

ITEC NEWS

Volume 26 Issue 1

March 2023

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 Tribe
 Iowa Tribe
 Jicarilla Apache Nation
 Kaw Nation
 Kialegee Tribal Town
 Kickapoo Tribe
 Kiowa Tribe
 Miami Tribe
 Modoc Tribe
 Muscogee 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 Nation
 Sac & Fox Nation
 Seneca-Cayuga Nation
 Shawnee Tribe
 Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
 Tonkawa Tribe
 United Keetoowah Band
 Wichita & Affiliated Tribes
 Wyandotte Nation
 Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
 Zuni Tribe

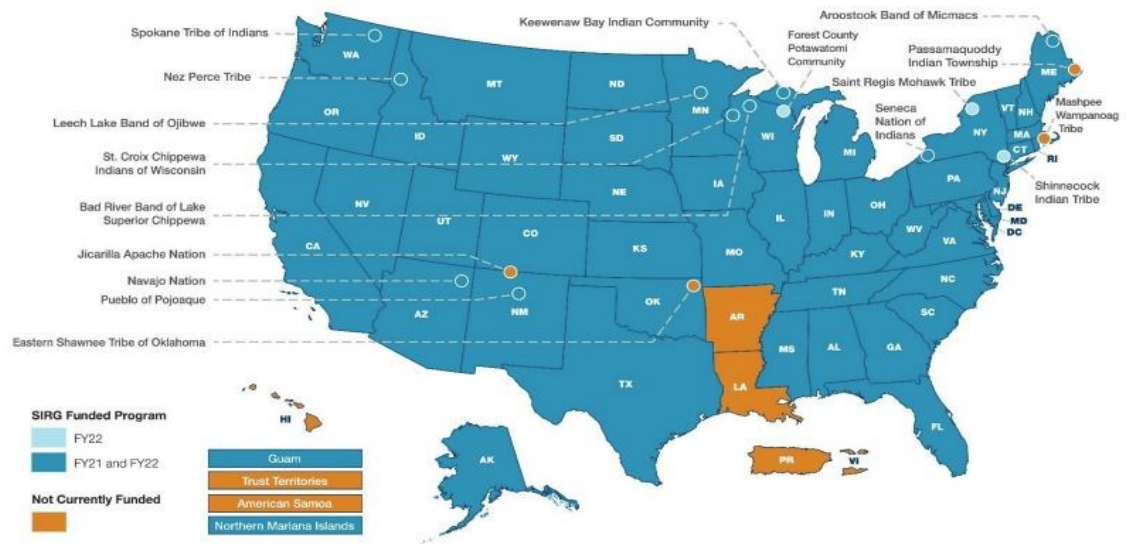
States and Tribes Share Success Stories of Radon Risk Reduction

2022 Annual State and Tribal Indoor Radon Grant Activities Report Available

EPA's Indoor Environments Division is pleased to share the [2022 State and Tribal Indoor Radon Grant \(SIRG\) Program Activities Report](#). This report highlights the important work states, territories, and tribes are undertaking across the country to advance radon risk reduction.

State and [tribal radon programs](#) are critical to the Agency's national goal of minimizing and preventing radon-related lung cancer. States, territories, and tribes are eligible to receive grant funds from EPA through the [SIRG Program](#) that can be used to help finance risk reduction and outreach activities. In 2022, 48 states and 13 tribes requested and received SIRG funding. Since 2021, four additional tribes received funding to help establish radon programs.

Map of Current and Recently Funded Grantees Across the United States²



Key Take-Aways and Significant Progress:

- 47 of the 48 states (including Washington, DC) and eight of the 13 tribes that received FY22 SIRG funding submitted information on planned and conducted radon activities.
- Recently, EPA has focused on expanding the number of tribes receiving SIRG funds. In 2022, 13 tribes received funding which is nearly double the number of tribes funded just a few years ago.

In Region 6, The Pueblo of Pojoaque Environment Department provided technical assistance and construction-phase radon system guidance to the Pueblo of Pojoaque Housing Corporation which is currently working on a 25-home single-family tribal housing construction project.

ITEC NEWS

Director's Corner

Adam Duran, Pueblo of Pojoaque

How many community members are served by the Environmental department?

Our Department currently serves 579 Tribal Members enrolled with the Pueblo of Pojoaque

How long have you been the Environmental Director?

I have directed the Pueblo of Pojoaque environment Department since November 2011, and have been a staff member since August 1998

What are the primary environmental concerns that affect your tribal community?

Some of the challenges we face in our program range from illegal dumping to indoor air quality concerns, currently we are funded through EPA to address some of these issues and our staff members are always in the process of researching other funding opportunities that would assist in controlling and preventing these types of issues.

As an Environmental Tribal Director tell us what you enjoy most about your work.

My contribution to the Pueblo has allowed me to maintain our cultural resources through protective measures that will ensure that our future generations are able to utilize these resources for cultural and traditional purposes.

What are some of your current projects or future plans for your tribe's environmental programs to address tribal environmental needs or concerns?

Our department is currently involved in the process of implementing a recycling program for our tribal community that will support controlling the amount of recyclable material entering the waste stream through our businesses and tribal households.

What have been your biggest challenges?

Our biggest challenge would be enforcement on Non-Tribal Members that violate the laws intended to protect our natural resources.



ITEC NEWS

STEM FEST 2023

On January 26, 2023 Cherokee Nation hosted an event called STEM FEST at the Chota Conference Center in Tahlequah. STEM FEST invites schools to a one day festival of science, technology, engineering and mathematics stations or activities that will entice and entertain students to hopefully garner more attention to these subjects and careers. This year's event was attended by more than 500 students from local schools. The Cherokee Nation Office of Environmental Programs had a hands-on display showing how events on the surface can contaminate ground water. Staff hope to attend STEM Fest events in the future.



ITEC NEWS

Phase I Assessment Course

Brownfields & Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) Webinar



PRESENTED BY:
ITEC
SHEILA SEVENSTAR-HORN

On February 21, 2023 ITEC held a Phase I Assessment Course virtually on WebEx. There were 33 participants from 22 tribes in attendance. The training consisted of classroom discussions on the components of a Phase I and the relationship of a Brownfields site and a Phase I ESA, Phase I ESA and Environmental Review differences, ASTM Assessments and Processes and ASTM newly established revisions.

Risk Communication Class

On January 19, 2023 ITEC held a Phase I Assessment Course virtually on WebEx with the help of EPA Region 6 Superfund Program. There were 61 participants from 22 tribes in attendance. The topics were : 7 Rules of Risk Management, Risk Perception, Message Mapping and SALT framework. There was also a simulated exercise that offered group participation.



ITEC NEWS

WHY DO A FOOD AUDIT?

FIND OUT WHAT FOODS MOST-OFTEN GO TO WASTE & WHY! DEVELOP A PLAN TO AVOID FOOD WASTE, SAVE MONEY, AND HELP PEOPLE MAKE HEALTHY CHOICES!

HOW IS A FOOD AUDIT DONE?

- Get a school on board and interested in having a food audit done!
- Get supplies ordered: Buckets, aprons, clipboards, weigh scales, paper towels, gloves, trash bags, pens/pencils, signage, and student interview sheets.
- Find out how many students will be participating & request student volunteers!
NOTE: Four (4) volunteers per 100 students participating in audit.
- Meet with cafeteria staff and teachers to go over the audit plan! Remember to get a copy of the menu for the day of the audit.
- Print and laminate labels with pictures and words for buckets from the food items on menu.
- **SETTING UP ON THE DAY OF** audit: Set up the audit area so only volunteers can access trash cans, have an area for unopened food items, put up signage, walk student volunteers through their tasks and hand out teacher resource packets!
- **DURING** the audit: Student volunteers will conduct interviews to find out which foods were not eaten and why. Other student volunteers will place uneaten food items in the appropriate trash bag-lined buckets and stack trays.
- **AFTER** the audit: Weigh each bucket of uneaten food and record the data! Look over the interview sheets and see what the reasons were for uneaten items to better understand the wasted food items to help with food waste in the future.

REMEMBER TO TAKE LOTS OF PHOTOS AND HAVE FUN!

Note: Check with school administration on permission to photograph students.

ITEC NEWS

Upcoming Trainings



Save The Date!!

Tribal FOOD INITIATIVE WORKSHOP

Thursday, May 25, 2023

More Information Coming Soon!



Save the Date!

ASTM PHASE I TRAINING & BROWNFIELDS ROUNDTABLE

APRIL 11-13, 2023

Hard Rock Casino
Catoosa, OK

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!

SAVE THE DATE

Tribal Climate and Health Infrastructure Vulnerability Workshop



April 18, 2023
1-3 PM CT
Pre-training Climate 101 Webinar


May 17 & 18, 2023
In person training at Sac and Fox Nation Community Building 920883, S Hwy 99, Stroud, OK 74079

TOPICS

- Introduction to Vulnerability Assessments
- Flood Vulnerability of Roads and Health Facilities
- Process, Steps, and Group Activities for Vulnerability Assessments

SPONSORED BY





Climate Resilience Training for the Tribal Water Sector in EPA Region 6

Wednesday, April 12, 2023 | 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. MDT
AMERIND Offices at Santa Ana Pueblo, Bernalillo, New Mexico (502 Cedar Dr, Bernalillo, NM 87004)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) [Creating Resilient Water Utilities \(CRWU\)](#) initiative is providing a free in-person training for tribal drinking water utilities, and other drinking water sector stakeholders, in EPA Region 6 (New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas).

This hands-on, interactive training focuses on building resilience to the impacts of climate change, identifying adaptation strategies, and tribal utility infrastructure financing. If possible, please bring a Wi-Fi ready device (smartphone, tablet, laptop computer) with you to the training for a more hands-on experience.

This training is being conducted in coordination with [Southwest Environmental Finance Center \(SW EFC\)](#) at the [University of New Mexico](#).


WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Owners, operators, practitioners, and environmental managers from tribal drinking water utilities
- Contractors that service these utilities
- Other water sector stakeholders

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

- Provide information about how drought and other climate change threats impact tribal drinking water utilities in your region
- Introduce CRWU tools and resources, including our [Climate Data Maps](#) and [Resilient Strategies Guide \(RSG\)](#), two web applications that help utilities build resilience to climate change
- Present a local utility's [case study](#) to demonstrate resilience planning efforts and adaptation activities using CRWU tools and resources
- Help utilities use the CRWU Climate Data Maps, RSG, and [Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool \(CREAT\)](#) to develop their own climate change risk assessments that identify planning priorities, vulnerable assets, and potential adaptation strategies to build long-term resilience
- Provide an overview of available tribal-specific and region-specific resources for financing infrastructure projects
- Learn how to apply for suitable funding programs

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS (CEUs) will be available for participating certified drinking water operator attendees from Louisiana, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. To receive CEUs, you must register, attend the entire training (8 hours), and complete the survey provided afterwards. (CEUs approved for Louisiana and New Mexico, and Oklahoma.)



SPACE IS LIMITED!

REGISTER by April 5th at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/climate-resilience-training-for-the-tribal-water-sector-in-epa-region-6-registration-551764641897> to learn more about climate change impact in the water sector, visit EPA's CRWU website: epa.gov/crwu.

For questions or more information, please email Audrey Ramming (ramming.audrey@epa.gov).

ITEC NEWS



April 10, 2023

Avian Influenza and SARs-COV-2 Deer Surveillance Project Tribal Update

Meeting ID: 160 144 2622
Meeting Password: kEY6jxF21
Dial-in information:
+1 669-254-5252 US
+1 646-828-7666 US

Registration Link:
<https://forms.office.com/g/1D232nAKGb>



Web Join URL:
<https://coreshield.zoomgov.com/join/1601442622?pwd=RFgrOVVpaDVlaCtFK04vdWVCYOVOUT09>

Zoom Join URL:
<https://coreshield.zoomgov.com/j/1601442622?pwd=RFgrOVVpaDVlaCtFK04vdWVCYOVOUT09>

Key Topics of Discussions

- Update on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Surveillance Program
- Update of SARS-CoV – 2 Surveillance Program in cervids
- Open dialogue on future and current collaborations with Tribes



For More Information
Contact

Denise Salvetti

Email: denise.salvetti@usda.gov

REGIONAL TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT

April 14, 2023

**Choctaw Conference Center, Choctaw
Casino & Resort Durant, Oklahoma**



Lead and Healthy Housing
CONFERENCES
Information Education Networking

Drury Plaza Hotel

9625 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis

ITEC NEWS

Upcoming ITEC Trainings:

ASTM Phase I Training and Brownfields Roundtable April 11-12, 2023.

Hard Rock Casino, Catoosa, OK.

EPA Tribal Summit– April 26-28, 2023, Ft. Worth, TX.

ITEC Conference– July 26-28, 2023, Tulsa, OK.

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

Check out ITEC’s YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC42GM_3wppOEPkgFEUj_CgQ

ITEC on the web

Check out the ITEC webpage for information on upcoming events, training and newsletters.

Please visit us at:

www.itecmembers.org

Have a story to share or upcoming training?

ITEC News is looking for Tribal environmental information and upcoming training to share in future issues. If you would like to contribute any articles or have suggested topics, please email [Ashley Wagnon](mailto:Ashley.Wagnon@itec.org) or [Shaun West](mailto:Shaun.West@itec.org).

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

ITEC NEWS

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.

Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs

Inter-Tribal Environmental Council

P.O. Box 948

Tahlequah, OK 74465

Phone: 918-453-5009

Fax: 918-453-2904