



U.S. EPA REGION 7 COMMUNITY INFORMATION DIGEST

June 2021

Welcome to the latest EPA Region 7 Digest!

EPA Region 7's Community Information Digest provides communities with the latest news about funding and technical assistance opportunities, webinars, conferences, and other activities related to human health and the environment.

The Community Information Digest comes from the Communities Section located in EPA Region 7's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs in the Regional Administrator's Office. This small but mighty group leads Environmental Justice, Environmental Education, and Children's Environmental Health activities for the region.

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. This goal will be achieved when everyone enjoys:

1. The same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and
2. Equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn and work.

Still have questions? [Contact your Regional Staff](#).

*An * indicates a new item
Please Note: Headings are linked to more detailed source information.*



[Factsheet on the EPA's Office of Environmental Justice](#)



Jump to a Section:

- [Headlines](#)
- [Funding & Technical Assistance Opportunities](#)
- [Meetings, Conferences & Events](#)
- [Webinars & Conference Calls](#)



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Headlines



[We Celebrate Juneteenth on June 19!](#)

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures. As it takes on a more national, symbolic and global partnership perspective, the events of 1865 in Texas are not forgotten for all of the roots tie back to this fertile soil from which a national day of pride is growing. To read the full history of Juneteenth, click [here](#).

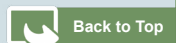
[EPA Announces Environmental Justice Consultations on Risk Management Rulemakings for TSCA Chemicals](#)

EPA invites environmental justice communities and stakeholders to participate in environmental justice consultations regarding the development of risk management actions under Section 6(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). The first consultations will focus on Asbestos, Part 1: Chrysotile Asbestos; Pigment Violet 29; Trichloroethylene (TCE); and Perchloroethylene (PCE) in June 2021.



[EPA Announces Plan to Update Toxics Release Inventory \(TRI\) to Advance Environmental Justice](#)

The Comprehensive Plan includes expanding reporting requirements for certain chemicals and facilities, including ethylene oxide (EtO) and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and providing new tools for communities. The plan also includes expanding the scope of TRI reporting requirements to include additional chemicals and facilities, including facilities that are not currently reporting on ethylene oxide releases, and providing new tools to make TRI data more accessible to the public.





[EPA Releases Updated Tool to Help Communities Protect Recreational Waters](#)

EPA has released an improved mobile app to help communities identify potential sources of pollution to recreational waters. This science-based, data-informed tool empowers communities and supports engagement in local decisions in protecting the health of swimmers and recreators from contaminants at lakes, rivers and beaches, while supporting the vitality of water-based economies. This improved version has been expanded to include monitoring for fresh waters. Additionally, it has new functions including photo storage, geolocation data, and links to weather-related websites. The mobile app does not require the use of the internet or Wi-Fi to use. Detailed instructions on how to access the app, as well as user manuals, are posted on the website.

[EPA Announces Public Listening Sessions and Trainings on Upcoming Oil and Natural Gas Methane Rule](#)

EPA is taking the first step to develop a proposed rule to reduce methane and other harmful pollutants from new and existing sources in the oil and natural gas industry, beginning with a broad public outreach effort to gather community and stakeholder input. These activities include holding training sessions on the rulemaking process and how to participate in it; convening listening sessions for stakeholders; and opening a public docket for pre-proposal comments.



[Report Environmental Violations](#)

Please contact EPA if you see what appears to be a possible violation of an environmental law or regulation. Environmental Justice Hotline: toll-free at 1-800-962-6215 or email at EJHotline@epa.gov
More information, visit: [EPA Hotlines](#)

Funding and Technical Assistance Opportunities

[EPA Tribal and Insular Area Grants: Diesel Emissions Reduction Act \(DERA\) Now Open](#)

Due date: July 9, 2021

EPA has announced the availability of approximately \$5 million in grant funding for tribal and certain insular area governments to implement projects that reduce emissions from the nation's existing fleet of older diesel engines. Funds may be used to upgrade and replace older, dirtier diesel-powered vehicles and equipment with newer, cleaner vehicles and technologies. No mandatory cost-sharing funds are required under this competition. Although cost-sharing is not required, applicants may propose to provide voluntary cost to improve the environmental outputs and outcomes of the project.

[U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) – Closing the Gap with Social Determinants of Health Accelerator Plans](#)

Due date: July 6, 2021

The CDC announces the availability of funds to develop multisector action plans that address the social determinants of health (SDOH) by accelerating action in state, local, territorial and tribal jurisdictions that lead to improved chronic health conditions among Americans experiencing health disparities and inequality.

[U.S. Department of Energy \(DOE\), Solar Energy Technologies Office \(SETO\) SolSmart Program Management](#)

Due dates: Letter of Intent: June 8, 2021

Concept Papers: June 15, 2021

Full Applications: Aug. 17, 2021

DOE's Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) announced the SolSmart Program Management funding program, which will award \$8 million to \$10 million to one entity that will manage and expand DOE's SolSmart Program. SolSmart supports and recognizes local governments that reduce soft costs and expand access to solar energy.

[U.S. Department of Energy \(DOE\) Announces \\$12 Million to Advance Geothermal Energy](#)

Due date: June 15, 2021

DOE announced up to \$12 million for technologies that can make geothermal systems more efficient for clean, renewable energy production to power millions of homes and create jobs for oil and gas workers. This funding will help scientists and engineers unlock the full potential of geothermal power to help tackle the climate crisis, and achieve the Biden administration's goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

[U.S. Department of Agriculture – Market Access Program \(MAP\)](#)

Due date: June 25, 2021

The MAP is designed to encourage the development, maintenance or expansion of commercial export markets for U.S. agricultural commodities and products through cost-share assistance. Assistance may be provided for either generic or brand promotion activities. While activities generally take place overseas, reimbursable activities may also take place in the U.S.



[U.S. Department of Agriculture – Emerging Markets Program \(EMP\)](#)

Due date: June 25, 2021

The EMP is established to develop, maintain or expand markets for exports of U.S. agricultural commodities, and to promote cooperation and exchange of information between agricultural institutions and agribusinesses in the U.S. and emerging markets. The EMP assists U.S. entities in developing, maintaining or expanding exports of U.S. agricultural commodities and products by funding activities that enhance emerging markets' food and rural business systems, including reducing trade barriers. The EMP is intended primarily to support export market development efforts of the private sector, but EMP resources may also be used to assist public organizations.

[U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service – Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops \(TASC\)](#)

Due date: June 25, 2021

The TASC program is designed to assist U.S. organizations by providing funding for projects that seek to remove, resolve or mitigate existing or potential sanitary, phytosanitary or technical barriers that prohibit or threaten the export of U.S. specialty crops. The TASC program is administered by personnel of the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

[U.S. Department of Energy \(DOE\) – Reducing Embodied Energy And Decreasing Emissions \(REMADE\)](#)

Due date: July 15, 2021

DOE announced a new request for proposals (RFP) for up to \$22.5 million for projects that support the recovery, recycling and reuse of material waste generated by the manufacturing sector. Projects funded through this solicitation will develop technologies that reduce embodied energy and carbon emissions associated with the production and consumption of metals, polymers, fibers, and electronic waste, as well as identify training activities that will expand the American manufacturing workforce.

[U.S. Department of Transportation \(DOT\) – Community Mobility Design Challenge 2021 Grants](#)

Due date: July 12, 2021

The Federal Transit Administration-funded National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM) is now accepting applications for its Community Mobility Design Challenge 2021 Grant Program. These grants, using the human-centered design process (aka "design thinking"), will support communities in creating innovative mobility solutions for community members who face transportation barriers in advancing their personal well-being. Grants of up to \$25,000 will be available, as well as NCMM facilitation, throughout the entire process. You can learn more about the grants and download the application on the website.

Meetings, Conferences and Events

[EPA's Environmental Justice and Systemic Racism Speaker Series: California EPA's Pollution and Prejudice Project](#)

June 10, 2021 | 11 a.m. to noon CDT

This session of the EPA's Environmental Justice (EJ) and Systemic Racism Speaker Series will focus on California EPA's (CalEPA) Pollution and Prejudice Project. Through this project, CalEPA's racial equity team designed a set of tools to explore the connection between racist land use practices of the 1930s and the persistence of environmental injustice. Understanding how environmental conditions are informed by legacy land use practices helps CalEPA ensure equitable access to clean air, water and land for all Californians through policy development and implementation.

Webinars and Conference Calls

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) – Healthy Homes Webinar Series: The Power of Partnerships

[Cross-Sector Partnering Towards Holistic Housing, with Green and Healthy Homes Initiative \(GHHI\)](#)

June 8, 2021 | 1 to 2:30 p.m. CDT

[Equity Through the Built Environment: Healthy Home for Healthy Aging](#)

June 10, 2021 | 1 to 2 p.m. CDT

[Partnering to Close the Gaps in Smoke-Free Homes Protections](#)

June 15, 2021 | 10 to 11:30 a.m. CDT

[Critical Partnerships to End Take-Home Lead \(Críticas Cooperaciones para Acabar con el Plomo que se lleva a Casa – Esta conferencia se realizará en inglés y español\)](#)

June 15, 2021 | 1 to 2 p.m. CDT

[Increasing Access to the Hard-to-Reach and Underserved Communities Using the Promotor and Faith-Based Outreach Model](#)

June 17, 2021 | 10 a.m. to noon CDT



[Homeflow: Improving Indoor Air Quality and Other Healthy Home Factors that Increase Engagement of Economically Disadvantaged Families of Title 1 Schools](#)

June 24, 2021 | 1 to 3 p.m. CDT

[Lead-Based Paint Awareness, Healthy Homes, and Healthy Communities in Alabama](#)

June 30, 2021 | 1 to 3 p.m. CDT

Each June, National Healthy Homes Month (NHHM) brings together HHS's partners, including grantees, community- and faith-based organizations, industry, state/tribal/local governments, health care providers, and many others, around two common goals. Coordinated by the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, HHS aims to:

- Increase awareness of housing-related health hazards, lead poisoning prevention, and the overall principles of a healthy home, especially for low-income populations
- Encourage residents to take the actions and steps for safe and healthy homes

This year, we offer one of the most diverse programs ever, all supporting our theme of the "Power of Partnerships."



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