



NTAA Weekly Update

Week of December 20 - 24, 2021

Happy Holidays from NTAA!

Table of Contents

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD	2
<i>Top Stories</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Climate Change/Energy.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Toxics/Mobile Sources</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Indoor Air Quality.....</i>	<i>5</i>
UPCOMING CALLS/EVENTS/NOTICES.....	5
<i>Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Climate Change / Energy.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Toxics/Mobile Sources</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Indoor Air Quality.....</i>	<i>8</i>
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	10
<i>Now Hiring!</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Climate Change/Energy.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Toxics/Mobile Sources</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Indoor Air Quality.....</i>	<i>13</i>
Most Recent Federal Register Notice	13

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

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from NTAA!



NTAA will be closed December 24th until January 3 to allow us all time to take advantage of the holiday season to time to spend time with loved ones and enjoy the winter season. The NTAA Weekly Update will return on on January 5th!

Top Stories

EPA - [EPA Finalizes Greenhouse Gas Standards for Passenger Vehicles, Paving Way for a Zero-Emissions Future](#)

E&E News - [Manchin burns climate package. What happens now?](#)

The Tribes of EPA Region 5 (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan) would like to share with you the [2021 Edition of the Tribal Air Resources Journal, Volume 13](#). The Tribes in Region 5 have compiled this Journal since 2008 to promote our air achievements and successes, and share obstacles and setbacks encountered in their Tribal communities and air resources. This year, and last, proved to be a year of

testing many Tribes' resolve and in this Journal some Tribes address how COVID has impacted their Programs.

NTAA has released a [Tribal Template Letter](#) to comment on EPA's Proposed Emissions Guidelines to Reduce Methane from the Oil and Natural Gas Industry. You can find NTAA's new fact sheet on [NTAA's Policy Resource Kit page here](#). Last week, NTAA's Chairwoman Carol Kriebs testified during EPA's public hearing last week. [You can read her remarks here](#). **Deadline extended:** Comments are now due to the EPA on **January 31st, 2022** (previously January 14th) [Comment here!](#)

Submit your 2022 NTFAQ Presentation Abstract | [Google Form](#)

The National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ) aims to support Tribal programs by fostering information-sharing and networking opportunities that are focused on building Tribal capacity in air quality management. The event's agenda is driven by Tribal input and priorities, with a focus on increasing Tribal engagement in air quality initiatives that are relevant to tribal communities across the nation.

The NTFAQ is scheduled for May 2-5, 2022. Sample topic for presentations or trainings may include but is not limited to:

- Air Quality & Grants
- Air Quality Policy & Regulations
- Indoor Air Quality
- Air Quality Health and Research
- Technical: air monitoring, data management & analysis, emission inventories
- Tribal Case Studies: examples of Tribes implementing air quality projects & programs
- Climate Change & Air Quality
- Community engagement: youth, elders, and community leaders
- Tribal/Traditional Knowledge

If you have questions about the agenda, presentation options, or other ways to participate in the event, please contact Andy.Bessler@nau.edu.

Timeline:

- Call for Presentations Opens: December 1st, 2021
- Presentation Proposals Due: January 15th, 2022
- Letter of Notification (will include instructions and timeline): February 17th, 2022
- Presentation Materials Deadline: March 28 (if pre-recorded) April 15 (if in-person)

Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes News

The Hill - [White House hails 'significant progress' on conservation goals](#)

The Guardian - [How much air pollution do you live with? It may depend on your skin color](#)

EPA - [EPA awards over \\$32 million for tribal environmental programs in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest](#)

Missoulian - [EPA grants boost smoke, disease protection](#)

The Denver Post - [Biden's EPA pick in the West aims to restore protections dropped under Trump](#)

Indian Country Today - ['Historic' meeting renews push for Black Hills](#)

Indian Country Today - [Netflix's 'Maya and the Three' inspires a list of Indigenous warrior princesses](#)

Indian Country Today - [Making 'Molly of Denali' as 'authentic as possible'](#)

Here's your link to this week's NACAA [Washington Update](#)

Climate Change/Energy

E&E Climate Wire - [Dems scramble, seethe after Manchin kills climate bill](#)

E&E Climate Wire - ['Top of the list': W.Va. faces surprising climate dangers](#)

CNN Business - [Coal miners want Joe Manchin to reverse opposition to Build Back Better](#)

Fortune - [Biden's green orders seek to rebuild global trust on climate](#)

E&E Climate Wire - [Military exempt from Biden order to cut federal emissions](#)

NPR - [In 2021, climate ambitions soared and crashed in the U.S. and around the world](#)

The New Yorker - [The Year in Climate](#)

E&E News - [Mass., Md. approve deals for massive offshore wind farms](#)

The Hill - [Energy Department announces new office for renewable demonstration projects](#)

The Hill - [Biden administration advances two large-scale solar projects in California](#)

Toxics/Mobile Sources

ABC News - [Biden boosts fuel-economy standards to fight climate change](#)

Clean Technica - [\\$5 Billion For Electric School Buses In US Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act](#)

EPA - [EPA Announces Plans to Use First \\$1B from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funds to Clear Out the Superfund Backlog](#)

The Verge - [The EV revolution's next big roadblock: access to chargers](#)

Indoor Air Quality

The Guardian - [How much indoor air pollution do we produce when we take a shower?](#)

Healthline - [Will Mask Mandates Help Stop Omicron Spread? What We Know](#)

Buildings - [How a Cultural Shift in Hotel Air Quality Will Keep People Safe](#)

UPCOMING CALLS/EVENTS/NOTICES

Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes

Don't forget to fill out NTAA's Air Quality Baseline Needs Assessment for Tribes by **December 31, 2021!**

The purpose of the survey is to collect information from all 574 federally recognized Tribes to enable NTAA to comprehensively describe Tribal ambient and indoor air quality needs. This information will then be used to identify the range of Tribal air quality needs and priorities and build Tribal air quality management capacity. Your participation in this survey is voluntary and you are free to decline to answer any question you do not wish to answer. The survey will take **between 15 – 20 minutes** to complete. If you would like to take the survey by phone, please email Sydney Janssen at sjanssen@thhnw.org to set up a time, or call 800-717-2118, Ext. 105. If you would like to familiarize yourself with air quality funding sources and concepts mentioned in the survey, please [review the glossary PDF](#). **The deadline extended to Friday, December 31, at 5:00pm PST.**

TO BEGIN THE SURVEY, CLICK [HERE](#). (If the link does not automatically open, please cut and paste this link into your browser:

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6420470/NTAA-Baseline-Needs-Assessment>)

For a Microsoft Word version of the survey, [click here](#). Upon completing the survey, ‘save as’ and change the document name as *YOUR_NAME_BNA* and email it to: sjanssen@thhnw.org. If you have any question or difficulty completing this form, please email Sydney.

EPA’s Community and Tribal Programs Group has a publicly facing [Tribal Actions and Events calendar](#) for all to use!

This calendar is also linked under the “Tribal Air and Climate Resources” webpage under the “Policy and Planning” heading available at <https://www.epa.gov/tribal-air>. The purpose of the calendar is to ensure that our Tribal partners are kept apprised of EPA activities that are relevant to them. If you have any questions about the calendars or any recommendations on how EPA can improve upon the calendars please do not hesitate to reach out to Toni Colon (colon.toni@epa.gov) and/or Tanya Abrahamian (abrahamian.tanya@epa.gov) with any feedback.

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

*January 25-27, 2022 | 9am-2pm PDT; 10am-3pm MDT; 12pm-5pm EDT
(2-hour session, 1-hour break, 2-hour session, Daily)*

Apply Now: <https://forms.gle/1S3amRpocRphTMuX7>

Course capped at **12 participants**

Topics:

- Identifying air quality sources and concerns in a community
- Tribal Air Program Case Studies
- Resources for tribal air quality professionals

The application is due on **Wednesday, January 12, 2022**. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance to the workshop via email by Tuesday, January 18. Those accepted to participate in the workshop will receive the Zoom link and password to join the workshop. The link and password are unique and should not be shared with others.

EPA releases new report on Climate Change and Social Vulnerability in the United States: A Focus on Six Impacts

EPA’s new report quantifies the degree to which four socially vulnerable populations— defined based on income, educational attainment, race and ethnicity, and age—may be more exposed to the highest impacts of climate change. The report quantifies six types of impacts: air quality and health, extreme temperature and health, extreme temperature and labor, coastal flooding and traffic, coastal flooding and property, and inland flooding and property. [Access the report](#). To [download the report’s findings](#) related to the disproportionate risks of climate change to American Indian and Alaska Natives. To find more information about climate change:

<https://www.epa.gov/climate-change>

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.

Mobile Sources Work Group: This monthly work group addresses all mobile source pollution issues. Attend by clicking here.	Thursday, January 6, 2pm ET
Wood Smoke Work Group: Join this work group every other month to address wood smoke issues in Indian Country. Attend by clicking here.	Thursday, January 20, 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, January 27, 2pm ET
STAR Work Group: Join the Status of Tribal Air work group to provide input on the report. Attend by clicking here.	Wednesday, January 12, 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, February 17, 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! Applications open for the Arctic Rivers Summit, March 2022

Scheduled to take place at the Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage, Alaska, March 29-31, 2022. The Summit is part of the Arctic Rivers Project funded by the National Science Foundation's Navigating the New Arctic Program. The Summit will be an in-person workshop to discuss the current and potential future states of Alaskan and Yukon rivers and fish and how we can adapt. It will bring together up to 150 Tribal and First Nation leaders, community members, managers, and knowledge holders, academic, Indigenous, federal, state, and provincial researchers, non-governmental organizations, and others.

Applications are due by January 23, 2022. For more information, please visit the [Arctic Rivers Summit website](#).

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

Toxics/Mobile Sources

NRC invites comment on Draft Programmatic Agreement on protection of archaeological sites affected by proposed placement of mine waste repository on top of reclaimed Church Rock uranium mill tailings deposit: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is requesting comment on a draft Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the NRC, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), Navajo Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office (NNTHPO), New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office (NMSHPO), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and United Nuclear Corporation (UNC). The purpose of this draft PA is to resolve any adverse effects to historic properties identified during consultation for a proposed license amendment application for the UNC Mill Site.

Submit comments by **January 21, 2022.**

> Federal Register (TBA)

> Download: [Draft Programmatic Agreement](#) , Nov. 30, 2021 (PDF)

> Access [Docket ID NRC-2019-0026](#)

Indoor Air Quality

NEW! Choose the Right Portable Air Cleaner for the Home

Whether you are in the market for a portable air cleaner for your home or you were thinking about gifting one this holiday season, EPA's Guide to Air Cleaners in the Home can help you make a well-informed decision.

Tips for selecting and using a portable air cleaner:

- Never buy or use an air cleaner that generates ozone, a lung irritant.
- Choose an air cleaner with a clean air delivery rate (CADR) that is large enough for the size of the room. The higher the CADR the more particles an air cleaner can capture and remove from the air and the larger the room it can be used in.
- Running your air cleaner at a higher speed and for a longer time will help improve the air cleaner's effectiveness.
- Place your air cleaner in the rooms where you spend more of your time such as your living room or bedroom.
- Replace filters regularly and follow all air cleaner manufacturing maintenance instructions.

[Read EPA's Guide to Air Cleaners in the Home for more details and tips.](#)

Resources

1. New [Research on DIY Air Cleaners to Reduce Wildfire Smoke Indoors](#) – also see guidance below!
2. [Wildfire Smoke Employer Training Checklists](#) for employee safety in OR and WA
3. Updated EPA webpage on [Emergencies and Indoor Air Quality](#): Includes tips on how to prepare for, respond to, and recover from weather-related and man-made emergencies and disasters that affect indoor environments, including [Wildfires, Volcanic Eruptions, and Dust Storms](#), [Power Outages](#), [Hurricanes and Flooding](#), [Extreme Heat](#), [Snow and Ice](#), [Earthquakes](#)
4. **Two books for Indigenous Youth on COVID-19: [Our Smallest Warriors, Our Strongest Medicine](#)**, developed by Tribes and partners at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health (these are really well done – [order copies here](#))
5. New interagency hosted [StudentHealth.ed.gov website](#) - inventory of resources promoting healthy school environments
6. [2021 State of Our Schools Report](#) from the 21st Century School Fund, the International WELL Building Institute, and the National Council on School Facilities released
7. [Consumer warning from FDA](#): Consumers that use of the **Max-Lux Safe-T-Lite UV WAND** may expose the user or any nearby person to unsafe levels of ultraviolet-C radiation and may cause injury to the skin, eyes, or both after a few seconds of use. Consumers may use the wand to try to disinfect surfaces and kill germs in the home or similar spaces. The FDA recommends that consumers consider using safer alternative disinfection methods.

Improving Environmental Health in Schools White Paper

The authors of this white paper are environmental health academics who recognize the importance of in-school education. However, we also understand that infectious disease transmission in schools is an existential challenge affecting the health of local

communities and ultimately, society at large. We have extensive experience implementing environmental improvements both before and during the current pandemic. We wish to persuade the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the lead Agency for protecting human health and the environment, that now is the time to revive and expand their School Integrated Pest Management (SIPM) initiative to improve environmental health in schools and document the tangible benefits that follow.

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.

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

RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Now Hiring!

Tribal Climate Adaptation Menu Coordinator

Closing date: January 31, 2022

Classification: 3-year, full time (Renewable dependent on funding)

Location: Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, Odanah, WI

Salary: Salary range: \$39,707-\$43,679 depending on qualifications.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: Submit a completed GLIFWC application for employment (available at www.glifwc.org), letter of interest, resume, and three professional references to: Robert Croll, Climate Change Program Coordinator 715-682-6619 rcroll@glifwc.org

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community is hiring a Sustainability Specialist and want to reach as wide an audience as possible. You can also get there through [this link](#).

Public Lands Internship Program (PLIP)

The Public Lands Internship Program (PLIP), which is a partnership between Northern Arizona University and various land management agencies, such as the National Park Service (NPS). The Northern Arizona University (NAU) Public Lands Internship Program (PLIP) aims to place 10 or more interns and practicum students from the College of the Environment, Forestry, and Natural Sciences (CEFNS) as well as other partner colleges at NAU each year.

Current internship opportunities are available at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area; Flagstaff Area, Aztec Ruins, and Montezuma Castle National Monuments; and Grand Canyon National Park. Indigenous and Native American students are strongly encouraged to apply. Visit the [PLIP website](#) for more information and please share these internship opportunities with your networks.

You can find a great listing of Indian Country jobs on [NCAI's website here](#).

Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes

NEW! Communication Channels for NASA Funding Opportunities

Please consider signing up for the following communication channels. These channels will ensure that you are informed of student engagement and other funding opportunities:

- Register for an account with [NASA Solicitation and Proposal Integrated Review and Evaluation System \(NSPIRES\)](#). You'll need to create an account, if you don't already have one. Once you have an account you'll be able to sign up for notifications to be alerted when new funding opportunities are released. There are sometimes opportunities released specifically for Minority Serving Institutions (including TCUs and other indigenous serving higher education institutions) so it's good to receive the notifications to stay on top of new opportunities.
- Sign up for our [MUREP Newsletter](#) which goes out every 2 weeks on Fridays.
- Check our [MUREP website](#) for announcements regarding MUREP specific funding opportunities.

Office of Research and Development recently conducted planning discussions regarding the WSMART program. One decision we are activating now is a testing partner loan option during periods of lower wildfire activity (winter through early spring), with loans for up to 3 months. The website FAQs were updated today to outline that option (refer to: “Can I request this equipment to try out before the next wildfire season?”): <https://www.epa.gov/air-sensor-toolbox/wildfire-smoke-air-monitoring-response-technology-wsmart-pilot>

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

Federal Register Notices related to Transportation, Air Pollution, and Climate Change

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to modify certain compliance dates under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program. First, EPA is proposing to extend the RFS compliance reporting deadline and the associated attest engagement reporting deadline for the 2019 compliance year for small refineries only. Second, EPA is proposing to extend the RFS compliance reporting deadline and the associated attest engagement reporting deadline for the 2020 and 2021 compliance years for all obligated parties. Finally, EPA is proposing to change the way in which future RFS compliance and attest engagement reporting deadlines are determined.

- **January 3, 2022 – Comment Period Ends. Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2021-0783**

2021 American Rescue Plan (ARP) Electric School Bus Rebates

EPA will fund \$7 million for electric school bus rebates in underserved communities. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) appropriated funds to the EPA for “activities that identify and address disproportionate environmental or public health harms and risks in minority populations or low-income populations” under several programs, including the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA).

Rebate Application Form and Supporting Documents:

- [2021 ARP Electric School Bus Rebates Eligibility List \(pdf\)](#)
- 2021 ARP Electric School Bus Rebates Program Guide
- 2021 ARP Electric School Bus Rebates Application

- 2021 ARP Electric School Bus Rebates Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Eligible Applicants:

1. Public school districts listed on the [ARP Electric School Bus Rebates Eligibility List](#)
 - a. Districts on the eligibility list are estimated to have 30% or more students living in poverty based on the [US Census Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates \(SAIPE\) School District Estimates for 2019](#).
States with zero school districts that make this cutoff will have one school district with the highest percent of students in poverty represented in the eligibility list.
2. Tribal schools
3. Private fleets that operate school buses under a contract with an eligible entity listed above

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

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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