



NTAA Weekly Update

Week of July 5 – 9, 2021

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[If you have difficulty reading this, click here to view it online.](#)

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

Indian Country Today – [US boarding schools to be investigated](#)



Flowers, children's shoes and other items rest at a memorial at the Eternal flame on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, in recognition of discovery of children's remains at the site of a former residential school in Kamloops, British Columbia. (Sean Kilpatrick/The Canadian Press via AP)

TOP STORIES

Special Announcement: EPA will be hosting Tribal listening sessions on today's release of \$50 Million in American Rescue Plan to help fund Tribal air quality monitoring. NTAA will be providing more information on this breaking story!

U.S. EPA - [EPA Announces an Additional \\$50 Million Under the American Rescue Plan to Enhance Air Pollution Monitoring](#)

CNN - [First on CNN: Biden administration ramps up investment in environmental justice](#)

U.S. House Appropriations Committee - [Appropriations Committee Releases Fiscal Year 2022 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Funding Bill](#)

Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes

U.S. EPA - [EPA Announces Renewed Consultation and Coordination with Oklahoma Tribal Nations](#)

WEKU – [Another KY Coal Plant To Retire, But The Pollution Remains](#)

Daily Sun – [At Greyhills Academy in Tuba City, STEM students help chart their own course](#)

NY Times – [How G.O.P. Laws in Montana Could Complicate Voting for Native Americans](#)

MSNBC – [Former Obama EPA official: Biden infrastructure plan ‘strips out’ Black and Brown communities](#)

MIT News - [New approach could change how we track extreme air pollution events](#)

The Hill – [Focus shifts to EPA on methane regulation after Biden action](#)

The Hill – [NASA’s Mars helicopter breaks records in challenging, nerve-wracking flight](#)

Tulsa World – [Cherokee Nation becomes first tribe to self-govern tribal transportation](#)

Science Daily - [Air pollution during pregnancy may affect growth of newborn babies](#)

Indian Country Today - [Evon Peter: Seeking Indigenous success](#)

Desert News - [How religious freedom law fails Native Americans](#)

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

Climate Change/Energy

NY Times – [Dispossessed, Again: Climate Change Hits Native Americans Especially Hard](#)

The Guardian – [‘We thought it wouldn’t affect us’: heatwave forces climate reckoning in Pacific north-west](#)

The Washington Post – [Climate Change has gotten deadly. It will get worse.](#)

The Hill - [‘Eye of fire,’ Exxon lobbyist's comments fuel renewed attacks on oil industry](#)

Toxics/Mobile Sources

The Washington Post – [Capping methane-spewing oil wells, one hole at a time](#)

LA Illuminator – [Science catches up to what residents of Louisiana’s ‘Cancer Alley’ have been saying about pollution](#)

Energy News Network – [As car-centric Cape Cod tries to cut emissions, transportation is a challenge](#)

NY Times – [Here’s How Biden Aims to Increase Electric Car Sales](#)

Reuters – [Factbox: Lifetime carbon emissions of electric vehicles vs gasoline cars](#)

KRQE – [Auto dealers weigh in on NM’s proposed clean car rules](#)

Indoor Air Quality

Gizmodo – [Heat Pumps Are Ready to Have a Moment](#)

NY Times - [Masks Again? Delta Variant’s Spread Prompts Reconsideration of Precautions.](#)

Wired Magazine - [The 60-Year-Old Scientific Screwup That Helped Covid Kill](#)

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

UPCOMING CALLS/EVENTS/NOTICES ***Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes***

NEW! Addressing Air Quality in Tribal Communities (for Beginners)

August 10-12; 9am – 2pm PDT, 12pm – 5pm EDT / Course capped at 12 participants | [Register Here](#)

Deadline: The application is due on **Wednesday, July 28, 2021**.

Learning objective:

At the end of the event, participants will articulate their community's main ambient (outdoor) air quality concerns and identify the resources (e.g., documents, contacts, training) needed to begin addressing air quality issues in their community.

Who should participate: This workshop is for environmental professionals who are just beginning to address ambient air quality issues in tribal communities. No prior knowledge or background in air quality is needed.

EPA's air quality training program is released three new training materials! These materials are foundational in level, and are being offered to tribal, state, and local air agencies in an e-learning format through our learning management system (LMS).

The materials include:

- A course that explains the purpose of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) within the air quality management process.
- A module that explains each of the six criteria pollutants under the Clean Air Act. This module represents “micro-learning”— a short, focused bit of training on a particular topic.
- A module that explains what air toxics are. Similar to the criteria pollutants module, this module represents “micro-learning.”

To access the course and modules on the LMS (<https://epaapti.csod.com>), please register (if you haven't already!), then log in and refer to the “What's New” section on the home page.

The EPA is initiating consultation and coordination with federally recognized tribes regarding a memorandum to clarify the application of regulations under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) to address organic air emissions from equipment and/or closure devices on certain hazardous waste units.

Additional information can be found in the enclosed document, as well as on EPA's [Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System](#). EPA plans to accept public comments on the memorandum for 60 days beginning in July 2021. The specific dates for the submittal of public comments and the informational materials will be available on EPA's Hazardous Waste Permitting [website](#). Tribes are encouraged to submit comments in writing during the public comment period by email at RCRApost@epa.gov. All written comments must be received no later than 60 days after the start of the public comment period. This consultation process for

the memorandum will be conducted in accordance with the [EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination](#) with Indian Tribes. However, EPA does not expect that the memorandum will have tribal implications, as specified in Executive Order 13175. If you would like to accept this offer of consultation, please contact Lilybeth Colón at (703) 308-2392 or at colon.lilybeth@epa.gov. **The deadline to request formal consultation is July 16, 2021.**

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.

Indoor Air Quality Work Group: Join this work group every other month to help support IAQ work throughout Indian Country.	Thursday, July 15, 2pm ET
Wood Smoke Work Group: Join this work group every other month to address wood smoke issues in Indian Country.	Thursday, July 22, 1pm ET
EPA Policy Call: Call in to hear updates from EPA on policies, actions, and tools relevant to Indian Country and Air Quality.	Thursday, July 29, 2pm ET
Mobile Sources Work Group: This monthly work group addresses all mobile source pollution issues.	Thursday, August 5, 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](#)

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

EPA's Climate Change Indicators in the United States: EPA's newly updated website, *Climate Change Indicators in the United States*, looks at changes to our health and the environment related to the causes and effects of climate change.

With new science, additional indicators, and more years of data, many of these signs of climate change have become even more evident, stronger, and extreme. Explore the [website](#). You are invited to participate in two upcoming webinars on the resource:

- June 24 will focus on Climate and Heat: Trends, Health Impacts and Risk. This one-hour webinar will feature climate-related temperature trends particularly related to extreme heat and urban heat, human health effects, social vulnerability, and risks (happening now and looking into the future). Visit EPA's State, Local, and Tribal Webinar Series [webpage](#).

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

Toxics/Mobile Sources

EPA's Diesel Emissions Reduction Act's Tribal Grants for FY21

Request for Applications now open! More information can be found on this [flyer](#) and on [this website](#). EPA's 2021 Tribal and Insular Area grant program is now open. 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.

The U.S. EPA is in the process of conducting a residual risk and technology review of the 2002 National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Major Source Primary Copper Smelting and a technology review of the 2007 Primary Copper Smelting Area Sources NESHAP.

After EPA publishes the rules in the *Federal Register*, EPA plans to accept comment on these proposals for at least 45 days after publication in the *Federal Register*. Interested parties can download additional information and a copy of the proposed rules (when they are officially issued by EPA) from [EPA's website](#) and this [website](#). The proposed rules and other background information will also be available either electronically [here](#), EPA's electronic public docket and comment system. Materials for the proposed actions can be accessed using **Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2020-0430**. For further technical information about the rule, contact Tonisha Dawson, EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, at (919) 541-1454 or dawson.tonisha@epa.gov.

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 for the code!**

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

- June 8, 2021: [EPA releases the annual Fast Facts document that provides information about U.S. transportation sector greenhouse gas emissions \(1990-2019\).](#)

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

Indoor Air Quality

Please join a free webinar to learn about and provide input into EPA’s Tribal Indoor Air Quality Training and Resource Directory on Wednesday, July 14th at 2pm ET.

The Directory was created to consolidate helpful resources for tribes who are interested in starting or expanding Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) programs in their communities. The purpose of this webinar is to share this new resource and obtain feedback from future and potential users of this Directory. The Directory is being created by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in collaboration with the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) and the National Tribal Air Association (NTAA). [Register here](#) and if you have questions, contact mansel.nelson@nau.edu.

Join ITEP’s Free Webinar – Healthy Schools – ReOpening Schools

Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 11:00 AM PDT / [Register here](#)

Many Kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12) schools in the United States do not have good ventilation. This is a longstanding problem with demonstrably negative effects on student learning. Along with other mitigation measures, improvements in ventilation in K-12 schools can decrease the risk of SARS-CoV-2 spread. Presented by Paula Olsiewski, John Hopkins Center for Health Security, John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, a pioneering leader in policy and scientific research programs in the microbiology and chemistry of indoor environments. The webinar will review the findings of a recent [report](#) that considers the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on children, families, and educators and summarizes current ventilation guidelines. If you have questions, contact mansel.nelson@nau.edu

How Indoor airPLUS Homes Help Reduce the Occurrence of Asthma Triggers in the Home

Here are ways an Indoor airPLUS home can help reduce [asthma triggers](#) in the home.

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

RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Now Hiring!

Tribal Program Manager, Energy

The goal of the EDF Energy Program is to bend the curve on greenhouse gas emissions from oil and gas production and use by 2030, while meeting the world’s

energy needs cleanly and equitably. EDF seeks a talented and self-motivated Tribal Program Manager to play a critical role in the development and execution of EDF's Navajo and Federal methane regulatory campaigns. The Manager will be an on-the-ground player in support of program initiatives and will develop and implement an outreach strategy with the Navajo Nation and tribes impacted by oil and gas pollution across the U.S. with the objective of raising awareness around the environmental and health hazards associated with oil and gas development and providing avenues and tools for engaging tribal communities in political and policy processes to reduce methane waste, air and climate pollution. [More info here!](#)

Events Coordinator, Senior

Northern Arizona University, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
We would like to invite you to visit our careers site to complete your application.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Select [the link](#) to access our careers site.
2. Sign In to access your account or if you are not an existing user select the New User link to create one.
3. Review the job description and select the Apply button to begin your application.

The Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute will soon be advertising for a research scientist position focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion in relation to stewardship of Federally designated wilderness.

With the holiday weekend approaching, and our desire to recruit broadly for this position, we wanted to share, now, that an announcement is forthcoming, likely to be **open for applications on, or about, July 5th, 2021**. The posting will be open for applications on [USA Jobs](#) for 10 days or until they receive 50 applications.

NPCA Indigenous Fellow

This position is a 2-year fellowship opportunity for an emerging leader to:

- 1) Work on existing and/or develop new campaigns at NPCA that hold a personal and/or cultural significance to them and support NPCA's mission.
- 2) Support NPCA's growth and organizational development as a stronger ally with functional understanding of law and sovereignty, cultural sensitivity, and a basic knowledge of Indigenous history and experience.
- 3) Deepen NPCA's capacity and awareness to understand and, if appropriate, to engage on intersectional Native American policy issues as it relates to NPS and public lands.

This is a budgeted position. NPCA is committed to diversity among its employees and hiring practices. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply by submitting your resume and cover letter directly online to www.npca.org.

Environmental Specialist, Upper Sioux Community, Grand Falls, NM

Under direct supervision of the Environmental Director, the Environmental Specialist, will be responsible for carrying out the objectives of the Upper Sioux Community's Office of the Environment. The Environmental Specialist will conduct environmental surveys and assessments, supervise field activities, monitor condition of Tribal natural resources, work closely with contractors and other governmental agencies to protect Tribal resources and aid other Tribal entities.

Indigenous Engagement Coordinator Position for the Navigating the New Arctic Community Office

[Full Job Posting](#)

This position will focus on supporting Arctic communities by facilitating local/regional NNA research partnerships and interfacing NNA research with Indigenous cultures, knowledge systems, and research needs. This position will work closely with the Office of Research and Community Engagement (ORCE) Director at APU and the NNA-CO team to advance the office's support of use-inspired convergence research in the Arctic—collaborative research that deeply draws on information and expertise from across disciplines and knowledge systems to solve complex challenges. This position will uphold the Office's vision and commitment to support the NNA community (researchers, Arctic community partners, Indigenous knowledge holders, decision-makers, etc.) through coordination, enhanced communication, and interdisciplinary, cross-cultural, and institutional learning.

Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes

Attention Region 9 Tribes! The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is accepting nominations from the public for the 2020-2021 Haagen-Smit Clean Air Awards by August 10, 2021. Since 2001, the has annually bestowed the distinguished Haagen-Smit Awards. The awards recognize extraordinary individuals who have made significant contributions toward improving air quality. The selection criteria include: 1) Major accomplishments; 2) Contributions toward improving air quality and/or climate change, in terms of commitment, leadership, and innovation; 3) At least three letters of recommendation. [Visit the CARB website](#) to learn more about the awards program and past recipients. For more information please contact: haagen-smit.awards@arb.ca.gov.

Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Accepting Applications

The Federal Communications Commission just launched a temporary program to help families and households struggling to afford Internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting May 12, the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) will provide a discount of up to \$50 per month toward broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers. Eligible households can enroll through a participating broadband provider or directly with the Universal Service Administrative Company using an online or mail-in application. You can learn more about the EBB program, including eligibility and enrollment information, by following the links below or calling (833) 511-0311.

- [Read the news release](#)
- [EBB website https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit](https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit)
- GetEmergencyBroadband.org
- [EBB FAQ sheet](#)
- [Step-by-step instructions for applicants \(PDF\)](#)
- [City of Tucson website summary of EBB program](#)

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.

EPA is now accepting applications for a total of \$9 million in grants to fund about 24 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative projects to address stormwater runoff pollution from land into water bodies. EPA is also holding an applicant webinar.

- August 20, 2021– Applications must be submitted via www.grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time / 10:59 p.m. Central Time. See Section IV of the grants announcements for further submission information.

EPA is requesting applications for projects in three categories; each one has a separate Funding Opportunity Number and will be posted separately

on www.grants.gov. Applicants must apply for the specific funding opportunity they are interested in. Learn more about the three categories [here](#). State agencies, interstate agencies, federally recognized Indian tribes and tribal organizations, local governments, institutions of higher learning and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for the GLRI grants in three categories. Individuals, foreign organizations and governments, nonprofit organizations exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying, and “for-profit” organizations are not eligible to apply for funding under this request for application. Click [here](#) for more information on how to apply.

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.

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

EPA Announces \$10 Million Available for States, Tribes, and Territories to Address Environmental Challenges

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing the availability of Multipurpose Grant (MPG) funding to support states, Tribes and territories in addressing high-priority environmental issues, including PFAS, environmental

justice and climate change. For more information on eligibility, use of funding, process for award, and timelines, please reference the [Multipurpose Grant guidance](#).

HUD's FY2021 Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program NOFO

Click [here](#) to visit the website. Here is some key information:

- \$356.8 million is available including \$45 million in Healthy Homes Supplemental funding
- HUD expects to make approximately 80 awards from the funds available under the NOFO
- Informational webinars on the NOFO are forthcoming
- 42-month project period (08/30/2021 to 03/03/2025)
- **Applications close July 12, 2021**

You can find more information on [HUD's website here](#) and in the attached NOFO/Appendices. Please stay tuned for upcoming informational webinars on the NOFO. Any questions regarding the NOFO should be directed to Yolanda Brown, Lead and Healthy Homes Program Division Director Yolanda.A.Brown@hud.gov

EPA's Diesel Emissions Reduction Act's Tribal Grants for FY21 Request for Applications are coming soon! More information can be found [on this flyer](#) and [on this website](#).

Recent additions to OTAQ's website in March 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

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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