



# ITEC NEWS

*"The Official Newsletter of the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council"*

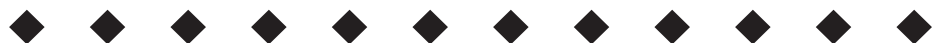
Volume 22 Issue #4 December 2017

## **ITEC MEMBER TRIBES**

- Absentee-Shawnee Tribe
- Alabama-Coushatta Tribe
- Alabama-Quassarte Tribe
- Apache Tribe
- Caddo Nation
- Cherokee Nation
- Cheyenne/Arapaho Tribes
- Citizen Potawatomi Nation
- Comanche Nation
- Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
- Delaware Nation
- Delaware Tribe
- Eastern Shawnee Tribe
- Fort Sill Apache
- Iowa Tribe
- Jicarilla Apache Nation
- Kaw Nation
- Kialegee Tribal Town
- Kickapoo Tribe
- Kiowa Tribe
- Miami Tribe
- Modoc Tribe
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- Osage Nation
- Otoe-Missouria Tribe
- Ottawa Tribe
- Pawnee Nation
- Peoria Tribe
- Ponca Tribe
- Pueblo of Laguna
- Pueblo of Pojoaque
- Pueblo of Santa Clara
- Pueblo of Taos
- Pueblo of Tesuque
- Quapaw Tribe
- Sac & Fox Nation
- Seminole Nation
- Seneca-Cayuga Nation
- Shawnee Tribe
- Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
- Tonkawa Tribe
- Wichita & Affiliated Tribes
- Wyandotte Nation
- Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
- Zuni Tribe

## **Brownfields 2017**

ITEC Staff traveled to Pittsburgh, PA to attend the National Brownfields Conference December 4, 2017- December 7, 2017. The theme of the conference was "Sustainable Communities Start Here". The conference was held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Some of the breakout topics included Sustainability, Livability, Resiliency, Financing Options, Real Estate, Economic Development, Community Case Studies, Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, Liability, Enforcement, and Cleanup. ITEC Staff attended many beneficial sessions and spoke with several other tribes and EPA staff from Region 6 while there. ITEC Staff enjoyed the conference very much and hope to attend in the coming years.



# ITEC NEWS

## Macro-Invertebrates and Water Quality Training

Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs (CNEP) staff taught a Geography class of 11 students from Northeastern State University (NSU) how to sample for macro-invertebrates and perform a water quality assessment. CNEP staff spoke about how important macro-invertebrates are and the role they play in streams in the Cherokee Nation. Students were given a chance for some hands on sampling and identification of macro-invertebrates that were collected at Town Branch creek. Students were also shown how to collect real time data using an in-stream probe and use a FlowTracker to gather stream flow. Dr. Hallman from NSU thought the class was a great way for her students to gain some real world experience before graduating. ITEC staff hope to make this class available to member tribes in the future.



# ITEC NEWS

## Climate Change, Carbon Reduction, Solar Canopies, and Electric Cars

Four years ago the CN began a climate change initiative that had goals of education and BMP's (re the many facets of climate change (CC)). CC has been and continues to be a "hot topic" and never short of controversy. Initially, CN engaged in the "normal" practices of other governmental agencies (sending staff to training courses, development of BMP/emergency response plans, etc.). It quickly became evident that positive results from such activities due to disjointed bureaucracies would be difficult. However, there were a few constants that all sides seemed to agree upon as beneficial; two of those being resource conservation and energy production.



So, the CN, wanting to be proactive and part of the solution decided to make a large and dramatic statement. We would engage in a project that would actively reduce our energy consumption and augment energy production utilizing green/renewable technologies. The CN conceived, designed, and constructed a Parking lot canopy whose roof is comprised of PV solar panels capable of producing over 60,000KWh's of electricity per year. This energy production will directly offset both fossil fuel related pollution and out-of-pocket energy costs of the CN. To further maximize the impacts already stated, the CN also included eight electric vehicle charging stations into the design of the Solar Canopy and procured two zero emission vehicles (ZEV's). The charging stations are available to the public and are being used daily. The ZEV's are being utilized by CN staff in the Tribe's daily operations.

The end results of this project are that the CN is actively involved in energy conservation and renewable energy production. Additionally, this project is a very "visible" project that showcases to the public our commitment to resource conservation; the public sees both the solar panels and the "zero emission" placarded cars. Thus, the CN is being "part of the solution" in an active manner. We are, by our own actions, extolling the benefits of such technology and encouraging all to do likewise.



# ITEC NEWS

## How to Dispose of Unused Medicines

Prescription drugs are getting into our waterways when our bodies release them when we urinate or flush old drugs down the toilet. There is no way to filter drugs out of the water, even in water treatment plants.

A growing number of community-based drug “take-back” programs offer the best option. Otherwise, almost all medicines can be thrown in the household trash, but only after consumers take the precautionary steps as outlined below.



### **Guidelines for Drug Disposal**

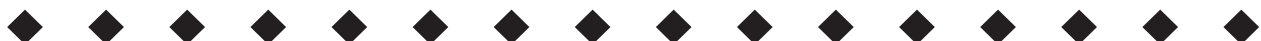
- Follow any specific disposal instructions on the prescription drug labeling or patient information that accompanies the medicine. Do not flush medicines down the sink or toilet unless this information specifically instructs you to do so.
- Take advantage of community drug take-back programs that allow the public to bring unused drugs to a central location for proper disposal. Call your city or county government’s household trash and recycling service to see if a take-back program is available in your community.
- If no disposal instructions are given on the prescription drug labeling and no take-back program is available in your area, throw the drugs in the household trash following these steps. **1.** Remove them from their original containers and mix them with an undesirable substance, such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter (this makes the drug less appealing to children and pets, and unrecognizable to people who may intentionally go through the trash seeking drugs). **2.** Place the mixture in a sealable bag, empty can, or other container to prevent the drug from leaking or breaking out of a garbage bag.

### **Additional tips:**

- Before throwing out a medicine container, scratch out all identifying information on the prescription label to make it unreadable. This will help protect your identity and the privacy of your personal health information.
- Do not give your medicine to friends. Doctors prescribe medicines based on a person’s specific symptoms and medical history. A medicine that works for you could be dangerous for someone else.
- When in doubt about proper disposal, talk to your pharmacist.

### **Environmental Concerns**

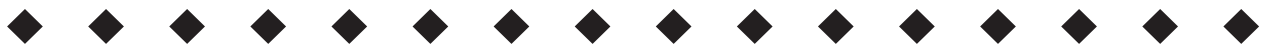
Some people are questioning the practice of flushing certain medicines because of concerns about trace levels of drug residues found in surface water, such as rivers and lakes, and in some community drinking water supplies.



# ITEC NEWS

## RTOC Meeting

The Regional Tribal Operations Committee meetings were held November 29-30, 2017 at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Tulsa, OK. Approximately 38 Tribes and several EPA representatives attended. Topics of discussion included: Division updates, Tribal Consultation, GAP discussion, State of Oklahoma Request for Updating Delegation of the NESHAPs, Cooperative Federalism, Streamlining Environmental Management, Trust Effective date for the Volkswagen Settlement and elections.



# ITEC NEWS

## Training

### **Upcoming ITEC Trainings:**

Indoor Air Solutions in Oklahoma - March - This training will focus on Radon, Mold, Asbestos, and Lead-Based Paint

8 Hour HAZWOPER Refresher Training in Oklahoma - April - This training will focus on Medical Monitoring, Chemical Safety, Spill Control, Emergency Procedures, Office Safety, Personal Protective Equipment and Decontamination

8 Hour HAZWOPER Refresher Training in New Mexico - June - This training will focus on Medical Monitoring, Chemical Safety, Spill Control, Emergency Procedures, Office Safety, Personal Protective Equipment and Decontamination

Environmental Sampling - date to be determined - This training will focus on Methods of Sample Collection, Methods of Sample Analysis, Field Sampling, Data Quality Requirements and Analyses of Sample Data.

Phase I Assessments in Oklahoma - date to be determined - This training focuses on the Principles of an Environmental Site Assessment, Records Review, and Preparing for Site Reconnaissance.

***More information about these trainings will be sent out at a later date.***

### **For more information about ITEC trainings contact:**

Karen Dye

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## ITEC Superfund Program

The ITEC Superfund Program has evaluated 349 sites on behalf of member Tribes since 1991. These types of assessments include Pre-CERCLIS Screenings, Preliminary Assessments, Site Inspection and Site Inspection Prioritization activities.

The ITEC Superfund Program can provide non-emergency evaluation and site assessment activities on sites if the following criteria are met:

- Hazardous Waste (as defined in CERCLA) is known or suspected to be present on the site.
- The site, such as an industrial facility, is abandoned or inactive.
- Waste on the site has impacted, or has the potential to impact tribal lands or tribal populations.



If your Tribe would like to know more about the ITEC Superfund Program, or if you have a site that you are concerned about and would like to have Site Assessment activities conducted, please contact Jason White at [jason-white@cherokee.org](mailto:jason-white@cherokee.org) or (918) 453-5110.



# ITEC NEWS

## Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT INFORMATION
February 27-28, 2018	Exchange Network Conference, Tucson, AZ	<a href="http://www.tribalexchangenetwork.org/home.html">http://www.tribalexchangenetwork.org/home.html</a>
February 28, 2018	Climate Leadership Conference, Denver, CO	<a href="http://www.climateleadershipconference.org/">http://www.climateleadershipconference.org/</a>
May 14-17, 2018	2018 National Tribal Forum on Air Quality, Duluth, MN	<a href="http://www.nau.edu/ntfaq">http://www.nau.edu/ntfaq</a>



*Save this date!*

**21ST ANNUAL  
TRIBAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUMMIT**

**April 10-13, 2018 (tentative)**  
*In the Dallas, TX area*

*More information coming soon....*

## ITEC News

*“The Official Newsletter of the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council”*

*The Cherokee Nation Environmental Program (CNEP) publishes ITEC News each quarter. The mission statement is to protect the health of Native Americans, their natural resources, and their environment as it relates to air, land and water. To accomplish this mission, ITEC provides technical support, environmental services, and assistance in developing Tribal environmental programs to the member Tribes.*

*The viewpoints contained in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the USEPA or the CNEP/ITEC. Free and open discussion of all environmentally related issues is strongly encouraged. We also encourage submission of letters, comments, and articles from readers so as to promote a greater awareness among our people about environmental issues and to foster the free exchange of information, technology, and culturally relevant values of Tribal people.*

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The *ITEC NEWS* gladly accepts and encourages your Tribal environmental information for upcoming issues and events. If you wish to contribute any articles in the next issue or for questions about this newsletter, please call 1-800-259-5376 to contact Karen Dye ([Karen-dye@cherokee.org](mailto:Karen-dye@cherokee.org)).

