



NTAA Weekly Update

Week of August 30 – September 3, 2021

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PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

US News – [Gaps in US Wildfire Smoke Warning Network Leave Many Exposed](#)



FILE - In this Aug. 11, 2021 file photo smoke from a wildfire obscures a stand of trees on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, near Ashland, Mont. In southeastern Montana, communities in and around the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation were ordered to evacuate as the Richard Spring Fire grew amid erratic winds. (AP Photo/Matthew Brown, File) THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOP STORIES

Welcome to new NTAA Executive Committee representatives elected in Alaska : Primary representative Rose Kalistook of the Association of Village Presidents and Alternate representative Shannon Isaacs from the Craig Tribal Association. Congratulations to Rose and Shannon on their election to represent Alaska on the NTAA Executive Committee! To learn more about the NTAA EC, [click here](#).

[The Status of Tribes and Climate Change Report \(STACC\)](#) is now available for download! The STACC Report seeks to uplift and honor the voices of Indigenous peoples across the U.S. to increase understanding of Tribal lifeways, cultures, and worldviews, the climate change impacts Tribes are experiencing, the solutions they are implementing, and ways that all of us can support Tribes in adapting to our changing world.

This report was convened by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) Tribes and Climate Change Program and written by the STACC Working Group. Find out more information about the working group by [clicking here](#).

Members of the NTAA Executive Committee and staff met virtually with EPA's Deputy Administrator Janet McCabe yesterday along with Jane Nishida of the Office of International and Tribal Affairs and leadership from EPA's Office of Air and Radiation.



Today, NTAA leaders will be meeting with office directors from EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality, the Office of Atmospheric Programs, the Office of Radiation and Indoor Air and the Office of Environmental Justice. These meetings are part of NTAA's regular communication with EPA leadership to help advance Tribal air quality. Specifically, NTAA leaders discussed the recommendations from the [2021 STAR](#) and a [NTAA letter sent last week](#) to OAR leadership on the proposed \$50 million of ARP funding for air monitoring.

Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes

The Hill - [Cutting air pollution levels could raise life expectancy by 2 years: study](#)

The Hill – [The major emitter that's missing from climate negotiations](#)

US News – [Gaps in US Wildfire Smoke Warning Network Leave Many Exposed](#)

NBC News - ['All we can do': Firefighters attempt to merge California wildfires in effort to control one](#)

New York Post – [Air Pollution linked to schizophrenia, depression: study](#)

The Guardian – ['Our future might not look the same': wildfires threaten way of life in California's mountain towns](#)

TIME – [California's Wildfire Problem Could Be Solved by a Few Legal Changes](#)

Cronkite News – [Solutions and struggle: COVID relief highlights complexity of issues facing Native people](#)

Cronkite News – [Yurok Tribe in Northern California grows solutions in soil of crises](#)

Time - ["It's Critical That The Rivers Continue to Flow." Environmental Activist Nicole Horseherder on Reclaiming Water Rights for Native Americans](#)

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

Climate Change/Energy

AP - [Ida's sweltering aftermath: No power, no water, no gasoline](#)

The Conversation - [Hurricane Ida turned into a monster thanks to a giant warm patch in the Gulf of Mexico – here's what happened](#)

The Nevada Independent - [Report: Extreme temperatures disproportionately affects minority, low-income communities stuck in 'heat islands'](#)

NPR – [Greenhouse Gas Levels Are The Highest Ever Seen — And That's Going Back 800,000 Years](#)

The Hill - [Judge rebuffs red states' challenge to Biden's 'social costs' of greenhouse gases](#)

The Hill - [Biden administration to 'revise' regulations for solar, wind on public lands](#)

NY Times – [40 Million People Rely on the Colorado River. It's Drying Up Fast.](#)

E&E News - [Dems' reconciliation plans: ANWR drilling halt, lease overhaul](#)

Crosscut - [Inside the latest Indigenous push to stop a massive copper mine](#)

Indian Country Today - [Panel considers future of coal-fired power plant](#)

Wall Street Journal – [West Virginia Creates Jobs Farming Lavender at Former Coal Mines](#)

Toxics/Mobile Sources

American Lung Assc. – [Two-thirds of Voters Nationwide Support Investments in Zero-Emission School Buses](#)

EDF - [EPA Expected to Act Soon on Mercury and Air Toxics Standards](#)

Axios – [The other job for batteries in boosting the electric vehicle market](#)

KTRK – [Colonial Pipeline temporarily shuts down 2 fuel lines as Hurricane Ida makes landfall](#)

Reuters - [Biden infrastructure plan takes on EV charging's inequality problem](#)

E&E – [EVs are 'unfeasible,' Postal Service says](#)

The Verge - [FAA grants could clean up airport emissions](#)

Indoor Air Quality

Salt Lake Tribune - [Why indoor air can be just as bad as the pollution outside — and what you can do about it](#)

KHN – [As Schools Spend Millions on Air Purifiers. Experts Warn of Overblown Claims and Harm to Children](#)

Bloomberg Law – [Indoor Air Pollution Remains a Deadly—and Unregulated—Problem](#)

Santa Clarita Valley Signal - [How This Sweden Based Air Filtration Company Camfil is Improving Air Quality in Classrooms at US Schools. Reports Explains](#)

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

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

NEW! Indigenous Speaker Series: Dialogues about Indigenous people's cultural and traditional lived experiences

September 7; 12pm PT / [Register Here](#)

The Indigenous Speaker Series provides a platform for dialogues about Indigenous people's cultural and traditional lived experiences, hosted by Northwest Indian College - Nez Perce Site, in partnership with University of Washington - Tacoma. CEU AVAILABLE!

NEW! Webinar: Traditional Knowledge – Federal Agencies' Considerations
September 15; 11:30am – 1:00pm PT / [Register Here](#)

This webinar will discuss how some federal agencies are considering traditional knowledge in the implementation of their missions. This webinar is one of a two-part webinar mini-series on traditional knowledge. The second webinar, planned for October, will focus on how federally recognized tribes and indigenous peoples engage federal agencies on traditional knowledge. This webinar is part of the U.S. EPA [Environmental Justice Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples](#) - to build the capacity of tribal governments, indigenous peoples and other environmental justice practitioners, and discuss priority environmental justice issues of interest to tribes and indigenous peoples.

Call for Tribal Participants to Help Revise EPA QAPP and QMP Requirements/Guidance Documents

EPA is seeking Tribal participation (particularly tribal scientists and environmental staff with experience in writing or updating QMPs and/or QAPPs for their EPA grants) in revising three of the Agency's most used and downloaded Quality Assurance (QA) documents:

- EPA QA/R-2, EPA Requirements for Quality Management Plans (March 2001)
- EPA QA/R-5, EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans (March 2001)
- EPA QA/G-5, Guidance for Quality Assurance Project Plans (December 2002)

There are a variety of ways tribes can participate:

- Take part in listening sessions
- Attend document revision webinars on QA topics of interest
- Review and Comment on the draft QMP and QAPP Standards during pre-clearance review
- Contact their Regional QA Manager [here](#)
- Provide feedback in implementing revised QA documents.

Please see the [Project Notice](#) for more details. For more information, please feel free to contact [Linda Himmelbauer](#), Directives Project Lead, or [Katherine Chalfant](#), Acting, Enterprise Quality Management Division (EQMD) Director.

Fourth National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Workshop, Virtual Event

October 4 – 8, 2021 / [Register Here](#)

The 4th National Cohesive Strategy Workshop will center on this theme and focus sharply on understanding, co-managing, transferring, and accepting risk at federal, state, Tribal and local stakeholder levels to prioritize and invest in decisions, projects and other efforts that result in widespread reduction in risk across landscapes, and communities, the public and firefighters collectively.

Since the inception of The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, we have learned that there are multiple “hard truths” of living with fire that must be accepted in order to make meaningful progress towards the three national goals of *Resilient Landscapes, Fire Adapted Communities and a Safe, Effective, Risk-Based Wildfire Response*.

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.

NTAA Upcoming Calls

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.

<p>Mobile Sources Work Group: This monthly work group addresses all mobile source pollution issues. Attend by clicking here.</p>	<p>Thursday, September 9, 2pm ET</p>
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Wood Smoke Work Group: Join this work group every other month to address wood smoke issues in Indian Country. Attend by clicking here.	Thursday, September 23, 2pm ET
EPA Policy Call: Call in to hear updates from EPA on policies, actions, and tools relevant to Indian Country and Air Quality. Attend by clicking here.	Thursday, September 30, 2pm ET
Indoor Air Quality Work Group: Join this work group every other month to help support IAQ work throughout Indian Country. Attend by clicking here.	Thursday, October 21, 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

NEW! WRRC 2021 Virtual Annual Conference: Tribal Water Resilience in a Changing Environment

August 30 – September 1, 2021 / [Free Registration](#)

The University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center is excited to open registration for the 2021 Annual WRRC Conference, **Tribal Water Resilience in**

a Changing Environment. Held virtually over three days, August 30-September 1, the program will offer information, diverse perspectives, networking, and much more. The conference will kick off with an afternoon session (1-4 PM Arizona time) on Monday, August 30, followed by morning sessions (8-11 AM Arizona time) on Tuesday, August 31, and Wednesday, September 1. In addition, special conference activities will be scheduled for Tuesday afternoon.

EPA is celebrating the 30th anniversary of the launch of its first climate partnership program, Green Lights. Learn more about the legacy and impacts of climate partnership programs at EPA by [clicking here](#).

US EPA Announces Upcoming Climate and Energy Webinars for State, Local, and Tribal Governments

The US EPA announces there will be nearly 30 webinars on climate and energy topics offered by federal agencies and others during the month of September. All webinars are free of charge, but space may be limited or require registration in advance. For more information subscribe to the [US EPA's State and Local Energy Newsletter](#).

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

Toxics/Mobile Sources

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.

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

- August 5, 2021: [EPA proposes to revise the greenhouse gas \(GHG\) emissions standards for light-duty vehicles for 2023 and later model years to make the standards more stringent.](#)
- August 5, 2021: [EPA announces plans to reduce greenhouse gas \(GHG\) emissions and other harmful air pollutants from heavy-duty trucks through a series of rulemakings over the next three years.](#)

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Indoor Air Quality

Schools as Community Cleaner Air and Cooling Centers: An American Rescue Plan Supplemental Funding Project by the U.S EPA

Request for Letters of Interest

U.S. EPA's Office of Community Revitalization received American Rescue Plan funding to develop and implement local strategies for using available COVID-recovery dollars to also create cleaner air and neighborhood cooling refuges for vulnerable communities. Funding will support direct technical assistance that pulls together state school facilities agencies, state emergency response agencies, school districts and community-based organizations to analyze gaps where populations that are more vulnerable to poor air quality and heat events lack access to community shelters.

The letter must be signed by an elected official or other representative of the tribe, state, county, or city, which might include one or more elected officials, an agency decision maker, or a nonprofit leader. **This signature represents support and commitment to this program and assistance.** The letter of interest must be submitted in an attachment (Microsoft Word or PDF file) by email to Abby Hall (hall.abby@epa.gov) no later than **September 30, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time**. If you have questions about this request for letters of interest, please contact Abby Hall at hall.abby@epa.gov or 202-631-5915.

U.S. Department of Education Encourages Use of American Rescue Plan Funds to Improve Ventilation and IAQ in Schools

Indoor air quality is critical to reopening schools safely and keeping them open. The U.S. Department of Education has released [new guidance](#) encouraging the use of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to improve ventilation systems and make other indoor air quality improvements in schools to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and tackle longstanding school ventilation improvement needs. The new Department of Education guidance highlights EPA resources to support

investments in improved ventilation and indoor air quality. Use the following resources from EPA to supplement the information in the guidance:

- [Indoor Air and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#): Visit this page for the latest guidance on best indoor air practices to limit the spread of COVID-19.
- [Ventilation and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#): Ventilation is an important approach to lowering concentrations of indoor air pollutants, including viruses. Increase the ventilation in your school with outdoor air when possible.
- [Air Cleaners, HVAC filters, and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#): Air cleaners and HVAC filters can help to reduce viruses and pollutants in the air. Consider upgrading the HVAC filters in your system and using safe, effective portable air cleaners to supplement HVAC filtration. *Note: Do not use air cleaners that intentionally generate ozone in occupied spaces.*
- [Implementing a Layered Approach to Address COVID-19 in Public Indoor Spaces](#): A layered risk reduction approach is best to limit airborne transmission of COVID-19 – learn how to combine increased ventilation and filtration with other [CDC recommendations](#), such as wearing masks and social distancing.

Wildfire Smoke and Indoor Air Quality

This summer, wildfires have spread across the U.S. creating devastation and dangerous smoke events affecting millions of American lives. If you are in need of immediate wildfire guidance, see EPA's [wildfire webpage](#) for more resources. Smoke from wildfires can adversely affect indoor air quality and put people's health at risk from exposure to particulate matter and other pollutants. Read on to learn more about:

- [How Indoor airPLUS Homes Protect Against the Harmful Effects of Wildfire Smoke](#)
- [Reduce Exposure to Wildfire Smoke Inside the Home](#)
- [Additional Resources](#)

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!

NEW! Position Announcement – WGF Climate Change Outreach and Communication Fellow

Wisconsin's Green Fire (WGF) is hiring a [Climate Change Outreach and Communications Fellow](#) (OCF) who will work with a team of partners and collaborators supporting Wisconsin communities in climate assessment and readiness planning. The position is open now and we are accepting applications through **September 3rd**. [Link here for our full position description and application instructions.](#)

Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is pleased to announce the availability of funding to support the hiring of Tribal Climate Resilience Liaisons in Alaska, the Northwest, and the Southwest through the BIA's Tribal Resilience Program (Program). Eligible applicants include tribal non-profit, non-governmental organizations and tribally-controlled colleges or universities (TCUs) that serve federally-recognized tribes. Other entities may participate as sub-grantees. The solicitation is available on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), and named [BIA-2021-TCRP](#).

To view and/or receive ITEP's American Indian Air Quality Training Program newsletter, [Native Voices, click here!](#)

Climate Change/Energy

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](#).

Recent additions to OTAQ's website in August 2021

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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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