



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

ITEC NEWS

Volume 28 Issue 3

September 2025

ITEC Conference 2025

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 of Cherokees
Wichita & Affiliated Tribes
Wyandotte Nation
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
Zuni Tribe



The 30th Annual Inter-Tribal Environmental Council (ITEC) Conference was held August 12-14, 2025, at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Catoosa, OK. The General Assembly opened with the presentation of colors being posted by the Cherokee Nation Veterans' Color Guard, a performance by the Medicine River Drum Group, and an invocation by James Williams of Muscogee Creek Nation. Christina Justice, Cherokee Nation's Secretary of Natural Resources, gave welcome remarks. Opening Plenary Sessions focused on the restoration of tribal Natural Resources, which was presented by the Wyandotte Nation and the Peoria Tribe. Afternoon Sessions were on an array of topics, including: numerous Tribal projects, indoor

air quality, cooperating agencies, solid waste, and fellowship and partnership opportunities.

Wednesday was a full day of sessions covering a wide variety of Environmental Topics. There were twelve sessions with speakers in each session delivering information on current environmental topics, from outreach and education to conservation, ethnobiology, ambient air artificial intelligence and more! These sessions allowed for helpful discussions for tribes, agencies, and individuals.

Thursday consisted of three sessions with the topics: pesticides. Pollinators, and sustainable energy. Each of these are vital topics to consider in our everyday lives. Overall, there were 120 attendees which included representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6 Tribes, various tribal organizations, environmental consultants and environmental organizations. Equipment manufactures and other vendors displayed their product and services at this year's ITEC Conference.





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Tribal Climate Adaptation Workshop and Roundtable: Discussion, Resources and Planning for Resilience

A Climate Adaptation Workshop and Roundtable was held at the Cherokee Nation Office of Environmental Programs Office in Tahlequah on September 24, 2025. Staff from the South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center at OU in Norman facilitated the class for the member tribes. Topics of discussion were: SCCASC Tribal Engagement Program, Climate Adaptation Re4sources, Current Climate Efforts/Existing Work, Community Engagement, gaining Tribal Leadership Support and Interest and Success Stories and Next Steps. There were 14 students in attendance from the Cherokee Nation, Muscogee Nation, Apache Tribe and Choctaw Nation.





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2025 Lost Creek Water Festival

Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma

by Debbie Dotson

Lost Creek at the Eastern Shawnee Powwow Grounds was a busy place on September 5. Over 500 4th and 5th grade students from Wyandotte, Seneca, Quapaw, Fairland, and Grove schools attended the annual Lost Creek Water Festival event. It was an overcast day, with a couple of sprinkles observed, but that didn't stop the activities.

More stations were set up this year than ever before, lining both sides of the street leading to Lost Creek. Eight tribes were represented with education stations including Environmental Departments from Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Wyandotte Nation, Modoc Tribe, Quapaw Nation, Cherokee Nation, Ottawa Tribe, Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, and Seneca Cayuga Nation. One of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe's stations was provided by the Police Department, and K9 Glitch was a favorite for the students attending.

Education partners also included US Fish and Wildlife Service Neosho Hatchery, Carver National Park, two stations from Missouri Department of Conservation, Oklahoma Conservation Commission, OSU Extension Service, Ottawa County Conservation District, GRDA, and Wildcat Glades Friends Group.

Topics varied from streams and rivers, pollution prevention, fish, recycling, beavers and other wildlife, mussels, water conservation, and macroinvertebrates. The event is geared to provide mental takeaways that go back to the classroom with teachers and students. A lot of creativity was included in the many stations providing games, interactive demonstrations, examples from living things, and ways to make science fun.

The rain did show up that afternoon but not until we were cleaning up, and the buses had left to take the kids back to school. I enjoyed a great day with friends, coworkers, and area students.





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Director's Corner

Micah D. Isaacs, Director of Transportation and Environment

Citizen Potawatomi Nation

Where is your Tribal Community located?

Shawnee, Oklahoma. Our historic reservation boundary is essentially Pottawatomie County.

How many community members are served by the Environmental department?

We currently serve 39,620 Members..

How long have you been the Environmental Director?

July 2025.

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

Indoor Air quality due to humid climate and aging structures with asbestos, surface water quality, and drinking water quality... in no specific order..



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

A large part of my responsibility is assisting in the fee-to-trust process. This entails environmental investigations to include Phase 1, 2 or 3 Environmental Site Assessments. I also enjoy training new employees and watching them grow into real life Environmental Scientists.

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

We currently have plans to expand and build more UST/AST facilities. We will look to broaden our capabilities in compliance assistance for our fueling stations. Also, there has been interest from CPN Tribal Administration in pursuing EPA certification for our water quality lab. I believe this is something we will investigate as soon as possible to be able to do all surface and drinking water analysis in-house.

What have been your biggest challenges?

Competitive funding to retain employees, adequate funding to maintain baseline data sets, and adequate funding for mitigation efforts.



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Upcoming Events:

Indoor Environments 2025™

The 39th Annual Radon and Vapor Intrusion Symposium

Fort Worth, Texas

October 26-29, 2025

OCASA

WHY IS SOIL SO IMPORTANT?

REGISTER TODAY

11TH ANNUAL OKLAHOMA COMPOST CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 30 | ROSE STATE COLLEGE



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Registration for the fall Environmental Management Certificate Course available!

Come join expert instructors for a week-long course offered in person at OSU Tulsa or virtually via Zoom! The Early Bird rate is available until October 2nd. Don't miss out on saving \$\$\$

Register NOW!



Environmental Management Certificate Program

TOPICS INCLUDE Hazardous Materials Management (RCRA) • Transportation of Hazardous Materials (DOT) Industrial Hygiene, Safety and OSHA Regulations • Clean Air Act & Amendments • Emergency Planning Remediation and Treatment • Water Quality Acts • Environmental Audits and Site Assessment • Remediation

Course Details

The program provides topics relevant in assisting with preparation for professional certification exams, particularly the CHMM. Our EMC Program is approved by the IHMM (Institute of Hazardous Materials Management) as a CHMM (Certified Hazardous Materials Manager) Exam Blueprint Prep Course. The CHMM is a popular exam and credential for anyone within the environmental management field.

The Environmental Management Certificate program is prepared and presented by industry experts, including Michael Thayer, Ph.D., CHMM; Damon Wright, CHMM; Robert Scudder, Ph.D., CIH, CSP, CIT; and Marla Myers, Dangerous Goods Consultant and Training Manager at Viking Packing Specialist

This program offers professional development for varying levels of participants, from established senior level managers to newly appointed compliance officers.

Date and Location

November 17-21, 2025 in North Hall Room 222
Oklahoma State University-Tulsa
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Available via in-person or live virtual training

Registration

Registration includes course materials and light refreshment.

Registration **on or before** October 1, 2025: \$1,599
Registration after October 2nd, 2025: \$2,399

Register today at
<https://bit.ly/25FEMC>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology



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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

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The Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs (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
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