



NTAA Weekly Update

Week of May 27 – May 31, 2024

Table of Contents

NTAA NEWS!.....	2
Top Stories.....	2
Ambient Air Quality/EPA/Tribes News.....	5
Toxics/Mobile Sources.....	5
Indoor Air Quality/Environmental Justice.....	5
UPCOMING CALLS/EVENTS/ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES/NOTICES!.....	6
Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes.....	6
Climate Change / Energy.....	23
Toxics/Mobile Sources.....	23
Indoor Air Quality.....	24
NOW HIRING!.....	25
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES!.....	27
Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes.....	27
Climate Change/Energy.....	27
Toxics/Mobile Sources.....	27
Indoor Air Quality.....	27
Environmental Justice.....	28
OLDER UPDATES!.....	29

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

NTAA NEWS!



We hope you enjoyed the 2024 National Tribal Forum on Air Quality! Askwali (Thank You) for making it a successful one! It was so nice meeting you all. We hope that you were able to network with one another, gain some knowledge, share your insights, and are ready to continue the wonderful work you are doing.

To help us get a better understanding of your insights into the conference, we are kindly asking you to [fill out a questionnaire](#). This 5-minute questionnaire will allow you to share what you enjoyed about the conference, what you'd like to see improved, and any additional thoughts you may have to improve it.

We greatly appreciate your feedback! The link will be open until **May 29, 2024**.

Fill out the questionnaire: https://qualtrics.nau.edu/jfe/form/SV_6YBYLFA837kDukK



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](#).



Grants of up to \$15,000 for firewood banks or programs to assist elders with firewood are available! Our funding can be used to buy equipment or anything else that is needed to run - or to start a - firewood bank. The term "firewood bank" includes any and all efforts to process and deliver free or extremely low-cost wood to households who can't afford to buy it. More details at www.firewoodbanks.org.



Wildfire Smoke Air Monitoring Equipment Available for Loan to State, Local, and Tribal Agencies

EPA's Office of Research and Development is loaning air monitoring technologies to state, local, and Tribal air organizations to support supplemental air monitoring in areas affected by wildfire smoke and with observational data coverage gaps.

During 2024, this pilot technology loan program, called Wildfire Smoke Air Monitoring Response Technology (WSMART), will continue to provide several technology types – including stationary air sensor systems and a compact vehicle add-on mobile monitoring system (VAMMS) – to state and local air agency monitoring staff and Tribal professional air quality staff members upon request.

For more information and access to the loan request webform, please visit EPA WSMART.

For technical questions, please contact smoketech@epa.gov.

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

Learn more here!



SCEP
STATE & COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMS



NATIONAL TRIBAL AIR ASSOCIATION

Wildfire Smoke Workgroup

Next Call June 6, 2024

10:00AM AK, 11:00AM PT, 12:00PM MT, 1:00PM CT, 2:00PM ET

The graphic features a background of a wildfire with bright orange and yellow flames. In the upper left, there is a silhouette of a Native American figure. The text is centered and written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font.

Email carolyn.kelly@nau.edu with any questions or to be added to the listserv and receive a calendar invitation.

Top Stories

Truthout - [Far From Cutting Power Plant Emissions, New EPA Rule May Make Things Worse](#)

Washington Post - [Opinion | The EPA is trying to regulate 6 forever chemicals. Just 10000 to go.](#)

EPA.gov - [EPA Expands Air Monitoring Capabilities to Support Wildfire-Impacted States, Tribes and Their Frontline Firefighters](#)

CNN – [Rivers in Alaska are Turning Orange. The Reason Surprised even Scientists](#)

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

Ambient Air Quality/EPA/Tribes News

Bloomberg Law News - [EPA Chemical Rulemaking Complicated by Challenge to Agency Power](#)

The Hill - [White House and 21 states to announce grid modernization program](#)

E&E News - [How Biden would address climate change in a second term](#)

Inside Climate News - [NOAA 2024 Hurricane Forecast Is for More Storms Than Ever Before](#)

Toxics/Mobile Sources

Jalopnik - [Tesla Vehicle Batteries Degrade Under 65 Percent Of EPA Range After Only Three Years](#)

The Guardian - [EPA accused of ‘egregious’ misconduct in PFAS testing of pesticides](#)

Washington Post - [Hybrids vs EVs: What Americans are picking and why](#)

Indoor Air Quality/Environmental Justice

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

In These Times - [An EPA Plan to Curb Pollution Could Dump More of It Into Black Communities](#)

Mind Body Green - [11 Essential Tips for Maintaining Indoor Air Quality This Summer](#)

Simon Fraiser University - [SFU air filter workshops protect people from dangers of wildfire smoke](#)

UPCOMING CALLS/EVENTS/ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES/NOTICES!

NTAA Upcoming Calls

Contact 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.

Wildfire Smoke Workgroup: Email 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.	June 6, 10 am AK or 2 pm ET
Woodsmoke Work Group: This work group meets Bi-Monthly and includes Tribal and EPA professionals with an interest in woodsmoke issues in Tribal communities. Contact Carolyn.Kelly@nau.edu to join the call!	TBD, 10 am AK or 2 pm ET
Clean Transportation Bimonthly Roundtable Calls: 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 Heather.Bartlett@nau.edu	June 5, 10 am AK or 2 pm ET
Alaska Air Work Group: Join this work group to hear updates from EPA and Alaskans working on air quality. Contact Carolyn.Kelly@nau.edu to join the call!	May 29, 10 am AK or 2 pm ET
NTAA / EPA Air Policy Update Call: 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 Carolyn.Kelly@nau.edu to join the call!	Thursday, May 30, 10 am AK or 2 pm ET
Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Office Hours: 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!	June 20, 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

UPDATED! EPA Program Updates

Program Updates

- **2020 AirToxScreen**
On May 23, EPA released the results of its 2020 Air Toxics Screening Assessment (AirToxScreen). AirToxScreen helps assess which air toxics and emission source types may pose health risks. AirToxScreen also helps EPA and other agencies determine which places may need further study to better understand risks. [Learn More](#).
- **2024 NSPS Oil and Gas (“Methane Rule”) Small Business Compliance Guide**
On May 20, EPA released a compliance guide to assist small businesses in understanding the requirements of the 2024 New Source Performance Standards for the Oil and Natural Gas Industry (40 CFR Part 60 Subpart OOOOb). The rule became effective May 7, 2024. [Learn More](#).
- **E-15 Emergency Waiver**
On May 17, EPA issued a waiver to allow E15 gasoline – gasoline that uses a 15 percent ethanol blend – to continue to be sold this summer. This waiver lasts through June 9. [Learn More](#).

Recent News Releases

- **HQ. [EPA Names Top Cities for ENERGY STAR Certified Buildings in 2023](#)**. Wed 5/22.
- **R1. [Poor Air Quality Expected for parts of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, and New Hampshire on May 22, 2024](#)**. Wed 5/22.
- **R7. [EPA Region 7 Recognizes May as Asthma Awareness Month](#)**. Mon 5/20.

NEW! The EPA is seeking nominations from representatives of nonfederal interests to serve on the Mobile Sources Technical Review Subcommittee (MSTRS). Interests include, but are not limited to:

- Future and emerging transportation technology and options, including shared mobility interests
- Community and/or environmental and/or mobility justice interests
- State, tribal, and local government interests
- Mobile source emission modeling interests
- Transportation and supply chain shippers
- Marine and inland port interests
- Environmental advocacy groups
- Mobile source consumer advocacy groups

EPA values and welcomes opportunities to increase diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility on its Federal Advisory Committees. In an effort to obtain nominations of diverse candidates, EPA encourages nominations of people from all racial and ethnic groups. MSTRS members are appointed by the EPA Administrator for three-year terms with the possibility of reappointment to a second term. Through its expert members from diverse stakeholder groups and from its various workgroups, the subcommittee reviews and addresses a wide range of developments, issues, and research areas such as emissions modeling, emission standards and standard setting, air toxics,

innovative and incentive-based transportation policies, heavy-duty engines, diesel retrofit, and fuel quality.

The MSTRS, a federal advisory committee chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, provides the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee with independent advice, counsel, and recommendations on the scientific and technical aspects of programs related to mobile source air pollution and its control. The subcommittee's website is at <https://www.epa.gov/caaac/mobile-sources-technical-review-subcommittee-mstrs-caaac>.

For more information on how to submit a nomination, please see the [Federal Register Notice](#) announcing the request for nominations. Nominations must be received by **July 31, 2024**. If you have any questions, please contact: Sarah Roberts, Alternate Designated Federal Officer; email: roberts.sarah@epa.gov.

NEW! Since we launched the EJ TCTAC website, www.ejtctac.org, we have seen nearly 7,000 page views to the resources that we have available, from the grants database to the direct lines of contact to regional TCTACs for technical assistance.

Representatives from the national TCTACs are also excited to connect with regional TCTACs and partners at the [U.S. EPA Regional Roadshows](#) across the country, to spread the word about the TCTAC program and learn more about how we can support grassroots groups.

NEW! Following up on the Air Monitoring Asset Reporting Template (AMRT), as well as the "[Implementing an Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Asset Management Framework](#)" Memo, we are pleased to announce that the template upload tool is now available. Air agencies can now submit their template as an email attachment to AMRT@epa.gov to complete their asset management report submission process. Please see attached for the template for asset management reporting, as well as a 10 minute tutorial (as a PowerPoint voiceover) for how to use the tool, along with tips and tricks for upload success.

Air agencies can download and fill out the template now, as well as send an email to AMRT@epa.gov with their file attached. Please distribute this information to your air agencies.

Before agencies enter assets, please read the "ReadMe" tab thoroughly. This tab has instructions for how to fill out the template. The "Assets Data Entry Fields" more thoroughly details the field descriptions and validation rules. The "Asset Data Entry Template" tab can then be filled out with each air agency's assets.

We are asking SLTs and Region offices to work together to meet the July 1 deadline. While concurrent with the AMP submission day, this asset management report is *not* part of the AMP. It is in the best interest of each air agency to submit an accurate and comprehensive annual asset management report that is representative of their network. EPA anticipates reviewing the asset management framework as needed to improve the processes, maximize usefulness, or add requirements after the first year of implementation.

We appreciate the feedback your air agencies provided throughout the entire development process. We received feedback during the NAAMC, other discussions, the Fall 2023 pilot test, and by the AMRT beta testers. We used the information in the feedback to streamline and produce the final template format and fields, including utilizing outputs from the most commonly used data acquisition/management systems.

With questions, please contact Regi Oommen at ERG (Regi.Oommen@erg.com) or Berkley Hillis in OAQPS (Billis.Berkley@epa.gov).

NEW! You are invited to a virtual roundtable on Thursday, May 30, 2024, at 3:00 PM ET / 12:00 PM PT in celebration of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month, featuring ocean, conservation, environmental justice, and climate leaders from the AANHPI community.

Hear from AANHPI leaders within and outside of the Biden-Harris Administration about their professional backgrounds and how they are working to drive progress across these critical issue areas.

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://pitc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_FuBQI6gMQLKZXFBT9wti8A

This virtual webinar is open to all stakeholders.

NEW! Invitation to participate in the inaugural Annual Budget Tribal Consultation, which the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will host virtually on June 14, 2024. The Consultation will provide a forum for Nation-to-Nation dialogue where Tribes can collectively share their views and housing funding priorities with senior HUD officials that will help shape HUD's fiscal year 2026 budget request. HUD is also interested in soliciting ideas for legislative proposals. HUD is committed to continually strengthening its consultation process and I hope the consultation will provide a venue for a conversation between Tribal leaders and HUD officials.

Building on the spirit of President Biden's [Executive Order 14112](#) (Reforming Federal Funding and Support for Tribal Nations to Better Embrace Our Trust Responsibilities and Promote the Next Era of Tribal Self-Determination), HUD is committed to strengthening Nation-to-Nation engagement with Tribes and improving the budget formulation process. This event will also allow for discussion on the Executive Order and solicit Tribal feedback and recommendations. Please register for the virtual consultation session via the link below.

Date: Friday, June 14, 2024

Time: from 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. ET

Registration Link:

<https://intellor.webex.com/weblink/register/r33b6909e06634b1a1a37631700bf969a>

For written Tribal recommendations to have the most impact, please submit written comments for the consultation record by June 14, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. EST to consultation@hud.gov. Please include "HUD's Annual Budget Tribal Consultation" in the subject line with your submission.

We hope that you will consider joining us. In the interim, please contact us at consultation@hud.gov with any questions. Thank you again for your ongoing partnership in addressing Tribal housing needs.

REMINDER! The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to Hold Listening Sessions on Draft Environmental Justice Strategic Plan

The Justice Department is hosting two virtual public listening sessions to gather input to inform the development of the Department's Environmental Justice Strategic Plan. [Executive Order](#)

[14096](#), “Revitalizing Our Nation’s Commitment to Environmental Justice for All,” directs the Justice Department to develop an Environmental Justice Strategic Plan capturing its vision, goals, priority actions, and metrics to address and advance environmental justice.

DOJ’s draft Environmental Justice Strategic Plan includes goals to prioritize cases, meaningfully engage with impacted communities, increase education and collaboration, and assess and evaluate environmental justice in the Justice Department’s climate adaptation efforts. See related [OEJ website information](#) and additional information below.

Date: May 29, 2024

Time: 06:00-07:30 PM Eastern Time

To register and receive a link to join:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsfu2trjMvHa9l2LeJWSL9NguDCu8qDCg#/registration>

Date: May 30, 2024

Time: 06:00-07:30 PM Eastern Time

To register and receive a link to join:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltdOyrqzIsG8i2cfl4GuJXwLkF-EiLQDw#/registration>

For more information about the virtual listening sessions on DOJ’s draft Environmental Justice Strategic Plan, see the Virtual Listening Sessions Flyer. The flyer is available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#) at: <https://www.justice.gov/oej/draft-environmental-justice-strategic-plan-information>.

Listening sessions will start with an overview of the draft Environmental Justice Strategic Plan goals and objectives followed by an opportunity for the public to provide feedback. Each virtual listening session will cover the same material. To request special accommodations for the listening sessions, please indicate when registering.

We would appreciate your comments on the following questions:

- **What additional goals and objectives should the Department consider in its Plan?**
- **How can the Department improve its outreach and engagement efforts with communities about environmental justice?**
- **What information and resources should the Department provide to communities to clarify its environmental justice efforts?**
- **What topics and considerations should the Department include for staff training on environmental justice?**
- **What organizations in your area should the Department add to its environmental justice listserv?**

Written comments may be sent until **11:59 PM Eastern Time** on **July 8, 2024**, in one of the following ways:

- by email to OEJ@usdoj.gov,
- by [Survey](#) (available in English and Spanish) at <https://www.justice.gov/oej/draft-environmental-justice-strategic-plan-information>, or
- by hard copy to Office of Environmental Justice, U.S. DOJ, Environment and Natural Resources Division, P.O. Box 7611, Washington, DC 20044-7611.

REMINDER! It's not too late to register for the National Wood Bank Project's webinar with Clarisse Hart of the Harvard Forest and three wood bank leaders from around the country on May 22 at 1pm Eastern for an online discussion of their experience starting a wood bank and keeping it going.

We'll hear from Ames Meyers of Diné Báádeití (for the people) Wood Bank, Katie Bump of Beaverhead Community Wood Bank Ministry and Mike Mayernick of Swan Valley Connections about the challenges and successes of the last heating season.

What works? What doesn't? Get a chance to ask your questions and to see what parts of their wood bank models you could incorporate in your wood bank.

Please register for the panel discussion here: <https://forms.gle/FWc9Ggv1StR5zBW6>

This discussion will happen on Zoom at 1pm Eastern/12noon Central/11am Mountain/10am Pacific.

We plan to record the discussion, so please register if you cannot attend, but would still like a copy of the recording!

REMINDER! Register for Technical Outreach Webinar on the Final Rule on Methane Reporting for GHGRP Oil & Gas Sector

[Biden-Harris Administration Announces Final Rule to Cut Methane Emissions, Strengthen and Update Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reporting for the Oil and Gas Sector](#)

On May 6, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued a final rule to strengthen, expand, and update methane emissions reporting requirements for petroleum and natural gas systems under EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program, as required by President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act. The final revisions will ensure greater transparency and accountability for methane pollution from oil and natural gas facilities by improving the accuracy of annual emissions reporting from these operations. Oil and natural gas facilities are the nation's largest industrial source of methane, a climate "super pollutant" that is many times more potent than carbon dioxide and is responsible for approximately one third of the warming from greenhouse gases occurring today.

EPA's latest action complements the Biden-Harris Administration's whole-of-government initiative to slash methane emissions from every sector of the economy under the U.S. Methane Emissions Reduction Plan. In 2023 alone, the Administration took nearly 100 actions, with coordination by the White House Methane Task Force, to bolster methane detection and reduce methane pollution from oil and gas operations, landfills, abandoned mines, agriculture, industry, and buildings.

[Learn more about the Final Revisions to the Subpart W Rule and read the full press release.](#)

[Technical Outreach Webinar on Final Rule to Update the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reporting Requirements for the Oil and Gas Sector](#)

EPA will be holding an informational webinar to provide an overview of the final rule followed by a Q&A session on **Thursday, May 30, 2024**. Please submit your questions in advance of the webinars through the webinar registration form.

The webinar will be held via WebEx on **May 30, 2024, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m., EDT: [REGISTER HERE](#)**

REMINDER! State and Tribal Indoor Radon Grants (SIRG)

EPA's Indoor Environments Division (IED) receives funding for the state and tribal radon grants program annually. For FY2024, the State and Tribal Indoor Radon Grants Program will be funded at \$9.13M

The radon grant funding to states and tribes is essential to supporting many state and tribal radon programs in their risk reduction work. IED issued guidance encouraging Regional Offices to direct additional funding to new tribal grantees as well as encouraging state grantees to assist underserved and low-income communities.

EPA recently revised the SIRG allocation approach to include updated risk and population trends. As part of this revision, Regions, for the first time, will establish tribal set-aside funding targets for each Region. This approach is intended to help each Region further prioritize meeting Tribal SIRG funding needs within their Region. Our Headquarters radon program will be working with EPA Regional offices to set and manage their regional set-asides.

EPA Regions work with states and tribes annually to develop program budgets and workplans. They lead the important work of communicating with their tribal communities about the availability of funds, how to apply, conditions, limitations, as well as how to properly use radon funds.

The IED Radon Program continues to promote Tribal radon grants. In FY 23, there 16 radon grants to tribes, including 7 new tribal awards, totaling approximately \$560,000 to at least 16 tribes.

Tribes that are interested in radon grant funding or learning more about the program are encouraged to work with their [regional radon program contact](#) to talk about the application process.

To learn more about State and Tribal Indoor Radon Grants, please visit:

- [Indoor Air Quality in Tribal Communities](#)
- [State Indoor Radon Grants \(SIRG\) Program and Resources.](#)
- [Kansas State University National Radon Program Services](#)

REMINDER! Biden-Harris Administration Announces Final Rule on Methane Reporting for GHGRP Oil & Gas Sector; Register for Technical Outreach Webinars on the Rule Biden-Harris Administration Announces Final Rule to Cut Methane Emissions, Strengthen and Update Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reporting for the Oil and Gas Sector

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EPA's latest action complements the Biden-Harris Administration's whole-of-government initiative to slash methane emissions from every sector of the economy under the U.S. Methane Emissions Reduction Plan. In 2023 alone, the Administration took nearly 100 actions, with coordination by the White House Methane Task Force, to bolster methane detection and reduce methane pollution from oil and gas operations, landfills, abandoned mines, agriculture, industry, and buildings.

[Learn more about the Final Revisions to the Subpart W Rule and read the full press release.](#)
Technical Outreach Webinars on Final Rule to Update the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reporting Requirements for the Oil and Gas Sector

EPA will be holding two informational webinars to provide an overview of the final rule followed by a Q&A session on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, and Thursday, May 30, 2024. Please submit your questions in advance of the webinars through the webinar registration form. The first webinar will be held via WebEx on **May 21, 2024, from 2:30-4:00 p.m. EDT:** [REGISTER HERE](#)

The second webinar will be held via WebEx on **May 30, 2024, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m., EDT:** [REGISTER HERE](#)

REMINDER! Biden-Harris Administration Finalizes Suite of Standards to Reduce Pollution from Fossil Fuel-Fired Power Plants

EPA is announcing a suite of four final rules that deliver on the Biden-Harris Administration's day-one commitment to lead on climate action and to protect all communities from pollution. They include:

- A final rule for existing coal-fired and new natural gas-fired power plants that would ensure that all coal-fired plants that plan to run in the long-term and all new baseload gas-fired plants control 90 percent of their carbon pollution.
- A final rule strengthening and updating the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) for coal-fired power plants, tightening the emissions standard for toxic metals by 67 percent and finalizing a 70 percent reduction in the emissions standard for mercury from existing lignite-fired sources.
- A final rule to reduce pollutants discharged through wastewater from coal-fired power plants by more than 660 million pounds per year, ensuring cleaner water for affected communities, including communities with environmental justice concerns that are disproportionately impacted.
- A final rule that will require the safe management of coal ash that is placed in areas that were unregulated at the federal level until now, including at previously used disposal areas that may leak and contaminate groundwater.

[Read the Full Announcement](#)

REMINDER! Recording and Meeting Materials Now Available! Federal Interagency Committee on Indoor Air Quality

March 20, 2024, Meeting

The meeting materials from the March 20, 2024 Federal Interagency Committee on Indoor Air Quality are now available on the [CIAQ website](#).

At the meeting, CIAQ member agencies provided updates on relevant activities. Our featured speakers, Dr. Elliott Gall shared a presentation titled "After the Smoke Clears: Exploring the Impact of Wildfire Smoke on Indoor Surfaces."

[View Presentation Recording](#)

REMINDER! Join the National Wood Bank Project and John Ackerly, Pam Porter, and Darian Dyer from the Alliance for Green Heat to ask your questions about this year's guidelines and application requirements. Also get the chance to give your feedback on how the National Wood Bank Project can further support your wood bank in the future. Note that applications for first-time grant recipients (either existing or start-up banks) will be accepted starting on May 1st this year! Renewal grant applications will be accepted starting September 1st. Find more about the grant requirements at www.firewoodbanks.org.

REMINDER! May Is Asthma Awareness Month!

Each May, thousands of organizations in communities across the country unite to increase asthma awareness and take action to get asthma under control. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proud to be a leader in this effort.

Visit [AsthmaCommunityNetwork.org](https://www.AsthmaCommunityNetwork.org) frequently this May to share your successful strategies and learn from and collaborate with others to achieve one common goal—to help people with asthma live the healthy and active lives they deserve.

You can also learn more about Asthma Awareness Month by visiting [EPA's website](#).

REMINDER! 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.

REMINDER! Announcing the 2024 Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles (CHDV) Grant Program!

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

**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

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

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 17th 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! 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. Questions and comments are always welcome and may be sent to airknowledge@epa.gov.

REMINDER! EPA releases 2023 update to Equity Action Plan

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on February 14th 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. 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! 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 Q&A 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.

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 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 to your address book. To subscribe to receive future newsletters, [sign up here](#).

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 16th and December 13th, 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 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! 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

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.

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

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 – June 20, 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 Pueblo of Santa Ana is hiring for an Environmental Program Specialist!

The Environmental Program Specialist will assist with activities and actions related to the promotion of sustainable practices on the Pueblo, including pollution prevention, recycling, renewable energy, and energy efficiency. This position will assist in researching grant opportunities, developing proposals, and communicate with granting agencies to obtain funding.

For the full job posting please visit <https://santaana-nsn.gov/hr/position.php?pos=ENVPROSPEC>

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

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 – The National Indian Health Board has several positions open in Public Policy and Programs:

Climate Health Project Coordinator

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) seeks an experienced public health professional to work on environmental health projects specifically related to climate change. The position will have a focus on National Indian Health Board's Climate Ready Tribes Initiative, assisting Tribes with adaptation to the effects of climate change and elevating issues impacting Tribal climate 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.

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.

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.

Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center Senior Manager

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) seeks an experienced environmental programs 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.

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

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) 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.

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