



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

ITEC NEWS

Volume 26 Issue 3

September 2023

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

The 28th Annual Inter-Tribal Environmental Council Conference was held July 25-27, 2023, at the Hard Rock Hotel in Catoosa, Oklahoma. The General Assembly opened with the presentation of colors being posted by the Cherokee Nation Color Guard and a performance by the Cherokee National Youth Choir. Opening plenary sessions focused on TEK Camp at the Cherokee Nation and a Cheyenne Arapaho Brownfields Documentary. Afternoon sessions were Passing the Seed Presentation and a Cultural Make and Take from Cherokee Nation Cultural Resources. For the first time this year, Hard Rock staff gave a tour of their sustainability efforts to attendees.

Wednesday was a full day of sessions covering a wide variety of Environment topics. There were 12 sessions with 3 speakers in each session delivering information on current environmental topics.

Thursday's session included another walking tour, a presentation from Dr. Cristi Eschler-Freudenrich on successful outreach and a short movie of Cultural Outreach from CN OSIYO TV.

There were approximately 185 attendees which included representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6 Tribes, various tribal organizations, environmental consultants and environmental organizations. Equipment manufacturers also displayed their products and services at this year's ITEC Conference.





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Director's Corner

Chieko Buffalo, Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes

Where is your Tribal community located?

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes are located in Concho, OK. Our reserve is 35 miles northwest of Oklahoma City, OK. Our EPA office is a short mile down from our Administrative Building and government offices.

How many community members are served by the environmental department?

Our tribe currently has 14K tribal members and we serve a majority of them that reside within our nine county jurisdiction.

How long have you been the Environmental Director?

I started in the environmental program in the beginning of 2020 and have advanced to the environmental director this past year.

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

“Illegal dumping of debris and hazardous materials” – Governor Reggie Wassana

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

I love that we're doing our part to understand, help, restore and protect our sacred Mother Earth on our tribal lands.

What have been your biggest challenges?

The biggest challenge is our illegal dumping. We are working towards cleaning up two major sites within our jurisdiction.



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).



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ITEC Training: Intro to Drones

On August 7, 2023 ITEC held an Intro to Drones Course. There were 16 participants from Citizen Potawatomi, Cherokee Nation, Muskogee Nation, Comanche Nation, Apache Tribe, Delaware Nation, Kaw Nation and Peoria Tribe. in attendance. The training consisted of classroom discussions on the components of registering a drone. Also, the steps involved in obtaining an FAA Drone Pilots License were discussed. The class also involved hands-on use and a demonstration of the drone outside the training facility.



Lead Awareness in Indian Country: Train the Trainer

ITEC collaborated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics to offer a Lead Awareness Curriculum Train the Trainer session on September 7, 2023. Fourteen participants gathered from varying Cherokee Nation departments such as: Environmental Programs, Office of Environmental Services, Head Start, Stilwell Child Development Center, and Housing Authority. Staff from Muskogee Nation and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town were also present.



In just three hours, participants discovered straightforward actions to minimize lead exposure, gained familiarity with the comprehensive EPA Lead Awareness Curriculum, learned how to tailor the curriculum to their community's unique needs, and developed a plan for hosting sessions in their community. The Lead Awareness Curriculum consisted of educational tools tailored for community leaders experienced in educating and training community members, or anyone passionate about advocating for lead awareness and child safety.





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Building Resiliency and Adapting to Climate Change Impacts for Drinking Water and Wastewater Facilities

The recent training event titled "Building Resilience to Climate Change: Tribal Water Sector Training" organized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs provided a one-day immersive experience focusing on essential aspects of climate resilience, adaptation strategies, and tribal utility infrastructure financing. The training took place at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Tulsa on Tuesday, August 8, 2023.

The training aimed to equip participants with practical knowledge and tools to address the pressing challenges posed by climate change. It was designed for a diverse audience, including owners, operators, practitioners, and environmental managers from tribal drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities, as well as rural water districts serving tribal communities. Additionally, contractors servicing these utilities and other water sector stakeholders were encouraged to attend.

The event had several key objectives, including:

- Providing insight into how climate change threats impact tribal water utilities in the region.
- Introducing participants to valuable resources offered by the EPA's Climate Resilience for Water Utilities (CRWU) program, such as Climate Data Maps and the Resilient Strategies Guide (RSG), both web applications facilitating resilience building.
- Presenting a local utility case study to illustrate practical resilience planning and adaptation efforts utilizing CRWU tools and resources.
- Guiding utilities in using CRWU Climate Data Maps, RSG, and the Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool (CREAT) for climate risk assessment and long-term resilience planning.

Offering an overview of tribal-specific resources for financing infrastructure projects and instructing attendees on applying for suitable funding programs.

For more information on the CRWU program visit epa.gov/crwu.





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Upcoming Trainings

TRIBAL CHILDREN'S HEALTH SYMPOSIUM
Environmental Health & Lead Poisoning Prevention

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!
Limited Travel Scholarships are available (airfare and hotel).

Isleta Resort & Casino
11000 Broadway SE
Albuquerque, NM 87105

Registration is required to attend
Scan the QR code to register now

SEPTEMBER 19 - 20, 2023



SEPTEMBER 2023

TRIBES IN THE EN UPDATE

From the Tribal Exchange Network Group

Get Your Environmental Data Questions Answered!

On a monthly basis, TXG members and professional associates alike join together to host a 1-hour Tribal Data Drop-In session. Sessions cover a wide range of topics around Tribal environmental data including R coding, general data management topics, Survey123, mapping, etc.

Bring your data management question to an upcoming Tribal Data Drop-In session and join in a safe, pressure-free troubleshooting environment. Details & links below.

HAVE ENVIRONMENTAL DATA QUESTIONS?
JOIN TXG'S

TRIBAL DATA DROP-IN SESSIONS!
Questions from all media/ program types supported

10-TIAM PACIFIC THIRD THURSDAY MONTHLY
September 21st, 2023
October 19th, 2023
November 16th, 2023

REGISTER HERE

VISIT OUR WEBPAGE FOR MORE INFO:
TRIBALEXCHANGENETWORK.ORG

Upcoming Events & Webinars

- SEPT. 13-14TH: EELC Meeting (VA)
- SEPT. 21ST: Tribal Data Drop-In (online)
- OCT. 19TH: Tribal Data Drop-In (online)
- OCT. 24-26TH: R9 Tribal Conference (Alpine, CA)
- NOV. 14TH: Git & GitHub Training (online)
- NOV. 16TH: Advanced SQL Training (online)
- NOV. 16TH: Tribal Data Drop-In (online)



The 37th annual Indoor Environments 2023™ - The Radon and Vapor Intrusion Symposium

(Formerly AARST International Radon and Vapor Intrusion Symposium)

October 29th - November 1st, 2023

will take place at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel
"Hotel" 611 Commerce Street | Nashville, TN | 37203 | USA

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Check out ITEC's YouTube Channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UC42GM_3wppOEPkgFEUj_CgQ](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

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

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