moderna vaccine](#) and the [Pfizer vaccine](#).

### **EPA Air Quality Flag Program Winter 2021 Newsletter**

Do you ever wonder what other organizations are flying an air quality flag in your area? There's a map for that. Go to [our website](#) and click on the Story Map in the grey box.

- Coco is back and animated! "[Why is Coco orange?](#)" new videos for the classroom.
- New: Communities Poster The community poster is free, and you can order directly from EPA's [National Service Center for Environmental Publications](#). Search for the poster using item number 456H20001. NOTE: The item number is also needed to place the order.
- [Updated Lesson Plans](#) Need some ideas for upcoming science classes? We recently updated the lesson plans below to align with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)
- [Virtual Air Quality Flags for your Electronic Board](#) Looking for an alternative way to share the display today's air quality at your school? As you may already know, flying an actual flag isn't the only way to effectively communicate the AQI.

### **The Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Center's online Technical Needs Assessment**

The TAMS Center is seeking ways to identify the technical support requirements of tribal air quality programs nationwide. The goal of this Needs Assessment is to aid in the development of services that better meet tribal air program goals and objectives. The form asks for specific information related to both ambient air quality and indoor air quality concerns that affect Tribes. Input obtained through this online questionnaire will help identify focus areas and support needs so that

future technical training and support can be tailored to for Tribes. Click [this link](#) to fill-out the online form. For any questions contact TAMS co-directors, Christopher Lee at [christopher.lee@nau.edu](mailto:christopher.lee@nau.edu) (702-784-8278) and/or Hayden Hardie at [hardie.hayden@epa.gov](mailto:hardie.hayden@epa.gov) (702-784-8232)

### **Furthering a Partnership: Air quality modeling and improving public health**

[Click here to read full text](#) (may not be free for all)

Implications Statement: Air quality models are an effective tool that can be used to estimate air pollution exposure in epidemiologic studies and risk assessments.

Working together in collaborative multidisciplinary teams will lead to greater advancements in understanding of air pollution impacts and in useful information informing actions to improve public health.

### **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](mailto:Andy.Bessler@nau.edu), [Mehrdad.Khatibi@nau.edu](mailto:Mehrdad.Khatibi@nau.edu), and/or [Christopher.Lee@nau.edu](mailto:Christopher.Lee@nau.edu)

### **U.S. EPA OAQPS Webinar: What's Coming Next? What You Need To Know**

*Wednesday, February 10; 2:30 – 4pm EST / **Registration Required***

You are invited to participate in OAQPS' webinar on EPA's Proposed Risk and Technology Review (RTR) Amendments to Air Toxics Standards for Carbon Black Manufacturing Production, Cyanide Chemical Manufacturing, Flexible Polyurethane Foam Fabrication, and Primary Magnesium Refining. We will discuss what these proposed amendments mean for you, what you can expect next, and help answer any questions you may have about the proposal. This will be an interactive discussion, so please feel free to ask your questions and share your thoughts.

**To register**, please provide your full name, organization, phone number (the one you will use to call into the webinar), and email address to Toni Colón at [colon.toni@epa.gov](mailto:colon.toni@epa.gov) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information on how to join the webinar. We will be using Microsoft

Teams for this event. You will have the option of joining by either a computer link or by telephone (not both). **Please register by COB, Monday, February 8, 2021.**

### **COVID-19 in Indian Country**

*Thursday, February 11; 2 – 3:30pm ET / [Register Here](#)*

COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on Native communities throughout the US. Join experts for a conversation about combating this devastating pandemic in Indian Country.

Featuring Rear Admiral Michael Toedt, MD, chief medical officer, Indian Health Service; Dr. Loretta Christensen (Diné [Navajo]), chief medical officer, Navajo Area Office Indian Health Service; and Phyllis Davis, Tribal Council member, Gun Lake Band Pottawatomi and chair of the Great Lakes Area Tribal Health Board. This online program will be moderated by Dr. Charles Grim (Cherokee), Chickasaw Nation secretary of health. Presented in partnership with the Indian Health Service.

### **NTAA is Seeking Story Submissions for the STAR!**

*Deadline for submission: February 16<sup>th</sup>*

[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](mailto:mariah.ashley@nau.edu)

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

*Wednesday, February 17; 2-4pm ET / There is **no registration** for these sessions.* 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. Tribal partners only need to access the registration link found in the attached flyer on the appropriate date and time. Tribal partners only need to access the [registration link](#) **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](mailto:ORDResearch@epa.gov).

## NCAI to Host Webinar Series on Tribal Disaster Declarations Pilot Guidance

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) invites you to participate in our three-part webinar series on tribal disaster preparedness efforts. During the webinar series, tribal emergency management experts will walk tribal leaders and staff through the [2017 Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance \(pdf download\)](#), answer questions, and highlight how tribal nations can access emergency disaster resources.

- *Webinar 3: TBA, March, 2021* / [Register Here](#)

### Resources for attendees:

- [FEMA's Disaster Declaration Process: A Primer \(pdf download\)](#)
- [2017 Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance \(same link as in first paragraph, pdf download\)](#)
- [FEMA Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance Webpage \(link\)](#)
- [Stafford Act Declarations 1953-2016: Trends, Analyses, and Implications for Congress \(pdf download\)](#)
- [Learning More About the Emergency Management Professional \(pdf download\)](#)

### 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](mailto: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.

<b>Planning Call for the National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ):</b> This monthly call works to plan the 2021 NTFAQ. This is a <a href="#">zoom call</a> . Contact <a href="mailto:Andy.bessler@nau.edu">Andy.bessler@nau.edu</a> for password.	Thursday, February 11, 12pm ET
<b>Wood Smoke Work Group:</b> Join this work group every other month to address wood smoke issues in Indian Country.	Thursday, March 18, 2pm ET
<b>EPA Policy Call:</b> Call in to hear updates from EPA on policies, actions, and tools relevant to Indian Country and Air Quality.	Thursday, February 25, 3pm ET
<b>Mobile Sources Work Group:</b> This monthly work group addresses all mobile source pollution issues.	Thursday, March 4, 2pm ET

<b>Indoor Air Quality Work Group:</b> Join this work group every other month to help support IAQ work throughout Indian Country.	Thursday, 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!

[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
	<b>2021</b>	
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! EPA State and Local Energy and Environmental Program webinars**

*Tuesday, February 16; 12pm 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. Then, the State of North Carolina will share how they are putting the policy pieces together in a comprehensive electric vehicle strategy.

### **NEW! The Energy Impacts of COVID-19 HVAC Mitigation Strategies**

*Monday, February 22; 1pm ET / [Register Here](#)*

What is the energy impact of major HVAC system operation guidance to reduce transmission of COVID-19 inside buildings across the U.S. commercial building stock? Speakers will discuss the energy implications of (1) 100% outdoor air ventilation rates, (2) installing MERV-13 filters or better, (3) disabling demand control ventilation, and (4) HVAC flushing mode operation. Analysis of these measures using ComStock provides a national view of the energy implications for various commercial building types in all U.S. climate zones.

### **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***

### **Options for Reducing Lead Emissions from Piston-Engine Aircraft**

[Download Free PDF](#) or [Read Online](#)

Small gasoline-powered aircraft are the single largest emitter of lead in the United States, as other major emission sources such as automobile gasoline have been previously addressed. A highly toxic substance that can result in an array of negative health effects in humans, lead is added to aviation gasoline to meet the performance and safety requirements of a sizable portion of the country's gasoline-powered aircraft. [\[read full description here\]](#)

### **EPA's Electric Vehicle Policies and Strategies Webinar**

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM (Eastern)

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. [Register](#) here.

**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](mailto: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**

### **NEW! Ventilation and Virus Mitigation in Schools: Creating a Game Plan to Reduce COVID-19 Risk and Make Lasting Improvements to IAQ**

*Thursday, February 25; 1 – 2:30pm EST* / [Register Here](#)

**Attend this webinar to learn how to—**

- Create a game plan to help mitigate risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 in the near term and prioritize the **top 5 IAQ improvements** to ensure healthy air in schools in the long term.
- Assess your current air handling capabilities (e.g., effectiveness of filtration, ability to bring in fresh air, and energy efficiency) and create a plan to improve air quality using a free online risk assessment.
- Equip staff to implement risk reduction strategies and follow technical guidance from the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) to reduce exposure to viruses in schools.
- Replicate best practices from a [recent case study of how D.C. Public Schools](#)—a large, urban district with an older building stock—used federal funds to improve the ventilation, filtration and system monitoring throughout the district.

### **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. More information on Indoor airPLUS can be found online at [epa.gov/indoorairplus](http://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](#).

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!**