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2026 TLEF Recordings & More Are Now Online

We want to thank all of you who participated in this year's TLEF. We had an amazing turnout! There were 130 virtual attendees and 534 in-person attendees joining us this year in Oklahoma City.

If you want to check out the [2026 TLEF Highlight Reel](#), it is now live! We hope you enjoy this three-and-a-half-minute video recap of the TLEF.

Was there a session at the TLEF you wanted to catch but didn't? The [Full 2026 TLEF Session Recordings](#) are now posted! You can check out the full listings or visit one of our five collections:

- [Brownfields](#)
- [Emergency Management](#)
- [Solid Waste](#)
- [Superfund](#)
- [Underground Storage Tanks](#)

We want to thank all of the amazing presenters, who were willing to share their experiences, perspectives, and knowledge. Thank you to all the moderators who kept things moving smoothly. Thank you to all our terrific field trip hosts, who added so much to our annual homecoming. Thank you to everyone who donated such beautiful things to our free raffle. Thank you to all the businesses and organizations who stepped up as sponsors and play just a critical part in making the TLEF happen. Thank you to all the creative people who made this year's Multi-Media Meetup so fun and engaging. And finally, thank you to everyone who participated! We so appreciated all the stories and thoughts you shared with us during the TLEF. You are what make the TLEF such a special event.

And, if you want to share your experiences with the US EPA, they are collecting stories from Tribal attendees about how the TLEF has supported their work and led to environmental results at their Nations and Villages. If you'd like to share your TLEF story with US EPA, [please visit their website here](#).

The 2027 TLEF will be in San Francisco, California

If you were not able to join us at the TLEF this year, you might not know this. The 2027 TLEF will be taking place August 16-19 in San Francisco, California! We already have a lot of ideas in the works, and we think this is going to be a great one. Be sure and mark your calendars, and start planning. We look forward to seeing you all – whether in-person or virtually!

Applications Being Accepted to Serve on the TWAR SC

We are currently accepting applications from people interested in serving on the Tribal Waste & Response Steering Committee. You can click here to [download the application](#), and send it – along with your resume and up to three letters of recommendation – to Todd.Barnell@nau.edu. We'll be accepting applications until October 16, 2026, and we'll be selecting five people from all the applications to serve a two-year term.

The TWAR SC is composed of ten professionals working for federally-recognized Tribes and Alaskan Native Villages, as well as Alaskan Native nonprofit consortia. We are looking for people with front line experience in solid waste, Superfund, Federal Facilities, brownfields, USTs, and emergency response, who want to work with other highly committed and passionate people to help protect our lands, people, and relatives across the country. You can learn more about this amazing group of people at the [Join Us](#) page of their website.

Some Uplifting News About California Condors

In May of this year something happened for the first time in 120 years: [A California Condor flying through the skies above Oregon](#).

Staff and citizens of the Yurok Tribe in northern California have been leading for years in reintroducing this amazing bird to their historic range. Many of you no doubt attended an inspiring and beautiful presentation by Tiana Williams, the Yurok Tribe's Wildlife Department Director, where she shared the story of the Tribe's work to help this relative. If you haven't seen the recording, or need a refresher, [be sure to check out the video here!](#)

We want to extend our congratulations, and gratitude, to everyone at the Yurok Tribe on yet another milestone in their critical work.

Your ITEP Waste & Response Team

Todd, Julie, Amanda, Sarah, and Mikah