

## **UPCOMING CALLS/EVENTS/NOTICES**

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

**NEW!** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) has scheduled national webinars regarding EPA's consultation practices and to inform the EPA *Plan for Implementing the Policies and Directives of Executive Order 13175: Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*. EPA's American Indian Environmental Office has scheduled those national webinars as follows:

- Webinar #1: Monday, May 24, 2021, 3:00 - 5:00 PM Eastern Time
  - TEAMS video conference link: [Click here](#) at the appropriate time
  - Dial-In Option (Audio Only) Number: 202-991-0477; Conf. ID: 599-738-900#.
    - To find a local dial-in number, please [click here](#).
- Tribal Webinar #2: Thursday, May 27, 2021, 1:00 - 3:00 PM Eastern Time
  - TEAMS video conference link: [Click here](#) at the appropriate time
  - Dial-In Option (Audio Only) Number: 202-991-0477; Conf. ID: 240-750-765#
    - To find a local dial-in number, please [click here](#).

The webinars will be given through Microsoft Teams, which can be joined by clicking the links provided above or dialing in – please note these links and dial in numbers are different for each webinar. You may reach out to [byrne.andrew@epa.gov](mailto:byrne.andrew@epa.gov) if you have any questions.

**NEW!** **Community Based Organization Vaccination Toolkit Discussion Group**  
*Thursday, May 20; 3-4pm ET* / [Register Here](#)

The [National Indian Health Board](#) (NIHB), in coordination with the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), will be hosting a **Community Based Organization (CBO) Vaccine Toolkit**. This discussion group will feature an overview of the CBO Vaccine Toolkit. Following the overview will be an opportunity for feedback on the toolkit.

- What do you find useful in the toolkit?
- What is missing? What information needs to be added?
- How can the toolkit be improved?
- Is the toolkit useful for Tribal Communities? Why or why not?

**NIH-EPA Environmental Health Disparities Research Webinar Series**

The [NIH-EPA Environmental Health Disparities Research Centers of Excellence Program](#) is hosting this webinar series to highlight the research, training, and community-engagement accomplishments at the Centers collaboratively funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), National

Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Furthermore, the webinar series is intended to raise awareness of, and prompt dialogue on, opportunities to examine and address environmental contributions to health disparities. The webinars are open to anyone interested in learning more about environmental health disparities and strategies to reduce them.

**Schedule:**

- *May 24, 2021* – [Exploring Critical Windows of Exposure to Heavy Metals in Health Disparity Cohorts](#)
- *June 28, 2021* – [Exposure Pathways & Environmental Health Disparities](#)

*All webinars in the series will be held live via Zoom on Mondays 3-4:30pm EST*

**Vaccine Equity for Indigenous Communities**

*Monday, May 24; 6-7:30pm ET | [Register Here](#)*

Numerous reports have discussed how longstanding inequalities, stigmatization and discrimination, and inadequate access to health care have resulted in substantial inequities under the ongoing COVID pandemic. Poorer communities, including the more than 476 million indigenous people living in 90 countries, have higher morbidity and mortality due to COVID, and less access to COVID vaccines. During this webinar, we will hear from indigenous leaders and health care providers from the United States, Australia and Latin America regarding the current status of COVID and access to COVID vaccines.

**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.

<p><b>Mobile Sources Work Group:</b> This monthly work group addresses all mobile source pollution issues.</p>	<p>Thursday, May 6, 2pm ET</p>
<p><b>Wood Smoke Work Group:</b> Join this work group every other month to address wood smoke issues in Indian Country.</p>	<p>Thursday, <i>TBA</i>, 1pm ET</p>

<b>EPA Policy Call:</b> Call in to hear updates from EPA on policies, actions, and tools relevant to Indian Country and Air Quality. <i>NOTE TIME CHANGE</i>	Thursday, May 27, 1pm ET
<b>Indoor Air Quality Work Group:</b> Join this work group every other month to help support IAQ work throughout Indian Country.	Thursday, June 24, 2pm ET

**The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professional (ITEP)**

[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](#)**

<b>Training Title</b>	<b>2021 Dates</b>	<b>Training Type</b>
Project Planning, QAPPs and Grants for Alaska	April 26-30	Virtual Training
National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ)	May 2021	Virtual Conference
Quality Assurance Project Plans in a Nutshell	June 1	Webinar
Wildland Smoke and Community Preparedness	June 7-11	Virtual Training

**Please note: ITEP’s Air Quality Planning for Wildland Smoke course has been postponed to June 7-11th.** There is no need to reapply if you have done so already. There is still time to apply!

- Air Quality Planning for Wildland Smoke Course Dates: June 7-11, 202
- Course Times: Selected attendees should set aside a minimum of 4 hours daily on June 7-10 and 1.5 hours on June 11 to engage in the course.
- Live Zoom session: 10-11 am AKDT; 11-12pm PDT; 12-1pm MDT; 1-2pm CDT; 2-3pm EDT
- Homework: SLMS module completion (2-3 hours self-paced learning)

**[Apply Now!](#)**

## **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***

### **Office of Air and Radiation Update: Proposed Rule “Phasedown of Hydrofluorocarbons: Establishing the Allowance Allocation and Trading Program under the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act”**

Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are potent greenhouse gases commonly used in refrigerators, stationery and motor vehicle air conditioners, and many other applications. On April 30<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed the first regulation under the American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act of 2020, which requires the United States to phase down production and consumption of HFCs by 85% over the next 15 years by using an allowance allocation and trading program.

EPA is seeking public comment on this proposed rule, which would set the HFC production and consumption baseline levels from which reductions will be made, establish an initial methodology for allocating HFC allowances for 2022 and 2023, and create a robust and innovative compliance and enforcement system.

Companies that produce, import, export, destroy, or use HFCs in equipment may be interested in submitting data or commenting. More information on HFCs and the proposed rule can be found [here](#). The public comment period for the proposal will be open for 45 days after publication in the Federal Register.

### **Summer Internship with the University of Colorado Boulder**

The Arctic Rivers Project at the University of Colorado Boulder (CU) invites applicants for an undergraduate student summer internship. The internship will be remote this year and can be conducted from any location with reliable internet access. The program is open to US citizens, US permanent residents or Canadian nationals who have completed their junior or sophomore year in college or community college. Indigenous students are encouraged to apply. For full consideration, **please apply by May 15, 2021**. The position will remain open until filled. A start date is negotiable, ideally mid-June 2021. The [Arctic Rivers Project](#):

The climate impacts on Alaskan and Yukon rivers, fish, and communities as told through co-produced scenarios

Application: Interested candidates can contact Keith Musselman ([keith.musselman@colorado.edu](mailto:keith.musselman@colorado.edu)) or Nicole Herman-Mercer ([nhmerc@usgs.gov](mailto:nhmerc@usgs.gov)). Please include a resume and a one-page cover letter introducing yourself, your education, and why you are a good fit for the position. Review of candidates will begin on May 15.

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

## ***Toxics/Mobile Sources***

### **2021 DERA Tribal and Insular Area Request for Applications**

EPA's 2021 Tribal and Insular Area grant program is planned to open in late April 2021. EPA anticipates awarding approximately \$5 million in DERA funding under this announcement. A total of \$4.5 million will be made available to tribal governments (or intertribal consortia) and Alaska Native villages, and \$500,000 will be made available to insular area governments. EPA anticipates awarding five to ten cooperative agreements to tribal governments (or intertribal consortia) and Alaska Native villages and two to four cooperative agreements to insular area governments. Click [here](#) for more information.

This year's Request for Applications (RFA) has no mandatory cost share requirement and sets funding limits to \$800,000 for tribal applicants and \$250,000 for insular area applicants. Each applicant may submit up to two applications.

- [2021 Request For Applications](#)
- [Important Dates](#)
- [DERA: 2021 Tribal and Insular Area Program Overview – Presentation \(PDF\)](#)

### **Webinar: Abandoned Vehicles on Tribal Lands: Background, Management Approaches, and Case Studies**

*May 18, 9am – 11am PT* / [Register Here](#)

Abandoned vehicles pose an environmental and human health threat to tribal lands. The presence of such vehicles can encourage additional dumping and may attract unsafe or illegal activities. This training features real-world tribal approaches to tracking vehicle abandonment, scrapping and recycling vehicles, and using outreach and compliance strategies to minimize vehicle accumulation. Tuesday 5/11 (Part One): Explores vehicle abandonment and uncontrolled accumulation, and discusses approaches to identifying and tracking potential vehicle concerns. Covers current markets for recycled metals and the impact on auto scrapping. Includes approaches used by Region 9 tribes for safely collecting, crushing and

removing cars on tribal lands. Tuesday 5/18 (Part Two): Covers examples of codes and ordinances that govern and support abandoned vehicle abatement. Includes case studies from Region 9 tribes that have worked with their communities to reduce vehicle accumulation and discourage use of vehicles for illegal encampments. Reviews examples of large-scale vehicle cleanups and identifies options for federal and state assistance.

### **Green Transportation Summit & Expo**

*August 16-18, 2021 Tacoma, Washington* / [Registration](#)

The 10th annual Green Transportation Summit & Expo (GTSE) is the region's premier clean transportation convening event. There has not been a time when clean transportation has had as much potential. With this year's theme of Reflecting + Refocusing on a Resilient Future, we are giving particular attention to recent events affecting our communities and livelihood. We will be creating space to ensure these critical topics are addressed. **All Tribes can get a 20% discount, contact [Dara.Marks-Marino@nau.edu](mailto:Dara.Marks-Marino@nau.edu) for the code!**

### **Office of Pesticide Program Update: EPA Opens Comment Period on Draft Biological Opinion on Malathion, Closes June 19, 2021**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking public comment on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) [draft biological opinion for the registration of malathion](#), an insecticide that is commonly used to control mosquitoes and a variety of insects that attack fruits, vegetables, landscaping plants, and shrubs. The draft biological opinion evaluates whether use of malathion is likely to jeopardize federally threatened and endangered species or destroy or adversely modify their critical habitats.

In January 2017, EPA released the [biological evaluation for malathion](#), which found potential effects on threatened and endangered species and their designated critical habitats. Because the biological evaluation for malathion made "likely to adversely affect" determinations to some threatened and endangered species and their designated critical habitats, EPA has been consulting with FWS to ensure the registration of malathion is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of these species or adversely modify their critical habitats. The public comment period will be open for 60 days and will close on June 19, 2021. The draft biological opinion is included in docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0231 at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

### **TLEF: A Virtual Gathering, now accepting proposals**

TLEF: A Virtual Gathering that will take place *August 16 through 19, 2021!* Last year's virtual TLEF had *twice* as many attendees as normally come to our in-person TLEF so we do hope to see you this August. We are now accepting proposals from you! Please fill out our [online proposal form](#), and learn more about



the types of sessions we are offering this year. And please note: **The deadline for submitting your proposal is May 14.**

These continue to be very uncertain times, when many are facing not only serious health concerns but also economic, social, and psychological challenges as well. And yet we do find strength in working with one another! We want to see your proposals for case studies, virtual tours of your sites and facilities, strategies you're using to protect your lands and communities, and stories about your successes and challenges.

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

- April 30, 2021: [EPA announces \\$5 million in grants available for tribes and insular areas to replace diesel equipment and reduce harmful emissions.](#)
- April 26, 2021: [EPA reconsiders a previous withdrawal of a waiver for California's advanced clean car program \(light-duty vehicle greenhouse gas emission standards and zero emission vehicle requirements\).](#)
- April 23, 2021: [EPA publishes a new case study on Providence Pilot Community-Port Collaboration Project.](#)
- April 20, 2021: [EPA awards \\$10.5 million to clean up 473 school buses in 40 states.](#)
- April 1, 2021: [EPA releases a new case study on groundbreaking Clean Air Action Plan \(CAAP\) for California San Pedro Bay Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.](#)

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## ***Indoor Air Quality***

**The Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) and the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST) Foundation Webinar Series:**

- Radon Test Kit Distribution: Best Practices for State and Tribal Radon Programs – *May 25, 2:00-3:00 p.m. EST*
- Radon and Citizen Science: Public Engagement to Increase Education and Outreach – *June 22, 2:00-3:00 p.m. EST*
- National Radon Action Month: Best Practices for State and Tribal Radon Programs – *July 22, 2:00-3:00 p.m. EST*

- The sixth webinar on a trending topic to be announced will be scheduled for the month of August – *stay tuned*

**National Asthma Awareness Month: Join the EPA Indoor airPLUS Program in celebrating [National Asthma Awareness Month](#).**

Asthma is a serious, sometimes life-threatening chronic respiratory disease that affects the quality of life for more than 25 million Americans, including an estimated 5 million children. Although there is no cure for asthma yet, asthma can be controlled in part through management of the indoor environment.

[Indoor airPLUS](#) is a voluntary partnership and labeling program that helps new home builders improve the quality of indoor air by requiring construction practices and product specifications that minimize exposure to airborne pollutants including environmental asthma triggers. Search for a local Indoor airPLUS builder on EPA's [Partner Locator](#), and ask for the EPA Indoor airPLUS label on your new home! Join us this month to raise awareness of ways to manage #asthma triggers! Follow [@EPAiplus](#) on Twitter or connect with [EPA Indoor airPLUS](#) on Facebook to hear about how Indoor airPLUS partners help America #BreatheEasyWithIAP!

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