



NORTHERN ARIZONA
UNIVERSITY



Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals



Tribal Climate Change Newsletter

September 2015

Welcome to ITEP's Tribal Climate Change Newsletter. This monthly newsletter provides news items, resources, announcements about funding opportunities, conferences, and training, and other information relevant to tribal climate change issues.

ITEP's Climate Change Program News



Sandstone cliffs on the Havasupai Indian Reservation in northern Arizona. Photo credit: Sue Wotkyns.

I'll be at the upcoming **Tribal-EPA Region 9 Conference** scheduled for October 27-29, in Reno, NV (<http://region9tribal-epaconference.com/conference-agenda/>). The conference will include a climate change plenary session and breakout sessions. Hope to see you there!

Has your tribe or tribal organization been working on climate change adaptation planning and/ or implementing adaptation strategies? Do you want to share what you've been doing so others can learn from your experience? Please get in touch with me if you'd like ITEP to develop a **tribal profile** (case study) – it would be included on the Tribes & Climate Change website (<http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/tcc/Tribes/>), plus you can use it for your own outreach.

ITEP's American Indian Air Quality Training Program will be offering a **Clean Power Plan training** in Las Vegas, NV, on October 20-22. This course will provide detailed

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Newsletter

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Tribes & Climate Change website

For more on tribes and climate change issues, visit ITEP's Tribes & Climate Change website at www7.nau.edu/itep/main/tcc/

information for tribes who want a good understanding of the Clean Power Plan (CPP) and how it applies to their tribal lands. More information is available at:
http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_air.

ITEP's Tribal Solid Waste Education and Assistance Program will be offering a **Greening Tribal Operations and Facilities training** in Tulsa, OK, on October 20-22. This course will focus on providing you with the tools necessary to reduce your waste stream and initiate environmentally sustainable practices in your tribal day-to-day operations, as well as tribally owned facilities, such as hotels, casinos, and resorts. For more information, please contact Julie Jurkowski, 928-523-9404, julie.jurkowski@nau.edu.

— Sue Wotkyns, Program Manager

In The News

Tulalip, Swinomish Preserve Forest and Salmon Habitat With Two Significant Initiatives

Two significant environmental initiatives were implemented within the last three weeks—opening prime salmon habitat on the Tulalip Reservation and, on Swinomish land, setting the stage for forest preservation. © 2015 Indian Country Today Media Network, LLC, 9/24/15.

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2015/09/24/tulalip-swinomish-preserve-forest-and-salmon-habitat-two-significant-initiatives-161863>

Colville Tribes Call for Donations and Volunteers as 2 Massive Fires Scorch 600 Square Miles

Two fires totaling 382,815 acres, or nearly 600 square miles, continue to ravage the Colville Reservation in Washington State, with one of them just 45 percent contained. © 2015 Indian Country Today Media Network, LLC, 9/15/15.

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2015/09/15/colville-tribes-call-donations-and-volunteers-2-massive-fires-scorch-600-square-miles>

Alaska observer network promotes grass-roots environmental science

Article about the Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network managed by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. © 2015 Alaska Dispatch Publishing, 9/13/14.

<http://www.adn.com/article/20150913/alaska-observer-network-promotes-grass-roots-environmental-science>

Climate Change Could Put Tribes' Electric Systems at Risk

Heat waves, extreme storms, wildfire and other effects of climate change pose major threats to the electric power systems in Native American communities across the country, most significantly in the West and Southwest, according to a new U.S. Department of Energy report. © 2015 Climate Central, 9/8/15.

<http://www.climatecentral.org/news/climate-change-tribes-electric-power-risk-19415>

Energy Department Issues Tribal Energy System Vulnerabilities to Climate Change and Extreme Weather Report, \$6M for Native American Clean Energy Projects

The U.S. Department of Energy issued a report showing that threats to tribal energy infrastructure are expected to increase as climate change impacts extreme weather conditions. The department also announced a \$6 million grant opportunity to establish clean energy projects and energy efficiency projects on Indian lands that will help support economic opportunity and combat the effects of climate change on tribal lands. US DOE News, 9/2/15.

<http://www.energy.gov/articles/energy-department-issues-tribal-energy-system-vulnerabilities-climate-change-and-extreme>

Obama brings funding, climate change announcements on trip to Kotzebue

The White House announced new efforts and funding to encourage energy efficiency in remote villages and the appointment of a federal coordinator for "climate resilience" in Alaska, in conjunction with President Barack Obama's trip to Kotzebue. The announcement comes on the heels of several others as the president travels around Alaska pushing for clean energy and dealing with a changing climate. © 2015 Alaska Dispatch Publishing, 9/2/15.

<http://www.adn.com/article/20150902/obama-brings-funding-climate-change-announcements-trip-kotzebue>

Obama Administration Unveils New Climate Resilience Tools

As part of the Obama Administration's Climate Data Initiative, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced a new set of online climate data resources to help Arctic communities with climate change planning, adaptation and management. The new data sets, introduced today as part of an online Climate Resilience Toolkit, comprise more than 250 Arctic-related

datasets and more than 40 maps, tools, and other resources designed to support climate-resilience efforts in the Arctic. US DOI Press Release, 9/2/15.

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/obama-administration-unveils-new-climate-resilience-tools>

Washington state wildfires pose added threat for tribes

The worst wildfire season in Washington state history could be particularly devastating to the people who have lived here between the Cascade Range and the Rocky Mountains since long before the region became part of the United States. © 2015, Los Angeles Times, 8/27/15.

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-sej-washington-wildfires-20150827-story.html>

Tar Sands in Utah? Oil Industry Comes Knocking at Uintah and Ouray Reservation

As scientific researchers continue to press for a reduction in oil sands development across North America, tribes such as the Uinta Ouray Ute Tribe could face hard decisions as oil sands development comes knocking. © 2015 Indian Country Today Media Network, LLC, 8/27/15.

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2015/08/27/tar-sands-utah-oil-industry-comes-knocking-uintah-and-ouray-reservation-161456>

Resources

Field and laboratory guide to freshwater cyanobacteria harmful algal blooms for Native American and Alaska Native communities (USGS)

A series of 100 photos may reduce the risk of Native Americans and Alaska Natives being exposed to or consuming water or food containing harmful cyanobacteria. The colorful images are part of a new field and laboratory guide developed by the U.S. Geological Survey to help Native American and Alaska Native communities develop an awareness of what harmful algal blooms look like in the field and be able to distinguish them from non-toxic blooms. Harmful algal blooms that are dominated by certain cyanobacteria are known to produce a variety of toxins that can negatively affect fish, wildlife and people. Exposure to these toxins can cause a range of effects from simple skin rashes to liver and nerve damage and even death, although rarely in people. The issue may be increasing in importance, as scientists indicate warming global temperatures may exacerbate the growth of harmful algal blooms. USGS Open-File Report 2015-1164.

http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=4331&from=rss_home#.VfxLfn3G9pW

<http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/ofr20151164>

Responding to Oak Wilt and Climate Change on the Menominee Nation Forest

Standing in a disturbed patch of forest, Menominee forester Jeff Grignon looks around and explains, “My role is to regenerate the forest, maintain the forest, create diversity, and look toward the future.” This task is becoming increasingly challenging as growing forest health issues intersect with additional stressors brought about by climate change in the forests of the Menominee Nation and elsewhere. USDA Blog, 9/9/15.

<http://blogs.usda.gov/2015/09/09/responding-to-oak-wilt-and-climate-change-on-the-menominee-nation-forest/#sthash.k9FQkLrh.dpuf>

Sea-level rise modeling handbook: Resource guide for coastal land managers, engineers, and scientists (USGS)

The purpose of this guide is to describe and categorize the suite of data, methods, and models and their design, structure, and application for hindcasting and forecasting the potential impacts of sea-level rise in coastal ecosystems. U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 1815. 2015.

<http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/pp1815>

To Feed a Village

When whaling defines a culture, what happens when the hunting ground starts to melt? © 1995-2014. The Weather Channel, LLC.

<http://stories.weather.com/eskimowhaling>

Tribal Energy System Vulnerabilities to Climate Change and Extreme Weather (US Dept. of Energy)

This report provides an informational resource to assist tribes with understanding their risks, a critical step towards effective planning and management of energy systems in the face of climate change and extreme weather threats. September 2015.

<http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2015/09/f26/Tribal%20Energy%20Vulnerabilities%20to%20Climate%20Change%208-26-15b.pdf>

US Climate Resilience Toolkit - new content for Arctic and Tribal Nations

In its continued efforts to help interested citizens, communities, business, resource managers, planners, and policy leaders meet the challenges of a changing climate, the U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit has added two new topics: Arctic and Tribal Nations. The toolkit includes tribal case studies—go to the Taking Action page and Filter by Parent Topic “Tribal Nations”

Arctic: <https://toolkit.climate.gov/topics/arctic>
Tribal Nations: <https://toolkit.climate.gov/topics/tribal-nations>
Taking Action Case Studies: <https://toolkit.climate.gov/taking-action>

Other Items of Interest

Job Opening– US Department of Interior

Policy Analyst, Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, Office of Policy Analysis, Washington, DC. This position will serve as a policy analyst addressing climate change and the impacts it has on Native Americans. GS-14. Deadline: 10/8/15.

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/416219000>

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/416219300>

Research Assistantships Available for Native Americans

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS), through partnership with The Wildlife Society, is sponsoring a research assistantship program for Native American students. This is the second year of the program, which will facilitate mentoring opportunities for USFS Research & Development scientists with the students and promote student advancement and training for careers in natural resource and conservation-related fields. Application deadline is October 26, 2015.

<http://wildlife.org/research-assistantships-available-for-native-americans/>

Video: Millie Hawley welcomes President Obama to Northwest Alaska (White House)

"As it stands now, my current home may not exist 10 years from now." —Millie Hawley, President of the Kivalina Tribal Council, on the effects of climate change and rising sea levels on her community in Alaska. 2 min.

<https://www.facebook.com/WhiteHouse/videos/vb.63811549237/10153745527114238/?type=2&theater>

Funding Opportunities

NOTE: More Funding Opportunities can be found at the Tribes & Climate Change website:

<http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/tcc/Resources/funding>. Also, see the Tribal Climate Change Guide to Funding, Science, Programs, and Adaptation Plans maintained by the Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Project at the Univ. of Oregon: <http://envs.uoregon.edu/tribal-climate/>

FY 2016 Tribal Wildlife Grants (USFWS)

Tribal Wildlife Grants are used to provide technical and financial assistance to Tribes for the development and implementation of programs that benefit fish and wildlife resources and their habitat. Eligibility: Federally recognized tribal government. Funding opportunity #F15AS00376. Deadline: 10/30/15.

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=277974>

Urban Waters Small Grants (USEPA)

EPA seeks to fund projects that address urban runoff pollution through diverse partnerships that produce multiple community benefits, with emphasis on underserved communities. Consideration will be given to projects that engage communities in learning about, planning, and developing stormwater infrastructure improvements such as rain gardens, planters, tree boxes, vegetated swales, green roofs, rain barrels, cisterns, and tree planting. Eligibility includes Indian Tribes and intertribal consortia. Funding Opportunity #EPA-OW-IO-15-01. Deadline 11/20/15.

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=EPA-OW-IO-15-01>

Deployment of Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Projects on Indian Lands – 2015 (USDOE)

Through this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), the Department's Office of Indian Energy is soliciting applications from Indian tribes (including Alaska Native regional corporations, village corporations, tribal consortia, and tribal organizations) and Tribal Energy Resource Development Organizations to install (1) facility-scale clean energy and energy efficiency projects and (2) community-scale clean energy projects on Indian lands. Eligibility: an Indian Tribe; or (2) Tribal Energy Resource Development Organization; and on whose (3) Indian Lands the project(s) will be located. Funding opportunity # DE-FOA-0001390. Deadline: 12/10/15.

<https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#Foald4a7967f3-f608-497f-a02d-95c215342d15>

National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost-Share Grant Program (USDA Forest Service)

The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council seeks innovative (new, cutting-edge or builds upon existing studies) grant proposals for program development, study, and collaboration that will address strategies in the Ten Year Action Plan. This Request for Proposals is to address the following priority issues:

Analysis and Solutions for Development and Redevelopment Impacts on Urban and Community Forests; Building Human Health Through Urban and Community Forestry; Climate Change and Its Impact on Trees and Water. Funds are to support national urban and community forestry projects on nonfederal public land that have a national or multi-state impact and application. Eligibility includes Tribal agencies. Funding Opportunity # USDA-FS-UCF-01-2016. Deadline for pre-proposals: 11/23/15.

http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/supporting_docs/fy2016/2016NatUrbanForestryRequestForProposals.pdf

Upcoming Events

NOTE: More Upcoming Events can be found at the Tribes & Climate Change website:

<http://www4.nau.edu/tribalclimatechange/events.asp>

October 2015

Conference: 13th Biennial Conference of Science and Management on the Colorado Plateau

October 5-8, Flagstaff, AZ. Forum for bringing together resource managers and research scientists to discuss findings and management needs associated with the Southwest's natural and cultural resources.

<http://nau.edu/Merriam-Powell/Biennial-Conference/>

Webinar: A One Health Approach to Climate Change

October 13, 10-11 am Alaska time. Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy webinar. Speaker: Mike Brubaker, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. The Alaska One Health Group was formed in early 2013, an initiative of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Center for Climate and Health, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, Arctic Investigations Program. The group includes environmental, health, and wildlife professionals from Western Canada and Alaska. This presentation will describe the One Health Group structure and present a case study of how local observations have been applied within the group to raise awareness and develop collaborative responses.

https://accap.uaf.edu/?q=one_health

Conference: 2015 NAFWS Pacific Region Conference

October 13-14, Polson, MT. Native American Fish and Wildlife Society regional conference.

<http://www.nafws.org/events/regional-events>

Webinar: Midwest and Great Plains Drought Webinar

October 15, 1-2 pm Central. Each month, a state climatologist and a NOAA regional climatologist conduct public webinars to brief interested members of the public about ongoing and near-future changing climate conditions in the Great Plains and Midwestern United States.

<http://drought.gov/drought/content/regional-programs/regional-drought-webinars>

Convention: National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) 72nd Annual Convention and Marketplace

October 18-23, San Diego, CA.

<http://www.ncai.org/events/2015/10/18/72nd-annual-convention-and-marketplace>

Training: Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

October 26-29, Santa Fe, NM. Offered by the USFWS National Conservation Training Center and sponsored in collaboration with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. This course is designed to guide conservation and resource management practitioners in two essential elements in the design of climate adaptation plans: (1) identifying which species or habitats are likely to be most strongly affected by projected changes; and (2) understanding why these resources are likely to be vulnerable. For more information, contact April.Taylor@chickasaw.net

Conference: Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management

October 27-30, Anchorage, AK. ATCEM, organized by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, is an annual gathering that brings together Tribes, Non-profits, and State and Federal organizations, for a week of environmental conversations. The discussions focus on finding and implementing solutions to address the unique environmental concerns facing Alaskan communities

<http://www.atcemak.com/>

Training: Climate Adaptation for Conservation Training & Coaching Session

October 27-29, Memphis, TN. Offered by the Wildlife Conservation Society. Hands-on training in how to consider climate change information in conservation planning and identify adaptation actions for implementation. It will also furnish participants with feedback and coaching on their own real-world climate adaptation project.

<http://api.ning.com/files/UJ8aoEZo49bpfo-xFaXhlpJMvk9gKj63lxTFDolb->

[7h3u36VCwjtBq8VgBQYLdMclVXdbulj5qQ8rvKDh9cWlliSi-kqP1Su/WCSTrainingFlyer_OctoberWCS_Final_1112.pdf](#)

Conference: 23rd Annual Tribal/EPA Region 9 Conference

October 27-29, Reno, NV. For the past 23 years, the annual conference has been an important opportunity for partnership and ongoing collaboration between Tribes, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other federal, state, and local agencies. The annual conference provides the Tribes with valuable training, networking opportunities, and resource-sharing. Will include climate change sessions.

<http://region9tribal-epaconference.com/>

Conference: Restoring the West Conference 2015

October 28-29, Logan, UT. Theme: Restoration and Fire in the Interior West. Organized and sponsored by Utah State University, USDA Forest Service, and the Western Aspen Alliance. Humans have used fire to manage forest vegetation for a long time. However, relatively recent changes in fire regimes have presented challenges for people tasked with managing these dynamic ecological systems. Climate change, drought, increasing fuel loads and disease-stricken trees have many researchers considering the role of fire as a tool for restoration. This conference will bring together leading experts, land managers and scientists for a discussion on this timely topic.

<http://www.restoringthewest.org/>

November 2015

Conference: 2015 Southwest Climate Summit

November 2-3, Sacramento, CA. The conference will bring together managers and scientists to share emerging climate science, Climate-Smart Conservation results, management and policy responses, and lessons learned across the Southwest.

<http://www.swcsc.arizona.edu/content/2015-southwest-climate-summit>

Training: 2015 National Tribal Assistance Coordination Group Workshop

November 3, Catoosa, OK. The purpose of the 2015 TAC-G National Workshop is to provide the highest quality environment possible for collaboration with individuals and organizations who are dedicated to the organized assistance for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN), Tribes, and Tribal governments in their time of need during emergencies and disasters.

<http://tacg2015.eventzilla.net/web/event?eventid=2139082567>

Training: Climate-Smart Conservation

November 4, Sacramento, CA. This one day overview class is being hosted by the California Landscape Conservation Cooperative (CA LCC) and is based on the guide Climate-Smart Conservation: Putting Adaptation Principles into Practice.

http://californialcc.org/sites/default/files/CSC_CourseAnnouncement_Sacramento_Nov2015.pdf

Conference: Sixth Annual Pacific Northwest Climate Science Conference

November 4-5, Coeur d'Alene, ID. The PNW Climate Science Conference annually brings together more than 250 researchers and practitioners from around the region to discuss scientific results, challenges, and solutions related to the impacts of climate on people, natural resources, and infrastructure in the Pacific Northwest. It is the region's premier opportunity for a cross-disciplinary exchange of knowledge and ideas about regional climate, climate impacts, and climate adaptation science and practice.

<https://www.nwclimatescience.org/node/496>

Conference: Native Waters on Arid Lands - Tribal Summit

November 5-6, Las Vegas, NV. Las Vegas, NV. Sponsored by USDA and National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Native Waters on Arid Lands project seeks to build capacity among tribal communities in the Great Basin and American Southwest to enhance climate resiliency of water resources and agriculture.

<http://nativewaters-aridlands.com/>

Meeting: Indigenous Peoples Climate Change Working Group

Nov. 5-7, New Orleans, LA.

<https://www.facebook.com/Indigenous-Peoples-Climate-Change-Working-Group-205930409437836/timeline/>

Training: Climate-Smart Conservation

November 6, San Diego, CA. This one day overview class is being hosted by the California Landscape Conservation Cooperative (CA LCC) and is based on the guide Climate-Smart Conservation: Putting Adaptation Principles into Practice.

http://californialcc.org/sites/default/files/CSC_CourseAnnouncement_San%20Diego_TBD_Nov2015.pdf

Online training: Climate Change Policy and Public Health

November 9 - December 6. Offered by University of Wisconsin-Madison through Coursera. 4-8 hours/week. Explore current evidence linking climate change and public health while learning the fundamental co-benefits of climate change mitigation. Evaluate policies and interventions while gaining hands on experience communicating climate science and health to policy makers and the general public.

<https://www.coursera.org/course/ccandph>

Conference: 2015 Rising Seas Summit

November 12-14, Cambridge, MA. The Association of Climate Change Officers (ACCO) has announced the 2015 Rising Seas Summit, which will be held in collaboration with the City of Boston and the Boston Green Ribbon Commission. It brings together professionals from national and local government, industry, academic institutions and environmental NGOs to highlight the interrelationships between sea level rise, climate change and extreme events.

<http://www.risingseassummit.org/index.html>

Conference: 2015 National Tribal GIS Conference

November 16-20, Albuquerque, NM. Organized by the National Tribal Geographic Information Support Center (NTGISC) and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) The principle goal of the Tribal GIS annual conference is to exchange information through interdisciplinary dialogues among conference participants who represent industry, academia, and federal agencies. It will include climate change sessions.

http://www.tribalgis.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=featured&Itemid=40

December 2015

Training: Grant Writing 101

December 16, Albuquerque, NM. Offered by the SC Climate Science Center. Climate science grant writing training for tribal environmental and tribal grant writing staff. For more information, contact Kim Merryman, Assistant Sustainability Scientist/Tribal Liaison, Chickasaw Nation/Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, South Central Climate Science Center, at

Kim.Merryman@Chickasaw.net

Training: Grant Writing 101 - Session 2 Workshop

December 17, Albuquerque, NM. Offered by the SC Climate Science Center. Climate science grant writing training for tribal environmental and tribal grant writing staff. For more information, contact Kim Merryman, Assistant Sustainability Scientist/Tribal Liaison, Chickasaw Nation/Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, South Central Climate Science Center, at

Kim.Merryman@Chickasaw.net

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