



# NTAA Weekly Update

*Week of April 22 – April 26, 2024*

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

# NTAA NEWS!



**Join us in the beautiful Smoky Mountains of Cherokee, North Carolina on May 6 – 9, 2024 for the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual National Tribal Forum on Air Quality.**

**This year's conference includes:**

- Over 45 breakout sessions, field trips, trainings on air quality topics ranging from grants, policy & regulations, indoor air quality, community education, ambient air monitoring, and much more.
  - Click [HERE](#) for an overview of the conference & detailed agenda.
- Three excellent [Educational Tours & Field Trips](#) to choose from
- Eight pre-conference training sessions
- 2<sup>nd</sup> annual NTFAQ [Film Festival](#)
- [NTAA Annual Membership Meeting](#) and Luncheon
- Virgil Masayeva Environmental Excellence Award
- [Breath of Fresh Air Community Fun Run & Walk](#)
- \*\*Lodging information is now available [here](#)!

If you cannot join us in-person for the 2024 NTFAQ, we will be recording our sessions and will make them available on our website after the conference.

Special thanks to our host Tribe the **Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians!** Check out [this article](#) for a sneak peak of the excellent work the Tribe is doing to protect and improve air quality for their community.

We look forward to seeing you in Cherokee, North Carolina!  
For questions, please contact us at [NTFAQ@nau.edu](mailto:NTFAQ@nau.edu)

Second Annual

# NTFAQ FILM FESTIVAL

**May 7, 2024**

Join us for popcorn, drinks & Tribal Environmental Videos  
Hosted by Singer/Songwriter Charly Lowry



Sponsored by: **TISCH** Environmental



We look forward to seeing you at this year's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Film Festival!  
Email [lauradmckelvey@gmail.com](mailto:lauradmckelvey@gmail.com) with any questions!



**GRANTS OFFICE HOURS!**  
First Wednesday, 10 AM Pacific, 1 PM Eastern

- January 3
- February 7
- March 6
- April 3
- May 1
- June 5

Ask your Grant questions  
ITEP, EPA, and Tribes  
meet monthly to discuss grants

**INDOOR AIR QUALITY OFFICE HOURS!**  
Third Thursday, 11:00 AM Pacific

- January 18
- February 15
- March 21
- April 18
- May 16
- June 20

**TAMS CENTER OFFICE HOURS**  
Second Tuesday 11:00 AM Pacific

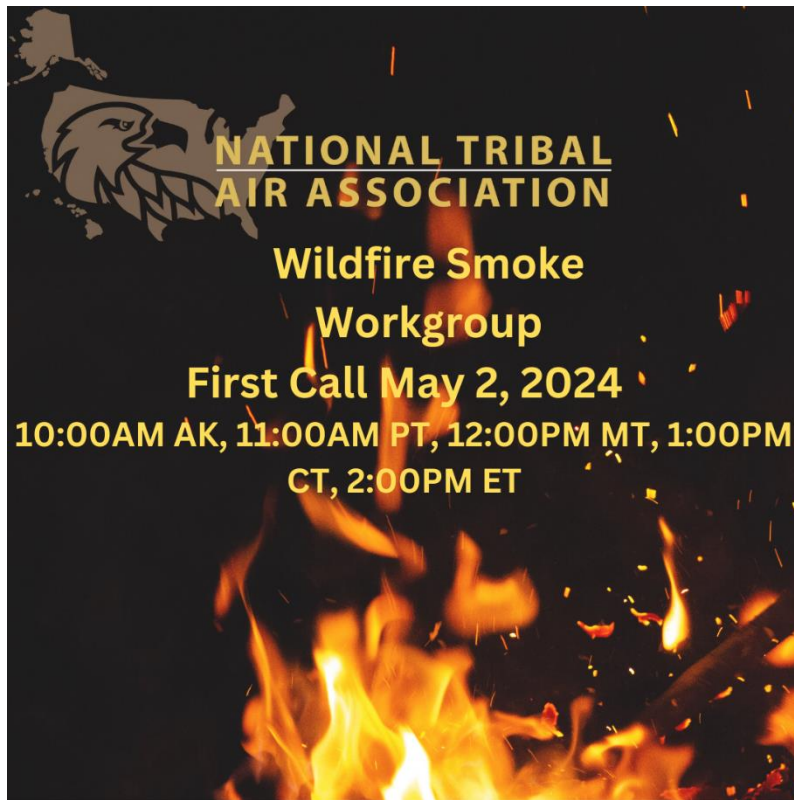
- January 9
- March 12
- May 14

**TAMS STEERING COMMITTEE AIR MONITORING WORK GROUP**  
11:00 AM Pacific

- February 20
- April 16
- June 11

**Zoom meeting ID: 659 096 3943**      **Password: AIAQTP**

Join ITEP staff for various Office Hours to ask questions and learn more about pertinent air quality and monitoring issues using this [Zoom Link](#).



**NEW!** Email [carolyn.kelly@nau.edu](mailto:carolyn.kelly@nau.edu) for a calendar link or to join the listserv. The wildfire smoke workgroup aims to provide resources to Tribes to help prepare before and during wildfire smoke events.

# TRIBAL HOME ENERGY REBATES

Up to \$225M for Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates -- provides up to \$14,000 per household for energy efficiency and electrification home upgrades.

## Qualified Projects Include:

- **HVAC:** Electric heat pumps for water heating and space heating or cooling
- **Cooking:** Electric stoves, cooktops, ovens
- **Laundry:** Heat pump clothes dryer
- **Building Materials:** Electric Load Service Center, Insulation, Air Sealing, and Ventilation

**Deadline: May 31, 2025**



**SCEP**  
STATE & COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMS



Learn more  
here!



## ***Top Stories***

The Hill - [Standards set to eliminate emissions from new federal buildings by 2030](#)

E&E News - [Congress prepares for EPA power plant rule](#)

NACAA Washington Update - [This Week in Review](#)

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

AP News - [Biden marks Earth Day by going after GOP, announcing \\$7 billion in federal solar power grants](#)

USC Today - [Supreme Court to consider 'good neighbor' rules that limit cross-state air pollution](#)

Planetizen - [Alaska Village Becomes Test Case for Climate Change Relocation](#)

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

Reuters - [California, 21 other states back EPA vehicle emissions rules](#)

ProPublica - [EPA Proposes Relaxed Limits on Acephate, a Toxic Pesticide](#)

Automotive World - [New EPA standards will test US readiness for EVs](#)

## ***Indoor Air Quality/Environmental Justice***

\*Any items endorsed in articles are not the recommendation of the NTAA.

Worldhealth.net - [Indoor Air Quality: Addressing a Public Health Issue On the Rise](#)

CBS News - [Massachusetts expands network of air quality sensors to underserved, low-income communities](#)

# UPCOMING CALLS/EVENTS/ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES/NOTICES!

## NTAA Upcoming Calls

Contact [Carolyn.Kelly@nau.edu](mailto:Carolyn.Kelly@nau.edu) if you have any questions about any calls. A Zoom link will be sent with calendar invites for future NTAA work group calls.

<b>Wildfire Smoke Workgroup:</b> Email <a href="mailto:Carolyn.Kelly@nau.edu">Carolyn.Kelly@nau.edu</a> for a calendar link or to join the listserv. The Wildfire Smoke Workgroup aims to provide resources to Tribes to help prepare before and during wildfire smoke events.	May 2, 10 am AK or 2 pm ET
<b>Woodsmoke Work Group:</b> This work group meets Bi-Monthly and includes Tribal and EPA professionals with an interest in woodsmoke issues in Tribal communities. Contact <a href="mailto:Carolyn.Kelly@nau.edu">Carolyn.Kelly@nau.edu</a> to join the call!	TBD, 10 am AK or 2 pm ET
<b>Clean Transportation Bimonthly Roundtable Calls:</b> The Tribal Clean Transportation Program (TCTP) is the go-to source of all information related to Clean Transportation. Roundtable calls will be held bi-monthly on the first Wednesday of the month. For more information, email <a href="mailto:Heather.Bartlett@nau.edu">Heather.Bartlett@nau.edu</a>	June 5, 10 am AK or 2 pm ET
<b>Alaska Air Work Group:</b> Join this work group to hear updates from EPA and Alaskans working on air quality. Contact <a href="mailto:Carolyn.Kelly@nau.edu">Carolyn.Kelly@nau.edu</a> to join the call!	May 29, 10 am AK or 2 pm ET
<b>NTAA / EPA Air Policy Update Call:</b> Join this monthly meeting to hear updates from EPA on important air quality and climate policy updates as well as updates around the country related to Tribal Air Programs. Calls are held on the last Thursday of every month unless it falls on a holiday. Contact <a href="mailto:Carolyn.Kelly@nau.edu">Carolyn.Kelly@nau.edu</a> to join the call!	Thursday, April 25, 10 am AK or 2 pm ET
<b>Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Office Hours:</b> The IAQ WG is teaming up with ITEP's IAQ Office hours with Mansel Nelson. Please join us for ITEP's next IAQ office hours, we would love to have you there!	May 16, 10 am AK or 2 pm ET

## The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (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.

ITEP's American Indian Air Quality Training Program (AIAQTP): [AIAQTP Schedule and Zoom Link](#)

**ITEP Grants Office Hours:** May 2, from 9-10 AM Alaska, 10-11 AM Pacific, 11-12 PM Mountain, 12-1 PM Central, 1-2 PM Eastern. Bring your grant questions and concerns. [Join Zoom Meeting](#): Meeting ID: 659 096 3943 Password: AIAQTP

**TAMS Air Monitoring Workgroup Meeting:** June 11, 11:00 AM Pacific Time

This Workgroup is an opportunity for Tribes to discuss concerns and issues regarding air monitoring programs and projects together and to learn about available equipment for loan and more. [Join Zoom Meeting](#): Meeting ID: 659 096 3943 Password: AIAQTP

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

### **NEW! Annual Smoke Management in the NW Conference**

**June 11-13, Seattle, WA and virtual**

#### **[Registration](#)**

The conference gives air quality, land management, public health, academia, community, and other professionals to collaborate on wildfire smoke and related issues. Includes information and discussion on the latest policies, tools, resources, and smoke management approaches.

### **NEW! Announcing the 2024 Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles (CHDV) Grant Program!**

Today, April 24th, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the launch of the [2024 Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grant Program](#) to fund the replacement of non-zero-emission Class 6 and Class 7 heavy-duty vehicles with zero-emission vehicles. The EPA expects to offer up to \$932 million in funding for high-quality applications that propose to serve communities across the country, particularly those overburdened by air pollution. At least \$400 million will be used to fund projects in communities in air quality nonattainment areas.

#### **Eligible applicants to the Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grant Program include:**

1. States, including U.S. territories;
2. Municipalities, including public school districts;
3. Indian Tribes; and
4. Nonprofit school transportation associations.

#### **Vehicles eligible for replacement under the Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grant Program include:**

- Class 6 and Class 7 school buses
- Other non-school bus Class 6 and Class 7 vehicles, including (but not limited to):
- Refuse Haulers/Dump Trucks
- Class 6/7 Transit Buses
- Delivery Trucks
- Utility Trucks
- Bucket Trucks
- Other Box Trucks

#### **Eligible activities and costs for the Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grant Program include:**

- The incremental cost of replacing a non-zero-emission Class 6/7 heavy-duty vehicle with a Class 6/7 zero-emission vehicle.
- The purchase and installation of fueling infrastructure that will support vehicles replaced under this program.
- Driver/mechanic training related to the maintenance and operation of new vehicles and supporting fueling infrastructure, and vehicle warranties.
- Costs directly related to the implementation, management, and oversight of the project, including recipient and subrecipient personnel and benefits, contractual services, consulting on vehicle deployments, travel, supplies, and indirect costs.

Applicants must submit all application materials by: **July 25, 2024, at 11:59 PM ET**

Potential applicants without a Grants.gov or System for Award Management (SAM.gov)

accounts are encouraged to initiate the registration process for each account as soon as possible since the registration process can take a month or more.

Visit the [CHDV Program website](#) to learn more

**Register for the 4/30 Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grant Program**

## [Information Session Webinar](#)

The EPA will host an information session webinar on the Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grant Program on Tuesday, April 30 from 3-4PM ET. During the webinar, the EPA will provide:

- an overview of the CHDV Program
- details of the CHDV Grant Program
- an overview of the grant application and evaluation process, and
- free resources for CHDV grant applicants

## [Register for the 4/30 Webinar](#)

### **NEW! Unplugged: The Renewable Energy Speaker Series – The IRA’s Environmental Justice Tax Incentive Programs**

When: April 29, 2024, 3:00 pm — 4:30 pm

Where: Hybrid (in-person in SF & via webinar)

RSVP

This event is open to the public, but registration is required.

### [REGISTER HERE to attend IN PERSON in San Francisco, CA](#)

Farella Braun + Martel's office is located at One Bush Street, Suite 900, San Francisco, CA, 94104 ([map](#))

Space is limited. In-person registration will close after **APRIL 25** or when capacity is reached. Guests will need to bring a government-issued ID to enter the building.

Note: For in-person participants, lunch will be provided at 11:30 am PT and there will be time for networking after the panel.

If needed, list any dietary restrictions here **AFTER** registering at the link above.

### [REGISTER HERE to attend VIRTUALLY](#)

Webinar information will be emailed upon registration.

Virtual registration will close after **APRIL 26**.

If you are unsure if you can access the webinar via the Zoom platform, please check your system requirements. If you are unable to participate via the Zoom platform, you may join in listen-only mode using a telephone.

All times noted are Eastern Time. The event begins at 3:00 PM Eastern, 2:00 PM Central, 1:00 PM Mountain, and 12:00 Noon Pacific.

**NEW! Monday, the White House convened state, Tribal, and local leaders from across the country for a [White House Water Summit](#) where the Administration announced a new national goal and partnership to conserve and restore freshwater resources. [The America the Beautiful Freshwater Challenge: A Partnership to Conserve and Restore America’s Rivers, Lakes, Streams, and Wetlands](#) sets a bold, new national goal to protect, restore, and reconnect 8 million acres of wetlands and 100,000 miles of our nation’s river and streams. [Over 100 inaugural members](#) from across the country have already signed on to support freshwater restoration in their communities, including ten states, eight Tribes, and 24 local governments.**

At the White House Water Summit, the Biden-Harris Administration made additional announcements to build resilience to climate change and to ensure every community has access to clean water:

- **The Department of Health and Human Services’ Indian Health Services (IHS) and the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) announced over \$1 billion** from the President’s Investing in America



- agenda and [a new interagency](#) effort to further develop safe drinking water and community sanitation infrastructure projects across Indian Country.
- **The Department of the Interior announced an additional \$11 million in new resources from the Bureau of Reclamation’s [WaterSMART program](#) to help combat Western megadrought.**
  - As part of the [Biden-Harris Get the Lead Out Partnership](#), the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is partnering with three of its members – Chicago, Detroit, and Milwaukee – to **launch the [Great Lakes Lead Pipes Partnership](#)**, a first-of-its kind, mayor-led effort to accelerate lead pipe replacement in cities with the heaviest lead burdens.
  - **The Department of the Interior [announced more than \\$70 million](#)** from President Biden’s Investing in America agenda for 43 projects in 29 states that will address outdated or obsolete dams, culverts, levees and other barriers to the nation’s rivers and streams.
  - **The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) [final rule](#)** to help communities prepare for and reduce flood damage.

To learn about these and other announcements throughout Earth Week, please join the White House on **Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm ET/9:00 am PT** for a virtual briefing with senior Biden-Harris Administration officials to celebrate Earth Week. Please RSVP [here](#).

**Also:**

- EPA finalized [stronger chemical risk evaluation process](#) to protect workers and communities
- EPA announced [online collection of environmental justice resources](#)
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [announced funding](#) for more than 700 [clean energy projects](#) to lower energy bills, expand access to domestic biofuels and create jobs and new market opportunities for U.S. farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers

**REMINDER! COMING SOON: Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) 2024 Tribal and Territory Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) - Spring 2024**

[Click here](#) to learn more about the 2024 DERA Tribal and Territory Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

The EPA anticipates opening the 2024 DERA Tribal and Territory NOFO in Spring 2024. Information will be published on [www.epa.gov/dera/tribal-and-territory](http://www.epa.gov/dera/tribal-and-territory)

The DERA Tribal and Territory Grants program was formerly known as the DERA Tribal and Insular Area Grants program and changed in 2024 in response to partner feedback.

Please note that DERA did not offer a funding opportunity program during calendar year 2023. The upcoming 2024 DERA Tribal and Territory NOFO is the first funding opportunity since the FY22 DERA Tribal and Insular Area NOFO.

Applications will be accepted from federally recognized Tribal governments (or intertribal consortia), Alaska Native Villages, or government agencies of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, which have jurisdiction over transportation or air quality.

[Click here](#) to submit questions to the DERA Helpline

**NEW! Join us in Phoenix next week! April 23rd Regional Roadshow!**

Join EPA on April 23, 2024 for the in-person Regional Roadshow event in Phoenix, Arizona! This event provides opportunities for community leaders and potential grant applicants of Phoenix, Arizona to:

- Learn more about historic funding opportunities and technical assistance made available through President Biden's Investing in America agenda and the Inflation Reduction Act.
- Meet with peers in Phoenix, Arizona to develop new or deeper community-based partnerships and cultivate ideas for appropriate funding opportunities.
- Brainstorm how to confront the climate crisis and advance environmental justice in your community.

The Regional Roadshow is a part of EPA's [Community, Equity & Resiliency initiative](#), a groundbreaking effort to help communities across the nation navigate EPA's Inflation Reduction Act investments and other new funding opportunities made possible by President Biden's *Investing in America* agenda. Through this new initiative, EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) and Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) will facilitate community-driven partnerships and provide a space for communities to learn, connect and cultivate ideas on how to access the historic resources, especially in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Please register in advance as space is limited. Be sure to secure your spot today!

<https://www.epa.gov/community-equity-resiliency/regional-roadshows>

For up-to-date information about Environmental Justice funding opportunities, events, and webinars, subscribe to EPA's Environmental Justice listserv by sending a blank email to: [join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov](mailto:join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov). Follow us on Twitter: [@EPAEnvJustice](https://twitter.com/EPAEnvJustice)

Para recibir información actualizada sobre oportunidades de financiamiento de Justicia Ambiental, eventos y seminarios web, suscríbese al listserve de Justicia Ambiental de la EPA enviando un mensaje en blanco de correo electrónico a: [join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov](mailto:join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov). Síguenos en Twitter: [@EPAEnvJustice](https://twitter.com/EPAEnvJustice).

**REMINDER! FY24 Exchange Network Solicitation Notice Published - Applications Due May 22, 2024**

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Exchange Network (EN) Grant Program Solicitation Notice (SN) has been published to Grants.gov and is available here: <https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/353216>. **Applications are due to EPA by 11:59 PM Eastern Time, Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024.** Additional guidance tools, including optional fillable templates for the cover letter, project narrative (work plan), and budget narrative attachment form, plus a budget calculation tool, is available through the grants.gov listing and on the EN website at: [Exchange Network Grant Program | US EPA](#). Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the new FY24 SN, as updates have been made since the FY23 version. Information on applicant webinars will be provided shortly.

The purpose of the Exchange Network (EN) grant program is to foster better environmental management and decision-making through increased access to timely, high quality, environmental information. An applicant's proposed project goals and outputs should align with one or more EN Funding Areas as described in Section I-B of the SN and EPA's FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. Applicants are encouraged to read the full text of the Strategic Plan

at: <https://www.epa.gov/planandbudget/strategicplan>.

EPA expects to award 25-35 grants of up to \$500,000 each, totaling approximately \$10,500,000 in FY24. The exact number of grants awarded will depend on the number of applications submitted to EPA by the application deadline, the amounts of proposed project budgets, and the quality of proposals. Individual applicants may request up to \$300,000 and eligible EN partnerships can request up to \$500,000. EPA remains committed to awarding tribal assistance agreements equal to at least 20 percent of the appropriated funds.

EPA only accepts project proposals for EN grants submitted electronically through Grants.gov unless applicants have a waiver. Please allow for enough time to successfully submit your application and allow for unexpected errors requiring you to resubmit. EPA anticipates that it will announce selection decisions around July 2024, and tentatively plans to issue awards by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**For more information, please contact:**

Erin McGown

EN Grants Program Manager

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Email: [ENGrantProgram@epa.gov](mailto:ENGrantProgram@epa.gov)

Secondary Email: [McGown.Erin@epa.gov](mailto:McGown.Erin@epa.gov)

**REMINDER! Apply Now for the 2024 Renew America's Schools Prize!**

**Submissions Deadline: Thursday June 13, 2024 at 5PM ET**

Applications are currently open for the [2024 Renew America's Schools Prize](#), which will award an anticipated \$180 million to K-12 public schools across the country. This three-phase opportunity will help districts build capacity, perform energy audits, and plan/implement energy improvement projects across a portfolio of school facilities. Visit the [HeroX](#) site for details about the prize and **apply by June 13 by 5PM ET**. Click to edit this placeholder text.

**REMINDER! Desk statement on Nonregulatory Public Docket: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Existing Gas Turbines at Power Plants**

As part of EPA's strategy to pursue a suite of rulemakings to address greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, air toxics, and emissions of nitrogen oxides from the power sector, on February 29 Administrator Michael Regan announced a new, comprehensive approach to reduce GHG emissions from the entire fleet of natural gas-fired turbines, as well as to set protective standards for toxic and criteria air pollution.

On March 26, 2024, EPA opened a non-regulatory docket and issued framing questions to gather input about ways we can design a stronger, more durable approach to greenhouse gas regulation of the entire fleet of existing gas combustion turbines in the power sector under Clean Air Act Section 111(d). EPA is committed to expeditiously proposing this and the other elements of a comprehensive approach to regulation of climate, toxic and air pollution from combustion turbines. Engagement over the next several months will be essential to shaping new proposals that protect communities, public health, and the environment. EPA is pursuing a robust stakeholder engagement process, consulting with energy workers, communities with environmental justice concerns, environmental justice leaders, industry, grid operators, and all interested parties to help develop these proposals. The non-regulatory docket will be open for public comment for 60 days – through May 28, 2024. Details are available at [Nonregulatory Public Docket: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Existing Gas Turbines at Power Plants](#)

EPA plans to re-propose emission guidelines for existing electric generating unit (EGU) combustion turbines to address GHG emissions more comprehensively from this subcategory, achieving greater emission reductions and addressing the broad range of concerns stakeholders have raised. EPA welcomes input from states and all stakeholders that may inform the Agency's approach and assist in the development of this proposed rule. EPA also plans to hold a policy forum at EPA headquarters in Washington, D.C., on May 17<sup>th</sup> to bring stakeholders together to share ideas with EPA and each other on these issues. More details about the policy forum, and registration information, will be available in mid-April.

**REMINDER! EPA Administrator Regan and USAID Administrator Power Formalize Partnership to Advance Environmental Protection Around the World**

WASHINGTON – March 26, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael S. Regan and U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Samantha Power signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that formalizes the leaders' joint commitment to cooperate in tackling the challenges of climate change, air and water pollution, lead poisoning, and recycling of materials from plastics and electronic waste, and encouraging the responsible management of critical minerals. The meeting occurred after Administrator Regan's recent Mission to Africa where he reinforced EPA's commitment to partner with leaders, young people, and advocates to address many of these same challenges.

"EPA greatly values our long history of environmental cooperation with USAID," said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. "Administrator Power is a true champion for environmental protection across the world. Under her leadership, EPA is proud to work alongside USAID to work with developing countries to achieve high public health standards, strengthen environmental governance, and advance the values of environmental justice and equity."

Globally, approximately 1 in 3 children have elevated blood lead levels, and lead poisoning kills at least 1.6 million people each year with the vast majority of these deaths in low- and middle-income countries. Administrator Power is advocating for a global drive to support low- and middle-income countries in rolling out and enforcing binding regulations to curtail lead in consumer goods like paint, spices, and cosmetics. In January, USAID joined EPA in supporting the global partnership to eliminate lead paint.

Administrator Regan recently returned from Africa, where he met with national leaders, young people and advocates to develop shared solutions to environmental challenges, including air and water pollution, management of plastic waste and electronic waste recycling. EPA will be working with USAID to share appropriate U.S. best practices in low- and medium-income countries.

Another shared priority is the responsible and sustainable management of critical minerals. As the world transitions to green energy sources and we scale clean energy supply chains, demand for critical minerals that power these technologies could benefit millions through inclusive, sustainable economic growth, if mined responsibly. EPA and USAID are collaborating to advance strong standards and safeguards for the sustainable mining of critical minerals around the world.

EPA and USAID have a history of effective collaboration on some of the world's biggest environmental issues. Together, USAID and EPA are ready to build on our history of collaboration, bringing together EPA's wealth of knowledge and technical expertise and USAID's international leadership and in-country presence and programs to build capacity to protect health and the environment and advance a freer and more equitable world.

For further information: [press@epa.gov](mailto:press@epa.gov)

**REMINDER! SUBJECT: Section 184 Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Program – Final Rule Published in the Federal Register**

Today, March 20, 2024, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published the final rule on the Section 184 Indian Housing Loan Guarantee (Section 184) program in the Federal Register. A link to the final rule is [here](#). The final rule expands and revises the Section 184 program regulations to address the program’s growing demands, increase transparency and accountability, and strengthen the program to ensure that it remains viable for many years to come.

The final rule strengthens and modernizes the Section 184 program by:

- Codifying current practices, policies and procedures, and adopts relevant industry standards;
- Incorporating Tribal comments received during Tribal consultation and the proposed rule public comment period;
- Setting expectations for Lenders and Servicers and providing an explicit framework within which Lenders and Servicers must operate;
- Enhancing safeguards for Native American borrowers and increasing partnership opportunities with Tribes; and
- Addressing program weaknesses identified by the Office of the Inspector General.

Overall, HUD conducted 28 Tribal Consultations on the rule. These consultations began before HUD started drafting the rule and continued through the public comment period on the proposed rule, which was published on December 21, 2022. The final rule reflects public comments received during this period.

Thank you to all the Tribal leaders and housing practitioners who participated in Tribal consultations and submitted comments on the rule. Your input was essential in developing the best possible regulations for the Section 184 program. The final rule has a 90-day implementation period, during which time HUD will be drafting the handbook implementing the final rule. HUD anticipates sharing draft chapters of the handbook to Tribal stakeholders in advance of publication and will provide training to Tribes and Lenders, as appropriate.

Thank you for your continued partnership and collaboration in the effective delivery of HUD’s programs. [View Document Here](#)

**REMINDER! Join the TCTAC Network News [HERE!](#)**

With this monthly internal newsletter, we will send you updates on our projects, share spotlights of the great work being done across the country, reminders for program events, and whatever else you may need.

**REMINDER! The EPA OAQPS AirKnowledge team is pleased to announce the availability of new AirKnowledge air quality training materials!**

The new materials include:

- A self-instructional course that describes the components of an exceptional events demonstration,
- A self-instructional module that identifies resources and tools that aid in protecting human health from wildland fire smoke, and
- A self-instructional module that explains the key aspects of the historical background of the Clean Air Act permitting programs.



More detailed information about the contents of these new materials can be found in the attached document.

We are also announcing the retirement of certain legacy course materials. These include the classroom course titled MACT Background Information (NACT 290), and e-learning modules titled Emissions Inventories, Fabric Filtration, and Overview of Air Pollution.

The new e-learning course and modules are available to tribal, state, and local air agencies through the AirKnowledge Learning Management System (LMS) at <https://epaapti.csod.com/client/epaapti/default.aspx>. To access the course and modules on the LMS, tribal, state and local air agencies and tribal and multijurisdictional organizations can register, log in, and refer to the “What’s New” section on the home page. The materials are available to all other users on the AirKnowledge website: [airknowledge.gov](http://airknowledge.gov). Questions and comments are always welcome and may be sent to [airknowledge@epa.gov](mailto:airknowledge@epa.gov).

### **REMINDER! EPA releases 2023 update to Equity Action Plan**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on February 14<sup>th</sup> released the 2023 update to its Equity Action Plan, as part of the Biden-Harris Administration’s whole-of-government equity agenda. This Equity Action Plan is part of EPA’s efforts to implement the President’s Executive Order on “[Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through The Federal Government](#),” which reaffirmed the Administration’s commitment to ensure equity and build an America in which all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential.

“Equity is at the heart of all that we do at EPA. Striving for equity makes it possible for us to deliver on our mission to protect public health and provide a clean environment for all,” said **EPA Deputy Administrator Janet McCabe**. “The progress that we have made and this update to our Equity Action Plan show our continued commitment to uplifting everyone, and we are proud to be a part of this work.”

Following robust engagement with community stakeholders, EPA identified eight priority strategies, which include four previously identified priorities carried forward from the 2022 Equity Action Plan and four newly identified strategies to support communities that have been historically underserved, as well as all communities across our Nation, these eight priority strategies are:

- Improve access for Communities to Federal Assistance.
- Reduce Cumulative Impacts and Health Disparities.
- Strengthen our Civil Rights Compliance Program.
- Protect Children from Exposures to Environmental Harms.
- Address Inequitable Access to Resources for Rural Communities.
- Ensure Public Access to EPA Programs and Address Environmental Harms for People with Disabilities.
- Strengthening Community-Based Participatory Science to Achieve Environmental Equity.
- Improve Data and Analytic Capacity to Better Identify and Remove Barriers.

As the backbone of work at EPA under the Biden-Harris Administration, the focus remains on ensuring no one is left behind because of the color of their skin or the zip code where they reside.

As this work continues, updates will be posted on [EPA’s Equity Action Plan webpage](#). Learn more about the [Administration’s equity work](#) and check out all [Federal Equity Action Plans](#).

For up-to-date information about Environmental Justice funding opportunities, events, and webinars, subscribe to EPA's Environmental Justice listserv by sending a blank email to: [join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov](mailto:join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov). Follow us on Twitter: [@EPAEnvJustice](https://twitter.com/EPAEnvJustice)

**REMINDER! The National Transportation in Indian Country Conference (NTICC) invites you to apply for their [call for presentations](#).** The 2024 NTICC Planning Committee is now accepting proposals for the 27th Annual NTICC. If you would like to submit a proposal, complete the form. The 2024 NTICC is an in-person event, set for August 25, 2024, at the Choctaw Casino & Resort. Please review the call for presentation information at <https://www.nticc.org/call-for-presentations> prior to completing this form.

**REMINDER! More than \$80 million in Grants Available -- Air Monitoring Direct Awards to State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Air Agencies**

On February 16, 2024, EPA announced the availability of approximately \$81 million in non-competitive, direct award funding from the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA) for eligible state, local, Tribal, and territorial air agencies to establish new ambient air monitoring sites, and maintain, operate, or upgrade existing ambient air monitoring networks. The networks provide data to inform decision making that protects human health and the environment. The deadline for eligible air agencies to apply is April 8, 2024. These one-time supplemental funds will provide critical resources for our nation's ambient air monitoring networks.

Approximately \$2 million of funding is also available to support the deployment and operation of air quality sensors in low-income and disadvantaged communities across the United States. EPA's grant guidance documents that outline the specific details, timelines, applicant eligibility criteria, and eligible activities relating to this funding opportunity are available at: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/air-grants-and-funding>.

**Who is eligible for this funding opportunity?**

Air pollution control agencies currently involved in air monitoring activities that regularly receive Clean Air Act section 103 or 105 grants either annually or every few years.

**What activities are eligible?**

Detailed information on eligible activities is available in the grant guidance documents. For IRA sections 60105 (a) and (b), generally, these include activities related to establishing new air monitoring stations or in maintaining, operating, or upgrading existing monitoring stations. For IRA section 60105 (c), generally, these include activities supporting the deployment, integration, and operation of air sensors in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

**What is the period of performance for these grants?**

The maximum period of performance for these grants is up to five years. The period of performance should be based on the time required to accomplish the workplan components.

**REMINDER! EPA and DOE announce intent to fund projects to reduce methane emissions from the oil and natural gas sectors**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced a Notice of Intent (NOI) on February 9, 2024 to make funds available to help measure and reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sectors as part of President Biden's [Investing in America agenda](#). Methane is a climate "super pollutant" that is more potent than carbon dioxide and responsible for approximately one third of the warming from greenhouse gases occurring today.

If released, the corresponding funding opportunity would focus on three areas:

1. **Mitigating methane emissions and reducing other air pollution associated with existing wells and infrastructure.** Funds would be provided to mitigate and monitor methane emissions from low-producing wells and other oil and natural gas assets, that are owned and/or operated by small producers/operators, through a small number of awards, which would each fund a selected lead entity such as an organization that represents oil and natural gas producers, a non-governmental research institution, university, or Tribal organization. The intent would be for these organizations to manage and optimize the effective distribution of these funds to owners/operators with relevant oil and natural gas assets, including one award focused on mitigating methane emissions from oil and natural gas assets on Tribal lands. This area is anticipated to complement efforts currently being undertaken by states through [recently announced formula grants](#).
2. **Accelerating the deployment of innovative methane reduction solutions for reducing emissions from petroleum and natural gas systems.** This may include efforts to support the field demonstration of near-commercial solutions that can effectively address emissions from difficult-to-mitigate sources on a large scale, to accelerate the implementation of innovative methane emissions reduction technology solutions.
3. **Characterizing and quantifying methane emissions from oil and natural gas operations across multiple, large geographical regions through the creation of regional methane emissions measurement and monitoring consortia.** Activities may include, but are not limited to, methane emissions data collection and acquisition; development of annual emissions estimates at equipment-, facility-, and basin-levels; and training on data and technology usage for workers in the oil and gas industry and communities with environmental justice concerns. The intent would be to develop region-specific collaborative partnerships among oil and natural gas owners and operators, universities, environmental justice organizations, community leaders, workers, technology developers, Tribes, state regulatory agencies, non-governmental research organizations, Federally Funded Research and Development Centers, and DOE's National Laboratories.

The NOI was issued to give applicants ample time to prepare their proposals and form partnerships (if necessary) in anticipation of the upcoming issuance of the funding opportunity announcement. More information, including anticipated eligibility criteria for this NOI, can be found at the [FedConnect MERP NOI website](#). For more information about the Methane Emissions Reduction Program, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/methane-emissions-reduction-program>

**REMINDER! The Department of Energy has funding available for Tribes through their Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program!** These are formula grants available to all Tribes. There are options for vouchers or technical assistance in place of a formal grant which would reduce the burden of applying. [Click here for more information!](#)

**REMINDER! EPA Grants Indirect Cost Rates Webinar**

EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment is pleased to confirm that materials from the EPA Grants Indirect Cost Rates Webinar held on December 6, 2023, are now available on the [EPA Grants Indirect Cost Rates Webinar webpage](#):

- Recording of the webinar with closed captions
- Helpful web links from the presentation
- A list of Questions & Answers based on questions submitted by attendees during the webinar
- Presentation slides in PDF format

If you have questions about the posted materials or need more information on EPA's grants award process, please email [EPA\\_Grants\\_Info@epa.gov](mailto:EPA_Grants_Info@epa.gov). Thank you for your interest in EPA's grants programs.

## **REMINDER! CPRG Updates**

### **Technical Assistance Forums**

Click [here](#) for the latest **Questions and Answers from the Technical Assistance Forums: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Technical Assistance Forums Questions and Answers (January 24, 2024)**.

EPA continues to update the [CPRG Planning Grantees Contact Information](#) on the CPRG website. If you're the lead organization for a CPRG planning grant and you have a public website for your CPRG planning effort, please email [CPRG.EPA@endyna.com](mailto:CPRG.EPA@endyna.com) to add the URL to our directory!

### **Planning Grant Trainings**

EPA's website contains links to several recorded trainings on the required elements for the Priority Climate Action Plans due in early 2024. Each training is 1-1.5 hours long including Q&A.

Please visit the [CPRG Training, Tools and Technical Assistance webpage](#) to watch the training recordings and view presentation slides and additional Q&A documents for questions that were not answered during the recorded Q&A session of the training. The webpage also includes links to resources organized by workplan elements.

## **NEWSLETTERS**

To ensure you receive future communications, please add [CPRG.EPA@endyna.com](mailto:CPRG.EPA@endyna.com) to your address book. To subscribe to receive future newsletters, [sign up here](#).

## **UPDATED! EPN Updates**

Access more details (and external links) here: [Federal Funding Opportunities and Guidance \(March 4, 2024\)](#).

Below and [on our website](#) you will find resources and information on:

- USDA's Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Grant Program
- EPA's Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants (Change Grants)
- EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grants (CPRG)
- Virtual Office Hours and Webinars
- An Update on Our Work (via our [bimonthly newsletter](#) EPN in Action)

## **USDA's Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Grant Program**

### **1) FY2024 United States Department of Agriculture's Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (UAIP) Grant Program**

The UAIP Grant Program funds planning and implementation projects, with priority for areas facing food and nutrition insecurity. Grants range from \$75,000 to \$350,000. Eligible entities include non-profits, local government, tribal organizations, and schools K-12. **Applications are due Tuesday, April 9, 2024.** Go to #1 on our [website](#) for more information.

## **EPA's Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants (Community Change Grants)**

### **2) [6-step Application Guides for Community Change Grants](#)**

EPN has added a [Track II sample proposal narrative](#) to its [6-step application guides](#) for the Change Grants. You will also find a **sample proposal narrative** for [Track 1](#), plus **additional templates/samples** for Track I attachments. Although the final deadline for the Change Grants is November 21, 2024, EPA plans to review applications on a rolling basis each month, and there may be initial award announcements as soon as March 2024. As such, EPN suggests that applicants (who are ready) **submit applications ASAP**. Please reach out to [info@environmentalprotectionnetwork.org](mailto:info@environmentalprotectionnetwork.org) if you would like additional help. Go to #2 on our [website](#) for more information.

### **3) Community Change Grants Target Investment Areas (TIAs) Webinars**

EPA will hold a series of informational webinars specifically for TIAs: Tribes in Alaska, other Tribes, Territories, Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities, and US-Southern Border Communities. Each webinar will last between 60-90 minutes and will cover application requirements, eligible entities, eligible project activities, and other helpful information on the specific TIAs. Go to #3 on our [website](#) for more information and to register.

### **4) Community Change Grants Updated Information**

EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) has updated and modified two important documents for the Change Grants, including a comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document and a modified Notice of Funding Opportunity to clarify certain areas. Go to #4 on our [website](#) for more information.

### **5) Community Change Technical Assistance Program (CCTA) and Community Change Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance (CCER TA)**

As a reminder, EPA is offering two pro bono technical assistance to Community Change Grants applicants through CCTA and CCER TA for applicants in disaster-prone areas. In addition, CCTA is holding a series of informational webinars **weekly on Tuesdays, 3-4 pm ET, through at least March 2024**. Go to #5 on our [website](#) to apply for EPA's pro bono assistance and to register for these helpful webinars.

### **6) Funding to Help Communities Apply for Federal Funding**

The Just Transition Fund is a national philanthropic organization that provides grants (up to \$100k) and technical assistance to help communities impacted by the decline of the coal industry apply for federal funding, like EPA's Community Change Grants program. Nonprofit organizations and local governments located in a community with a coal plant and/or mine are eligible to apply if they're applying for federal funding for an economic development, workforce, or broadband infrastructure project. Go to #6 on our [website](#) for more information.

## **EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grants (CPRG)**

### **7) [Step-by-Step Guides to the CPRG Implementation Application Process](#)**

EPN has created application guides for the [General Competition](#) (due April 1, 2024), and the [Tribal/Territories Only Competition](#) (due May 1, 2024) and for [Applicants Interested in Applying to both the General Competition and the Tribal and Territories Only Competition](#). Go to #7 on our [website](#) for more information.

### **8) CPRG Implementation Grants Webinar on FAQs**

EPA hosted a webinar on the CPRG Implementation Grants competitions on February 15th, reviewing frequently asked questions (FAQs). Go to #8 on our [website](#) for more information and to access presentation materials.



## 9) Updated CPRG Implementation Grants Questions and Answers (Q&As)

General Competition questions and answers were updated on February 16, 2024, and Tribes and Territories competition questions and answers were updated February 6, 2024. Go to #9 on our [website](#) to access these.

## Virtual Office Hours and Webinars

### 10) EPN [SAM.gov](#) Registration Office Hours

Please join us every other Wednesday (the next one is Wednesday, March 13) **at 2pm eastern**. EPN staff will help you begin, continue, or finish up your registration process. As a reminder, federal funding applicants must have an active SAM.gov and Grants.gov registration in order to apply, and subawardees must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number issued via [SAM.gov](#) as well as a valid registration on [SAM.gov](#). The UEI is used to validate and verify U.S. contractors. Go to #10 on our [website](#) for more information.

### **REMINDER! Seeking Grant Application Reviewers - Compensation Available!**

Are you interested in Environmental and Climate Justice? Do you want to participate in the process to award transformative climate action and pollution reduction projects and support community-driven projects that can positively transform people's lives now and in the future? If so, [this may be an opportunity for you!](#)

The EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights is seeking a diverse group of individuals with relevant expertise and experience to review grant applications submitted under our historic [\\$2 billion Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).

### **Compensation will be available for non-federal reviewers!**

Individuals interested in serving as application reviewers should expect to dedicate approximately 10-15 hours per application reviewed. Reviewers may choose to request to serve during one review cycle or multiple ones. Non-federal reviewers will receive compensation through GrantSolutions for the time spent reviewing grant applications. Non-federal reviewers assigned to a review panel will receive up to \$200 per application reviewed. It is expected that non-federal reviewers will be assigned no more than 10 applications to review.

**All reviewers will be required to sign a conflict-of-interest statement prior to reviewing applications.**

**Interested?** Learn more here: <http://new.grantreviewinfo.net/FY24-EPA-OEJECR-Climate-Justice-Community-Change-Grants>

**REMINDER!** The Alaska Solid Waste Burning webinars were broadcast on November 16<sup>th</sup> and December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The PowerPoint presentations and a recording of the webinar are available [HERE](#).

**REMINDER!** The EPA has launched a new climate resilience technical assistance program called **Community Change Equitable Resilience**. The program will consist of free design and project development assistance, community engagement, and partnership development workshops, with the intent to help eligible entities apply for grants under EPA's [Community Change Grants](#) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

Eligible projects for this technical assistance must be located in a disaster-prone area and benefit a disadvantaged community.

The requestor can propose up to three sites for design assistance. Climate resilience projects must have a direct community benefit and could include retrofits to community-serving buildings; design or redesign of public parks, open space, and waterways; redesign of streets; or other projects that address climate resilience and environmental justice.

Proposed projects should address climate change impacts such as extreme heat and more intense heat islands, wildfire and wildfire smoke, floods, storms, or other impacts that pose a greater risk to disadvantaged communities.

EPA intends to offer this technical assistance to up to 50 recipients nationwide and will accept requests on a rolling basis until 50 recipients have been identified.

We hope you consider submitting a request for assistance! You can find more information at: <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/community-change-equitable-resilience-technical-assistance>. Please email [equitableresilience@epa.gov](mailto:equitableresilience@epa.gov) with questions.

**REMINDER! The Environmental Justice Community Change grants were announced!**  
<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-community-change-grants-program>

- This grant opportunity is a bit different in that there is a 1-year rolling application window.
- There is also a technical assistance program available to assist communities to develop their projects: <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/community-change-equitable-resilience-technical-assistance>
  - If you know folks that would be a good fit for this opportunity, please encourage them to submit their TA request form soon.

**REMINDER! EPA Grants Competition Process Webinar**

EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment is pleased to confirm that materials from the EPA Grants Competition Process Webinar held on September 26, 2023, are now available on the [EPA Grants Competition Process Webinar webpage](#):

- Recording of the webinar with closed captions
- Helpful web links from the presentation
- A list of Questions & Answers based on questions submitted by attendees during the webinar
- Presentation slides in PDF format

If you have questions about the posted materials or need more information on EPA's grants award process, please email [EPA\\_Grants\\_Info@epa.gov](mailto:EPA_Grants_Info@epa.gov).

**REMINDER! SMOKE: State of the Science**

The recording for the virtual session [SMOKE: State of the Science](#) is now posted on the Rocky Mountain Research Station website in case you missed it or would like to share with others.

**REMINDER! A revised version of the AERMOD Modeling System (dated 23132) has now been posted to the EPA's SCRAM website and replaces the previous version (dated 22112).** Specifically, the AERMET and AERMOD executables, source code, documentation, and test cases have been updated. The respective links to the updated version of the AERMOD Modeling System are <https://www.epa.gov/scram/air-quality-dispersion-modeling-preferred-and-recommended-models#aermod> and <https://www.epa.gov/scram/meteorological-processors-and-accessory-programs#aermet>.

In addition, the MMIF meteorological preprocessor (version 4.1) has been posted to EPA's SCRAM website and replaces MMIF (version 4.0) to address new features for processing overwater prognostic data through AERMET v23132. MMIF v4.1, related documentation, and updated guidance on the use of MMIF for AERMOD applications can be downloaded at <https://www.epa.gov/scram/air-quality-dispersion-modeling-related-model-support-programs#mmif>.

**REMINDER!** [Communities First Fund's \(CFF\) Rapid Response Fund](#) will provide rapid response funding to support organizations' or coalitions' needs to position themselves or others to respond to infrastructure crises, movement moments, and time sensitive federal funding notices or rulemaking that require rapid mobilization. The Fund has a national scope with specific priority given to geographies that have historically received disproportionate public investment, including the Midwest and the South. **Applications will be reviewed bi-monthly (1st Friday and 3rd Friday of each month)**, and awards will be determined by the CFF team. [The Rapid Response Fund is limited to \\$1,000,000](#). **Grants will be distributed on a rolling basis until the fund is spent down**. Awards will range between \$10,000 - \$100,000 depending on scope and scale of the work funded.

**REMINDER!** WRI recently put out a report on [Catalyzing Local Clean Energy: A Roadmap for Maximizing Inflation Reduction Act Opportunities and Community Benefits](#).

The guidebook provides a detailed breakdown of new clean energy tax credits and bonuses available to local governments and other eligible entities. It also includes several sample case studies showing how local governments can use these incentives in their clean energy planning as well as analyzing the savings and community benefits these incentives could provide to local governments of all sizes, types, and geographic locations.

**REMINDER!** Thank you to those who attended the "Starting a Firewood Bank" webinar!

For those who were unable to attend, here is your access to the recording:

[https://maine.zoom.us/rec/share/cIz\\_axl8dkMhsZtc2VCjJyFBWHbwIAkXWY-yhvjuLSHTfKYObni-fbU\\_hFLGh-Gq.gkd6u2SftO7MOI7G](https://maine.zoom.us/rec/share/cIz_axl8dkMhsZtc2VCjJyFBWHbwIAkXWY-yhvjuLSHTfKYObni-fbU_hFLGh-Gq.gkd6u2SftO7MOI7G)

Passcode: A^JqJ43g

**REMINDER!** Now Available! Overview documents on EJ financial and technical resources for Tribes and Indigenous peoples:

1. [EPA EJ Program Financial and Technical Assistance Programs and Resources, October 4, 2023](#)
2. [Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program, September 25, 2023](#)
3. [Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaker Program Subawards, September 14, 2023](#)

**REMINDER!** EPA Announces New Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Resource for Planning Grants: Capacity Building Through Effective Meaningful Engagement Booklet

Today, EPA announces a new resource for the Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grant, Capacity Building Through Effective Meaningful Engagement Booklet. As CPRG planning grantees think through climate action planning, meaningful engagement with communities must be at the center. When this critical aspect of strategic planning is done right – from equitable design, inclusive decision-making, input touchpoints with all communities, community partners and interested parties throughout the process – there's greater buy-in to support change and drive impact. Knowing that grantees are coming into this planning process with varying experiences, we wanted to provide a new resource. The "Capacity Building Through Effective Meaningful

Engagement Booklet” is a tool intended to help create or expand plans for engaging meaningfully with communities. No two approaches to meaningful engagement will be exactly alike. We hope this tool helps spark ideas on how to build trust within communities through meaningful engagement. To learn more, please access the booklet at <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/cprg-training-tools-and-technical-assistance>

**To complement the Investing in America: Climate Action Funding Fair, the [Investing in America: Climate Action Funding Resource Guide](#) is now available!** This Guide identifies a variety of tracking tools as well as provides an extensive list of programs that reduce greenhouse gases.

**REMINDER! Grants Update: Required Use of ID.me to Sign into ASAP.gov and Establishment of New EPA General Terms and Conditions**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Office of Grants and Debarment has published [RAIN-2023-G03](#) and [RAIN-2023-G04](#).

[RAIN-2023-G03](#): This Recipient/Applicant Information Notice (RAIN) informs recipients and applicants of the U.S Department of Treasury’s Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) requirement to use ID.me to log into ASAP.gov by September 15, 2023.

[RAIN-2023-G04](#): This Recipient/Applicant Information Notice (RAIN) informs recipients of the addition of new General Terms and Conditions. Please see each RAIN for more information.

If you have questions about these RAINs, please send email directly to [EPA\\_Grants\\_Info@epa.gov](mailto:EPA_Grants_Info@epa.gov).

**REMINDER! EPA Grants Trainings Available!**

EPA’s Office of Grants and Debarment is pleased to announce the availability of several new and updated training resources for grant applicants and recipients.

- NEW—Learn how to [Register in SAM.gov and Grants.gov](#) to apply for EPA grants. This webpage will help you register your organization in SAM.gov, create an applicant profile in Grants.gov, and get familiar with using Workspace.
- The [How to Develop a Budget training](#) was recently updated. This course will help you prepare work plans, budgets, and budget narratives for EPA grants.
- The [EPA Grants Management Training for Applicants and Recipients](#) course introduces key aspects of the grant life cycle starting with preparing an application through closing out a grant. The six modules can be completed individually.

Reminder: Stay tuned to [EPA’s Grants Webinars](#) schedule to register for upcoming webinars and access recordings, helpful links, and FAQs.

If you have any questions regarding these trainings or have suggestions for new training or webinar topics, please send an email to [EPA\\_Grants\\_Info@epa.gov](mailto:EPA_Grants_Info@epa.gov)

**REMINDER! The White House: FACT SHEET: How the Inflation Reduction Act Helps Tribal Communities**

By signing the Inflation Reduction Act, President Biden is delivering on his promise to meet the climate crisis and build an economy that works for working families, including Tribal nations and American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian families. The Inflation Reduction Act lowers prescription drug costs, health care costs, and energy costs. It’s the most aggressive action we have taken to confront the climate crisis. It’ll lower the deficit and ask the super wealthy and

corporations to pay their fair share. And no one making under \$400,000 per year will pay a penny more in taxes. [Click Here for FACT SHEET.](#)

## ***Climate Change / Energy***

**The Tribal Climate Change Guide** is a searchable database that features up-to-date information on available grants, adaptation plans, climate programs, and climate tools to assist Native peoples in addressing impacts of climate change on their communities and ways of life. The guide also features national events, climate job postings, education resources, publications, and a directory of climate change scientists. <https://toolkit.climate.gov/tool/tribal-climate-change-guide>

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

### ***Indoor Air Quality***

**REMINDER! Did you know...** When a person smokes or vapes, they inhale the chemicals in the product. People around the smoker or vaper are also exposed to these chemicals – this exposure is called secondhand exposure.

[Secondhand tobacco smoke](#) exposure can cause lung cancer, cardiovascular disease like heart disease and stroke. It can result in premature deaths from these conditions **among non-smoking** adults.

In **infants and children**, secondhand tobacco smoke can cause health problems that include sudden infant death syndrome and respiratory and ear infections.

For **children with asthma**, secondhand tobacco smoke is [an asthma trigger](#) that can cause more frequent and severe asthma attacks.

Secondhand tobacco smoke can **move between rooms** of a home and may remain indoors for a long time – even after a person is finished smoking. Air cleaners cannot fully eliminate secondhand tobacco smoke from the air.

[Secondhand marijuana smoke](#) contains **many of the same toxic and cancer-causing chemicals** found in tobacco smoke and may contain some of those chemicals **in higher amounts**.

Even secondhand [aerosols from vaping](#) (secondhand e-cigarette aerosols) and secondhand tobacco smoke can contain similar harmful substances.

The **only way** to fully eliminate secondhand exposure is to prohibit smoking and vaping in indoor spaces, including in cars, and away from building air intakes, doors, open windows, and other enclosed spaces.

If you smoke or vape and want to quit, you can find a [list of resources here](#). Doing so will help you and your loved ones.

Learn more about:

- [Secondhand Smoke/Aerosol Exposure](#)
- [Indoor Air Quality](#)

### **REMINDER! Webinar Recording Available: Health Implications of Ozone- and PM-Producing Indoor Air Cleaners**

On Aug. 2, EPA hosted a webinar about indoor air cleaners featuring Dr. Jose-Luis Jimenez of the University of Colorado Boulder.

Some air cleaners produce ozone or particulate matter, which can degrade indoor air quality. In his presentation, Dr. Jimenez examined these types of air cleaners and compared the estimated reduction in mortality due to reduced airborne disease transmission (COVID-19 and flu) with the estimated increase in mortality due to degradation of indoor air quality. [Watch the recording here.](#)



## **REMINDER! Factsheets Available for Schools Facing Climate Change**

Get Tips for School Staff and Parents for Creating Cleaner Air and Cooling Centers at Schools  
EPA's latest factsheets are designed to help schools and communities that are facing the consequences of climate change.

As extreme weather events such as wildfires and heatwaves overlap with other stressors such as infectious diseases like COVID-19, it's important for schools and their partners to work together to mitigate the health risks to students and the community.

Children are uniquely vulnerable to extreme heat and wildfire smoke, because of their size, physiology, and factors that include playing outdoors and having less control over their environment and exposure to harm.

**About the Factsheets:** The [Schools as Cleaner Air and Cooling Centers: Tips for Facility Managers, Principals, Teachers, and Parents and Caregivers](#) factsheets discuss a variety of approaches for mitigating the health consequences of these natural disasters such as:

- HVAC and maintenance considerations;
- Recommendations for planning and partner coordination;
- Emergency checklists; and
- A suite of additional resources

**REMINDER! IAQ Office Hours – May 16**, from 10-11 AM Alaska, 11AM-12PM PT, 12-1 PM MT, 1-2 PM CT, 2-3 PM ET.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://nau.zoom.us/j/6590963943?pwd=bVlhWEZpa2pEajdvSFRQMjRxc05PZz09>

Meeting ID: 659 096 3943

Password: AIAQTP

Dial by your location

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 659 096 3943

Find your local number: <https://nau.zoom.us/u/kcbXOGGyF>

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

## **NOW HIRING!**

**REMINDER! The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians is actively looking for a fisheries biologist** to join their team of natural resources professionals to further our work “to sustain and manage HBMI's natural resources for the continuing benefit of Maliseet human, cultural and ecosystem health”. Join us working with a variety of partners to achieve a shared vision of watershed restoration including restoring sea run fish to our Wolastoq-St. John Watershed.

This position is located in Houlton/Littleton, Aroostook County Maine and includes paid time off, paid insurance benefits, and 401(k). Application can be found at [Career Opportunities | Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians \(maliseets.net\)](#) along with the full job description [HBMI Fisheries Biologist Position DescriptionFinalApproved-02-27-24.pdf \(maliseets.net\)](#)

## **REMINDER! Hopi Tribe DNR... Now Hiring!**

There are several open positions with the Hopi Tribe Department of Natural Resources, positions include:

Wildlife Ecosystems Management Program

- Program Manager
- Forester/Woodland Ecologist
- Wildlife Biologist (coming soon!)

Water Resources Program

- Water Resource Technician II

Range Management

- Range Technician
- Range Conservationist

<https://www.hopi-nsn.gov/tribal-services/human-resources/job-listings/>

## **REMINDER! National Indian Health Board – Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center Senior Manager**

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) seeks an experienced environmental program professional to focus on environmental technical assistance projects. The position will have a focus on National Indian Health Board's Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center, connecting Tribal environmental programs to existing funding opportunities, providing technical assistance to Tribes on federal grant applications related to environmental justice, and elevating issues impacting Tribal environmental health. The position is full-time, salaried, and may include travel up to 20% of the time. Position base in Washington, DC, is preferred but not required. Click [here](#) for more information.

## **REMINDER! National Indian Health Board – Environmental Health Project Associate**

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) seeks an entry-level public health professional to work on environmental health projects. The position will have a focus on National Indian Health Board's Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center, which connects Tribal environmental health programs to existing funding opportunities, provides technical assistance to Tribes on federal grant applications, and elevates issues impacting Tribal environmental health. The position is full-time, salaried, and may include travel up to 20% of the time. This position is based in Washington, DC. Click [here](#) for more information.

## **REMINDER! National Indian Health Board – Public Health Policy & Programs Project Coordinator (Climate & Environmental Health)**

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) seeks an experienced public health professional to work on current and future public health projects and initiatives. The position will have a focus on creating and coordinating projects that focus on improving the state of Tribal environmental health and environmental justice and Tribal environmental health systems. The position will work on a team with an Environmental Health Program Director, Manager, Coordinators, Associates, and Interns. The coordinator will also work with colleagues in the Public Health Policy & Programs Department and organization-wide, to coordinate and implement public health events, including the NIHB National Tribal Public Health Summit. Included in the above duties, the coordinator will deliver technical assistance, coordinate, and facilitate meetings with stakeholders, draft communications, and keep records of all project accomplishments. This position is based in Washington, DC, and requires up to 20% travel. Click [here](#) for more information.

### **REMINDER! National Indian Health Board - Public Health Policy & Programs Program Evaluator**

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) seeks a highly motivated and uniquely qualified candidate to become our Public Health Policy and Programs (PHPP) Program Evaluator. Reporting to the Public Health Policy and Programs Director, the Evaluator will work across PHPP to oversee all aspects of the evaluation of public health programs and organization-wide, including building internal evaluation capacity. This position will work closely with staff in each subject area to develop and implement appropriate evaluation methods. The Evaluator will assist with evaluation activities related to PHPP, NIHB events, and conferences. This is a full-time, salaried position located in Washington, DC. The selected incumbent is required to live in the Washington, DC metro area upon commencement of position. Some travel (up to 10%) will be required. Click [here](#) for more information.

### **REMINDER! National Indian Health Board - Environment and Climate Justice Grants Coordinator**

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) seeks an experienced professional to provide technical assistance to Tribes on environmental and climate justice funding opportunities. The position will have a focus on National Indian Health Board's Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center, connecting Tribal environmental health programs to existing funding opportunities, providing technical assistance to Tribes on federal grant applications, and elevating issues impacting Tribal environmental health. The position is fulltime, salaried, and may include travel up to 20% of the time. Position base in Washington DC is preferred but not required. Click [here](#) for more information.

### **REMINDER! Quinault Indian Nation – Air Quality Program Specialist**

The Air Quality Program Specialist is expected to manage a comprehensive air quality program dealing with air quality issues within the Quinault Reservation. This program includes compliance with the Clean Air Act, and Federal Air Rules for Reservations. The incumbent will conduct ongoing air quality sampling, participate in planning processes, and work with issues related to point and non-point source pollution. The position shall monitor processes within and outside of the Quinault Usual and Accustomed area that may affect air quality. The position will work with other departments within the Division of Natural Resources, and with other divisions of the Quinault Indian Nation on air related issues. This position is currently funded at 30 hours/week or at a 75% position, the position does have the capability of becoming a full time (40 hours) per week if funding is available or acquired in the future. For more information, visit: <https://www.quinaultindiannation.com/jobs.htm>

## **RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES!**

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

#### **REMINDER! EPA Grants Procurement, Subawards, and Participant Support Costs Webinar**

EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment is pleased to confirm that materials from the EPA Procurement, Subawards, and Participant Support Costs Webinar held on June 27, 2023, are now available on the [EPA Grants Procurement, Subawards, and Participant Support Costs Webinar webpage](#):

- Recording of the webinar with closed captions
- Helpful web links from the presentation
- A list of Questions & Answers based on questions submitted by attendees during the webinar

- Presentation slides in PDF format

If you have questions about the posted materials or need more information on EPA's grants award process, please email [EPA\\_Grants\\_Info@epa.gov](mailto:EPA_Grants_Info@epa.gov)

## ***Climate Change/Energy***

**Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program**: Eligible applicants can apply to receive a 10 or 20-percentage point boost to the energy investment tax credit for qualified solar or wind facilities that are in low-income communities or on Tribal land, are part of affordable housing developments, or benefit low-income households. **Submit applications by November 18th to be reviewed first.** After the 18th, applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis through early 2024. Go to #3 on [our website](#) for more information.

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

**WRI's Electric School Bus Initiative** is helping districts take advantage of this and other funding sources by providing free resources on the school bus electrification process, including a [step-by-step guide](#), a [power planner](#) for working with electric utilities, and a [market report/buyer's guide](#) detailing the electric school bus models on the road today. If you need help, please reach out to [WRI](#) for support.

## ***Indoor Air Quality***

**Factsheets & Resources: Choosing Safe, Effective & Affordable Air Cleaners:**  
[Visit here for more information](#)

### **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](#).

## ***Environmental Justice***

## ***Newsletters, Calendars, and Recorded Webinars***

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!](#)

ITEP's [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.

ITEP's American Indian Air Quality Training Program newsletter, [Native Voices](#)

### **EPA Tools and Resources Webinar Series**

Click [here](#) to see all past and upcoming webinars hosted by the EPA.

### **Information for IRA and other competitive grants**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DsRrod7XKk>

*EPA Rules from the Federal Register can be found here:*

<https://www.federalregister.gov/agencies/environmental-protection-agency>

### **EPA's Community and Tribal Programs Group - [Tribal Actions and Events calendar](#)**

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 Amanda Kaufman ([Kaufman.Amanda@epa.gov](mailto:Kaufman.Amanda@epa.gov)) with any feedback.

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

### **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.

## **OLDER UPDATES!**

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