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Region 10 Tribal Newsletter

 **EPA**
United States Environmental
Protection
Agency
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Top News

EPA Administrator Reaffirms 1984 Indian Policy at National Tribal Operations Committee Meeting

On September 30, EPA hosted the annual [National Tribal Operations Committee](#) meeting. EPA Administrator Michael Regan co-chaired the meeting with National Tribal Caucus Chair Gerald Wagner of the Blackfeet Nation. Members of the NTOC include the EPA Administrator, senior leaders across EPA, and tribal representatives from across Indian Country. EPA established the NTOC in 1994 to ensure that EPA leadership and tribal nation representatives engage in dialogue that provides advice to EPA on tribal environmental issues that are national in scope, cross-agency or cross-media in nature, or that may be emerging or urgent.

The meeting was highlighted by Administrator Regan's reaffirmation of the [EPA Policy for the Administration of Environmental Programs on Indian Reservations](#) (1984 Indian Policy). The 1984 Indian Policy has committed EPA to consider tribal interests in carrying out its programs. The policy contains principles that include recognizing tribes as the appropriate entities to set standards, make environmental policy decisions, and manage programs for reservations. The 1984 Indian Policy remains the cornerstone for EPA's Tribal program to this day. Administrator Regan's affirmation of this important policy signifies the continued federal position in support of tribal self-government and government to government relations. The 1984 Indian Policy has been consistently reaffirmed by EPA Administrators since 1984.

Administrator Regan shared some of the agency's priorities which include EPA's commitment to strengthen its consultation and coordination process with tribes; participation in the White House Council on Native American Affairs with a focus on climate change, tribal homelands, and treaties; and EPA's commitment to support tribal authority to manage environmental programs within their reservations.

Additionally, the Administrator discussed EPA's work to carry out the Justice 40 initiative to deliver 40 percent of the benefits from federal investments to underserved communities, and EPA's essential role in closing the health disparity gap through the **American Rescue Plan**. The ARP earmarks \$100 million for EPA to advance environmental justice and improve air quality for state and tribal communities.



*EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan with
National Tribal Caucus Chair Gerald Wagner.*

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EPA Administrator Reaffirms 1984 Indian Policy at National Tribal Operations Committee Meeting

There was also a robust discussion on the newly released EPA climate adaptation plan and cross-media impacts of climate change on food sovereignty, water resources, air quality and drought impacts.

The meeting concluded with a robust discussion on opportunities for flexibilities in EPA and tribal environmental program implementation efforts, where example approaches for advancing tribal and EPA partnerships were discussed.

To accelerate progress under the 1984 Indian Policy, in 1994, the modern structure of the EPA Tribal Program was developed, including the creation of EPA's American Indian Environmental Office to lead efforts across the agency to protect human health and the environment in Indian country, with a special emphasis on helping tribes administer their own environmental programs. AIEO achieves its purpose by supporting implementation of federal environmental laws in Indian country consistent with the 1984 EPA Indian Policy.

For more information, read the [press release](#) or check out EPA's [Environmental Protection in Indian Country](#) website.

November is Native American Heritage Month

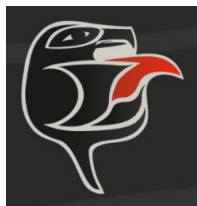


EPA celebrates American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month each November by commemorating the cultures and traditions of American Indians and Alaska Natives, and the lessons and wisdom gained from tribal partnership. EPA Region 10 values collaboration with tribes and recognizes Native American Heritage Month by hosting internal events and requiring a Working Effectively with Tribal Governments training for staff.

To learn more about EPA's relationship with tribes, check out EPA's [American Indian Environmental Office](#) website. The [National Native American Heritage Month](#) website offers information about the history and contributions of first Americans, lesson plans, and webinars hosted by the Smithsonian Institution and other federal agencies held throughout the month.

EPA Region 10 Partnership with Northwest Indian College

EPA Region 10 is pleased to announce it has signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding with the [Northwest Indian College](#) located on the traditional territory of the Lhaq'temish People on Lummi Nation, with six extended campuses throughout Washington and Idaho (Swinomish, Tulalip, Nisqually, Port Gamble, Muckleshoot and Nez Perce). The MOU between EPA and NWIC is intended to increase cooperation and promote collaboration through bidirectional and shared learning between communities and establish opportunities for activities based on shared goals.



Northwest Indian College is the only accredited tribal college serving the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho – and it is only one among two tribal colleges in the Pacific Northwest. NWIC promotes indigenous self-determination and knowledge. The vision of NWIC is commitment to their students, the tribes they serve, and advancing tribal sovereignty for the protection of their homelands and future generations.

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EPA Region 10 Partnership with Northwest Indian College

The EPA and NWIC recognize that there are many possible areas in which enhanced collaboration could be beneficial, including:

- EPA staff participating in lectures, webinars, conferences, and other events at NWIC.
- Inviting NWIC faculty and student participation in public policy forums, presentations, seminars, and other public events at EPA.
- EPA participation in career fairs and other outreach to NWIC students, faculty, and alumni regarding EPA employment opportunities.
- Collaboration on methods of increasing interest in careers in protecting human health and the environment, as well as awareness about publicly available recruitment and environmental education opportunities.
- EPA, in accordance with its mission and purpose, to coordinate with NWIC to support environmental education by distance learning technology.

If you are interested in learning more about the MOU, please contact **Angela Chung** at 206-553-6511 or chung.angela@epa.gov or **Wenona Wilson** at 206-331-1108 or wilson.wenona@epa.gov.

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EPA's Draft Strategic Plan to Address Climate Change and Advance EJ and Equity

The EPA's [Draft Fiscal Year 2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#) was recently published in the Federal Register and is available for public comment and tribal consultation through **November 12**. The Strategic Plan communicates and provides a roadmap to achieve EPA's and the Biden-Harris Administration's priorities over the next four years.

For the first time, EPA's plan includes a strategic goal focused solely on addressing climate change, as well as an unprecedented strategic goal to advance environmental justice and civil rights. At the foundation of the plan is a renewed commitment to the three principles articulated by EPA's first Administrator William Ruckelshaus — follow the science, follow the law, and be transparent, while adding an additional fourth principle: advance justice and equity.

The Strategic Plan outlines seven goals and four cross-agency strategies. The strategies articulate essential ways of working to accomplish EPA's mission outcomes — instilling scientific integrity in decision making; considering children's environmental health protection; advancing organizational excellence and workforce equity; and strengthening partnerships, including early, meaningful involvement with tribes and states, and on-the-ground engagement with communities. The plan also includes a suite of measures that will help the agency monitor progress and ensure accountability for achieving its priorities.

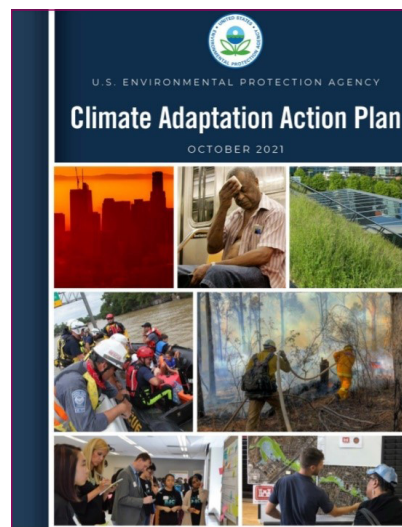
The final plan will be issued in February along with EPA's FY 2023 Budget. To learn more about the draft plan and public comment period, check out [EPA's Strategic Plan](#) website. Details about the tribal consultation period are available on **page 9** and in [EPA's Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System](#).

EPA's 2021 Climate Adaptation Action Plan

EPA released its [Climate Adaptation Action Plan](#), which describes steps EPA will take to address the impacts of climate change in communities across the nation. The 2021 Climate Adaptation Action Plan lays out several priorities for the agency to implement in the coming months and years. EPA also launched a new [Climate Adaptation web page](#) that will act as a hub for climate adaptation resources.

As EPA implements this action plan, it will consider the disproportionate impacts of climate change on those who are already vulnerable, including low-income communities and communities of color, children, the elderly, tribes, and indigenous people. EPA will engage with underserved and vulnerable communities to ensure that our adaptation plans follow the principles of environmental justice and equity.

The White House Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Management and Budget seek public input on all agency climate adaptation plans. The public may submit comments via the [docket ID: CEQ-2021-0003](#) until **November 6**. For more details, read the [press release](#) and check out EPA's [Climate Adaptation Plan](#) website.

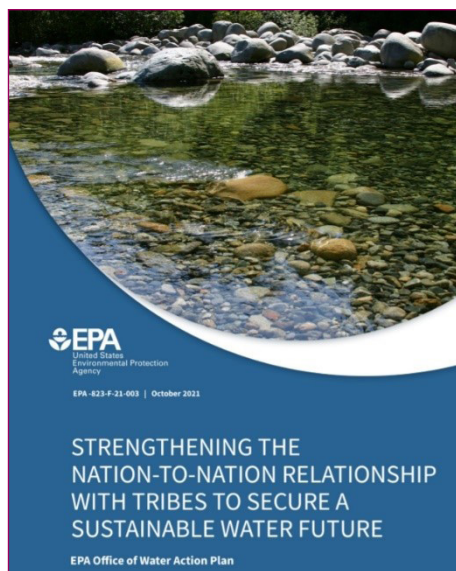


Action Plan to Address Tribal Water-Related Challenges

EPA released its action plan to strengthen the agency's partnership with tribes and Alaska Native Villages on water issues. Actions taken under the action plan, [Strengthening The Nation-To-Nation Relationship With Tribes To Secure A Sustainable Water Future](#) will address critical challenges and provide vital water protections to support public health, environmental protection, cultural activities, and subsistence practices in Indian Country.

Long-standing water challenges are negatively impacting tribes, which are more likely than other populations in the US to lack access to piped drinking water and essential wastewater services.

To view the action plan and learn more about EPA's tribal water program, check out EPA's [Clean and Safe Water in Indian Country](#) website or read the [press release](#).



15 Tribes in Region 10 Awarded Funds for Water Quality Improvement and Wetland Program Development

EPA awarded 15 Northwest tribes a total of \$1,939,944 to boost programs that restore habitat, protect tribal water quality and wetlands across four Northwest states. The funding was awarded through EPA's Tribal Clean Water Act Nonpoint Source and Wetland Program Development Grants.

Projects made possible with the help of this funding include reducing stream-bound sediment from forest roads; controlling invasive species; improving

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15 Tribes in Region 10 Awarded Funds for Water Quality Improvement and Wetland Program Development

stream channel stability; upgrading struggling salmon habitat; and building wetlands monitoring, protection, and restoration capacity for tribes.

Grant funds were awarded to the following recipients:

- Chugach Regional Resources Commission in Alaska.
- Coeur D'Alene, Nez Perce Tribe, and Klamath Tribes in Idaho.
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians; Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians; and Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation in Oregon.

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation; Lummi Tribe of the Lummi Reservation; Quinault Indian Nation; Squaxin Island Tribe; Snoqualmie Tribe; Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, and Tulalip Tribes in Washington.

Additional details are available in the [press release](#) or to learn more about these grant programs, check out EPA's [Wetland Program Development Grants](#) and the [Region 10 Clean Water Act Section 319 Tribal Program Funding](#) websites.

EPA Funds Indian Health Service to Improve Drinking Water Access in Tununak Alaska

In October, EPA announced \$15.8 million in water infrastructure funding for projects that will improve access to safe drinking water for the Native Village of Tununak. The funding will be placed into an interagency agreement between EPA and the Indian Health Service, to be used to boost public health protections by improving access to safe water for drinking, cooking, and hygiene. The effort will improve water access, and support the creation of a new public water system to benefit the community.

This project is funded under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act's Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities Tribal Grant Program. Under this program, and through an interagency agreement with the Indian Health Service, EPA is awarding a total of \$24 million in critical infrastructure needs for tribal communities. This past April, EPA awarded \$9 million to the Tuluksak Native Community and Stebbins, Alaska. For more information, check out EPA's [WIIN Act Section 2104: Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities Tribal Grant Program](#) website.

New Video — Community Sampling for Ocean Acidification in South Central Alaska

Ocean acidification is a change in ocean chemistry caused by sea water absorbing excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, which leads to greater acidity in the water affecting shellfish and other impacts. The [Chugach Regional Resources Commission](#), an inter-tribal fish and wildlife commission established by the seven tribes of the Prince William Sound and Lower Cook Inlet regions of Alaska produced a video, [Community Sampling for Ocean Acidification in South Central Alaska](#) that describes ocean acidification monitoring efforts in collaboration with the [Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute](#).

The video highlights sampling conducted by the Seldovia Village Tribe and the Native Village of Port Graham's environmental programs, and analyses at APMI's laboratory.

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New Video — Community Sampling for Ocean Acidification in South Central Alaska



The Chugach Region Ocean Monitoring Program is providing water and climate data for researchers to help understand the effects ocean acidification is having on marine life and resources in the area. This work is funded by EPA's Indian Environmental General Assistance Program and other federal funding.

Through EPA's GAP funding to CRRC, this partnership of tribes in South Central Alaska has collaborated in planning, training, collecting baseline ocean water quality data, and built capacity to protect the environment and natural resources. Some priority issues CRRC and tribes are working on include traditional and subsistence foods protection, climate change and adaptation planning, and ocean water quality monitoring.

CRRC's Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute in Seward, Alaska began as a shellfish hatchery in 1992 raising oyster and geoducks. The hatchery has grown to include cockle, littleneck and butter clam enhancement, and research on red and blue king crab, abalone, and sea cucumbers. CRRC and APMI are currently working in collaboration with tribes, communities, and other partners to conduct regional baseline assessments of ocean acidification and harmful algal blooms, and to develop a broader Chugach Region Ocean Water Monitoring Program.

Check out the video, [Community Sampling for Ocean Acidification in South Central Alaska](#) on CRRC's website. To learn more about ocean acidification, visit EPA's [Ocean and Coastal Acidification](#) website.

Apply for an EPA Clean Air Excellence Award

Applications for EPA's 2022 Clean Air Excellence Awards are being accepted. Through this program, EPA recognizes and honors individuals and organizations whose efforts have helped to make progress in achieving cleaner air. The award recipients are selected for developing innovative, replicable, and sustainable programs; serving as pioneers in their fields; and improving air quality either directly or indirectly through reduced emissions of criteria pollutants, hazardous air pollutants, and/or greenhouse gases.

If your work falls into any of the award categories, please consider applying for one of these prestigious awards. Award categories include: Clean Air Technology; Community Action; Education Outreach; State/Tribal/Local Air Quality Policy; Transportation Efficiency; Gregg Cooke Visionary Program Award; and the Thomas W. Zosel Outstanding Individual Achievement Award. EPA will recognize award recipients at a special awards ceremony held in Washington, D.C. in 2022. The application deadline is **November 30**.

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Apply for an EPA Clean Air Excellence Award

Details are available on EPA's [Clean Air Excellence Awards](#) website. Applicants are strongly encouraged to send their entries by email to OAR_Clean_Air_Excellence_Awards@epa.gov. EPA will also accept hard copies of applications mailed to **Catrice Jefferson**, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air and Radiation, MC-6103A, Room 5442-Q (WJC-North), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20460.

FY 2023 GAP Notice of Funding Availability — Coming Soon!

The EPA Region 10 Notice of Funding Availability for Indian Environmental General Assistance Program grants for FY 2023 will be posted soon to the [Region 10 Tribal programs](#) website. GAP grants help tribes and tribal consortia build capacity for developing and administering environmental protection programs.

The NOFA describes everything you need to know to prepare and submit your grant application. Please read the NOFA carefully before drafting your proposal. If you have questions about the NOFA, please contact your tribe's [GAP Project Officer](#).



Class Exception to Cost Share Requirements for Performance Partnership Grants

EPA approved a class exception to 40 CFR 35.536 which required cost share percentages based on each environmental program grant included in a tribe's Performance Partnership Grant. This class exception waives the required cost share from tribal and intertribal consortia PPGs.

The class exception is effective October 1, 2021 and applies only to new tribal or intertribal consortia PPGs and new funding awarded via supplemental amendments to tribal or intertribal consortia PPGs awarded on or after October 1, 2021. For more information, check out EPA's [Grants](#) website, or contact your EPA [Project Officer](#).



RTOC News



The Region 10 **Regional Tribal Operations Committee** is a partnership between EPA and elected tribal representatives to further tribal environmental objectives at the regional level, serve as a liaison between the EPA and tribes regarding information exchange, and provide assistance to the National Tribal Operations Committee.

Tribal Environmental Leaders Summit

Virtual Event

Rescheduled for March 2-4

Call for speakers extended – Registration open!

The Region 10 RTOC has a great line-up for the rescheduled virtual Tribal Environmental Leaders Summit this spring! The event will be broadcast from a new venue at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture with exhibit Awakenings: Traditional Canoes and Calling the Salmon Home. The MAC, in collaboration with the United Tribes of the Upper Columbia tells the story of the annual Columbia River Canoe Journey – from the purchase of old growth cedar logs and carving the dugouts to the annual launch and landing at Kettle Falls – through contemporary and historic canoes supported by the words of those who have experienced it.



The [call for speakers](#) has been extended to **December 31**. Keynote speakers will include:

- EPA Assistant Administrator, Office of International and Tribal Affairs – Jane Nishida
- Tribal Governance: Finding Our Center – Meda DeWitt
- Modeling Environmental Activism for Tribal Youth – Quannah Chasinghorse

Register on the [TELS website](#). If you register by **February 4**, you will receive a cultural project and conference materials by mail. Thank you for your flexibility, the RTOC is excited to see you at the summit!

Town Hall Meetings for Tribal Officials

Speak openly with your tribal RTOC and NTOC representatives about new or ongoing environmental issues for your tribe and discuss with other tribal leaders in your geographic area. The RTOC will share important updates on EPA policy, consultation, and other current matters.

This is a forum **only for tribal leaders and tribal environmental staff, and elected RTOC tribal representatives**, EPA employees will not be present. The RTOC will respect tribal wishes on how your tribe's issues should be brought forth to EPA. The RTOC will invite tribal leaders to provide guidance on matters of priority as well as discuss ways in which the RTOC can be of assistance to your tribe in this heightened, but hectic influx for requests for tribal consultations.

On the next page, we list the schedule of Town Hall meetings by region. Tribal environmental staff, leaders, and tribal consortia staff will receive a personal email invitation to join.

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Schedule of Town Hall Meetings for Tribal Officials

October 27 at 2:30 p.m. Pacific Time – Western Washington/Western Oregon

November 1 at 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time – Idaho/Eastern Washington/Eastern Oregon

November 3 at 10:00 a.m. Alaska Time – Interior and Upper Kuskokwim

November 3 at 2:00 p.m. Alaska Time – Norton Sound and North Slope

November 4 at 11:00 a.m. Alaska Time – Upper Nushagak, Lake Iliamna & Bristol Bay

November 4 at 12:00 p.m. Alaska Time – Southeast and Kuskokwim Delta

November 5 (proposed), Time – TBD – Cook Inlet and Aleutian Pribilof. Send request for date and time to Randi@region10rtoc.net.

RTOC is Hiring!

Executive Administrative Assistant

Apply by November 19

[Full Description](#)

Send resume and cover letter to RTOC Executive Director via email to randi@region10rtoc.net with the subject line “Application for Executive Administrative Assistant.”

Stay Engaged with RTOC

[Follow us on Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for the most up to date news and opportunities.

If you wish to attend or add an item to a monthly meeting agenda, or if you have questions, comments, or suggestions for how RTOC can better serve your community — please contact the [RTOC representative for your area](#).

CONTACT: **Randi Madison**, RTOC Administrator • randi@region10rtoc.net

Tribal Consultation

*A full list of consultation opportunities is available in
EPA's [Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System](#)*

EPA's Draft FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan

END DATE: **November 12.**

EPA is initiating consultation and coordination with federally recognized tribes on the agency's draft FY 2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan. The Plan communicates the EPA's priorities, the measurable environmental and human health outcomes the public can expect over the next four years, and the long-term blueprint for achieving those results. It also serves as the basis for agency-wide program planning and informs annual budget development and decision making. The Plan covers important areas of interest that impact tribes. The draft Plan is available on EPA's [Strategic Plan](#) website.

In parallel with the tribal consultation period, the agency is initiating public review and comment through a [Federal Register notice](#) identified by [Docket Number EPA-HQ-OA-2021-0403](#). Tribes also may elect to participate in this public review and comment process.

CONTACT: **Joey Bailey** • 202-564-0521 • bailey.josephe@epa.gov

Judy Lieberman • 202-564-8638 • lieberman.judy@epa.gov

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Tribal Consultation**National Allocation of Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP) Funding****END DATE: November 17.**

EPA is offering consultation and coordination with federally recognized tribes to receive input on how to improve the national allocation of Indian Environmental General Assistance Program funds to tribal and intertribal consortia recipients.

The current funding allocation formula is informed by the GAP Act of 1992. The Act requires that each grant awarded for a fiscal year shall be no less than \$75,000. In the current national allocation methodology, EPA targets \$110,000 per federally recognized tribe.

In February 2008, EPA's Office of Inspector General issued a report with recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of the GAP program. In summary, the report recommended that the EPA American Indian Environmental Office: (1) develop a framework for tribal capacity building; (2) require tribal environmental plans; and (3) revise how GAP funding is distributed to tribes to place more emphasis on tribes' prior progress, environmental capacity needs, and long-term goals.

Since receiving these recommendations, AIEO has implemented EPA-Tribal Environmental Plans and is working to improve the 2013 GAP Guidance to be responsive to both the OIG report and tribal environmental capacity building needs. Addressing the third recommendation, the national allocation, is timely to coincide with revisions to the GAP Guidance, including new service delivery authorities, and most importantly, to ensure that EPA is addressing tribal environmental capacity building needs and helping tribes achieve their environmental goals.

EPA is initiating a tribal consultation process that seeks input on how to allocate GAP funds to address diverse and unique tribal environmental capacity needs and support environmental protection in Indian country. Once input from tribal representatives is gathered and fully considered through this tribal consultation and coordination process, EPA may propose to revise its GAP national allocation policy.

Consultation and coordination webinars were held with tribes in Alaska on August 17, with tribes in the lower 48 states of Region 10 on August 31 and an informal coordination webinar with intertribal consortia was held on September 2. Additional background information about the GAP Guidance Evaluation is available on EPA's [Indian Environmental General Assistance Program \(GAP\)](#) website.

CONTACT: Lisa Berrios • 202-564-1739 • berrios.lisa@epa.gov



Grants



G R A N T S

School Bus Rebates: Diesel Emissions Reduction Act

APPLICATIONS DUE: **November 5.**

School buses travel over four billion miles each year, providing the safest transportation to and from school for more than 25 million American children every day. However, diesel exhaust from these buses has a negative impact on human health, especially for children, who have a faster breathing rate than adults and whose lungs are not yet fully developed.

The 2021 Diesel Emissions Reduction Act School Bus Rebates will offer approximately \$10 million to public and private fleet owners for the replacement of old diesel school buses with new buses certified to EPA's cleanest emission standards. Selected applicants that scrap and replace their old diesel buses will receive a rebate of \$20,000-\$65,000 per bus depending on the fuel type of the replacement bus.

Eligible applicants include regional, state, local, or tribal agency that has jurisdiction over transportation and air quality, including public school districts and municipalities; private entities that operate school buses under a contract with an entity listed above; fleets with up to 100 school buses may submit one application listing up to 10 buses for scrappage and replacement; and fleets with more than 100 school buses may submit up to two rebate applications, each listing up to 10 different buses for scrappage and replacement. Details are available on EPA's [School Bus Rebates: Diesel Emissions Reduction Act](#) website.

American Rescue Plan Electric School Bus Rebates

APPLICATIONS DUE: **November 5.**

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 appropriated funds to the EPA for "activities that identify and address disproportionate environmental or public health harms and risks in minority populations or low-income populations" under several programs, including the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act.

The 2021 ARP Electric School Bus Rebate offers \$7 million to eligible school districts and private fleet owners for the replacement of old diesel school buses with new electric school buses. Eligible applicants include underserved school districts, tribal schools, and private fleets serving those schools. Selected applicants that scrap and replace their old diesel buses with new electric buses will receive a rebate of \$300,000 per bus.

The 2021 ARP Electric School Bus Rebates runs concurrently with the annual DERA School Bus Rebates. EPA's [2021 American Rescue Plan Electric School Bus Rebates](#) website describes the differences between the two concurrent opportunities as well as details on how to apply.

GRANTS

FY 2022 AmeriCorps State and National Public Health**APPLICATIONS DUE: November 8.**

AmeriCorps brings people together to tackle some of the country's most pressing challenges through national service and volunteering. An AmeriCorps member is an individual who engages in community service through an approved national service position. Members may receive a living allowance and other benefits while serving. Upon successful completion of their service, members earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award they can use to pay for higher education expenses or apply to qualified student loans.

AmeriCorps grants are awarded to engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions/practices to strengthen communities. Public Health AmeriCorps will include a \$400 million investment, over five years, from the American Rescue Plan Act workforce funding that will enable the recruitment, training, and development of a new generation of public health leaders who are ready to respond to the public health needs of the nation by providing public health service in communities.

Public Health AmeriCorps has two main goals:

1. Help meet public health needs of local communities by providing needed capacity and support in state and local public health settings and advancing more equitable health outcomes for communities who are currently or historically underserved.
2. Provide pathways to good quality public health-related careers by providing exposure through onsite experience, training, and more, with a focus on recruiting AmeriCorps members who reflect the communities in which they will serve.

Award amounts will vary as determined by the scope of the projects. AmeriCorps anticipates making three-year grants. Eligible entities include tribes, institutions of higher education, local governments, nonprofit organizations, and states and US territories. Details are available on the [FY 2022 AmeriCorps State and National Public Health AmeriCorps](#) website.

Cumulative Health Impacts at the Intersection of Climate Change, Environmental Justice, and Vulnerable Populations/ Lifestages: Community-Based Research for Solutions

APPLICATIONS DUE: November 16.

As part of its Science to Achieve Results program, EPA is seeking applications proposing transdisciplinary research to analyze environmental problems at the intersection of climate change, environmental justice, and vulnerable populations and lifestages.

It is anticipated that a total of approximately \$8.1 million will be awarded under this announcement and EPA anticipates funding approximately six awards. Eligible applicants include public and private nonprofit institutions/organizations, public and private institutions of higher education, and hospitals located in the U.S. and its territories or possessions; state and local governments; tribal governments; and U.S. territories or possessions.

For more details and how to apply, visit EPA's [Research Grants](#) website.

EJ4Climate: Environmental Justice and Climate Resilience

PROPOSALS DUE: **November 14.**

The North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation is launching a first-of-its-kind grant program, EJ4Climate, to support environmental justice and climate resilience for underserved, vulnerable communities, and Indigenous communities across North America.

Initiated by the EPA, the CEC established this new grant program to support underserved and overburdened communities in Canada, Mexico, and the US as they prepare for climate-related impacts. This program will provide funding directly to Indigenous communities and community-based organizations to deliver environmental justice and advance local solutions to adapt to climate change.

The CEC is calling for initiatives that support community resilience to climate change and climate-related impacts; yield tangible, equitable benefits for local communities by addressing or adapting to climate change impacts; consider local knowledge and transform that knowledge into an innovative action or solution; and build partnerships that respond to community-identified challenges.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations, civil society groups, environmental groups, community-based associations, tribal nations, and indigenous peoples and communities. The CEC encourages applicants to submit proposals up to \$200,000 and will consider additional funds for exceptional projects. Details are available on the CEC's [EJ4Climate: Environmental Justice and Climate Resilience](#) website.

Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grants

APPLICATIONS DUE: **December 1.**

Grants offered by the Brownfields Program may be used to address sites contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substances commingled with petroleum) and petroleum.

Brownfield Assessment Grants

Assessment Grants provide funding for developing inventories of brownfield sites, prioritizing sites, conducting community involvement activities, conducting planning, conducting site assessments, developing site-specific cleanup plans, and developing reuse plans related to brownfield sites. A portion of the Assessment Grant funding must be used to conduct site assessments. Assessment Grant funds may not be used to conduct cleanup activities.

Applicants may apply for a Community-wide and/or a Site-specific Assessment Grant or apply for Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes.

Community-wide Assessment Grants are appropriate when a specific site is not identified, and the applicant plans to spend grant funds on more than one brownfield site in its community. Funding is available for up to \$500,000.

Site-specific Assessment Grants are appropriate when a specific site is identified, and the applicant plans to spend grant funds on this one site only. Funding is available for up to \$350,000.

Community-wide Assessment Grants for States and Tribes are only available to state agencies, tribes, and eligible native corporations in Alaska.

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Revolving Loan Fund Grants, and Cleanup Grants****⇒ Continued**

An applicant must plan to use grant funds to assess a minimum of 10 brownfield sites in disadvantaged communities throughout its jurisdiction. Funding is available for up to \$2 million.

Eligible entities that can apply for an FY22 **Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes** include states; Indian tribes other than in Alaska and intertribal Consortia comprised of eligible Indian tribes; Alaska Native Regional Corporation, Alaska Native Village Corporation, and Metlakatla Indian Community.

EPA anticipates awarding an estimated 69 Assessment Grants for an estimated \$47 million, including 9 Community-wide Assessment Grants for States and Tribes for an estimated \$17 million, subject to the quality of applications received, availability of funds, and other applicable considerations.

Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund Grants

Revolving Loan Fund programs provide loans and subgrants to eligible entities to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites contaminated with hazardous substances and/or petroleum. Site eligibility will be determined by EPA after grant award and prior to expending grant funds at any site. Sites where hazardous substances and petroleum contamination are distinguishable must meet eligibility requirements for both contaminants.

Maximum amount of funding is up to \$1 million for hazardous substances and/or petroleum with a 20% cost share, for a project period of 5 years. Entities eligible to apply include local governments; land clearance authority or another quasi-governmental entities; government entities created by state legislature; regional councils; redevelopment agencies; states; Indian tribes other than in Alaska (with the exception of Metlakatla Indian Community); Alaska Native Regional Corporations, Alaska Native Village Corporations; nonprofit organizations; and others.

Brownfield Cleanup Grants

Cleanup Grants provide funding to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites owned by the applicant.

An applicant may only submit one Cleanup Grant application in the FY22 competition cycle. Applicants may request up to \$500,000 to clean up one brownfield site or to allocate up to \$500,000 among multiple sites. Applicants that plan to only address one brownfield site in their application may request a waiver of the \$500,000 limit and request up to \$650,000 based on the anticipated level of contamination, size, and other considerations. EPA anticipates awarding an estimated 26 Cleanup Grants for a project period of up to 3 years.

Eligible applicants include local governments; land clearance authority or another quasi-governmental entities; government entities created by state legislature; regional councils; redevelopment agencies states; Indian tribes other than in Alaska (with the exception of Metlakatla Indian Community); Alaska Native Regional Corporations, Alaska Native Village Corporations; nonprofit organizations; and others.

For details about the above-listed opportunities, check out EPA's Open Solicitations on the [Multipurpose, Assessment, RLF, and Cleanup \(MARC\) Grant Application Resources](#) website.

Development of Innovative Approaches to Assess the Toxicity of Chemical Mixtures

APPLICATIONS DUE: **December 8.**

As part of its Science to Achieve Results program, EPA is seeking applications focused on improving the quantitative evaluation of risks posed by chemical mixtures in the environment. The focus should be on the development and improvement, evaluation, and integration of predictive toxicology methods to evaluate environmental chemical mixtures.

People are continually exposed to multiple chemicals present in the environment, including in air, water, soil, food, and products in commerce. Thousands of chemicals exist with minimal risk assessment-relevant information and there is a near infinite number of possible combinations of chemical mixtures like PFAS, phthalates, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, disinfection by-products or other well-characterized mixtures. These factors make it challenging to assess the toxicity of chemical mixtures. This RFA is intended to address the number of hazards and the associated human health risks of exposures to chemical mixtures found in the environment.

EPA anticipates awarding approximately 4 regular and approximately 2 early career awards for up to a total of \$750,000 per regular award, and up to a total of \$600,000 per early career award. Public and private nonprofit institutions/organizations, public and private institutions of higher education, and hospitals located in the U.S. and its territories or possessions; state and local governments; federally recognized tribal governments; and U.S. territories or possessions are eligible to apply. For information on how to apply, visit EPA's [Development of Innovative Approaches to Assess the Toxicity of Chemical Mixtures](#) website.

WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects

APPLICATIONS DUE: **December 9.**

The objective of WaterSMART's Environmental Water Resources Projects to invite eligible applicants to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with Bureau of Reclamation on Environmental Water Resources Projects, including

- Water conservation and efficiency projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings and benefit ecological values
- Water management or infrastructure improvements to mitigate drought-related impacts to ecological values; and
- Watershed management or restoration projects benefitting ecological values that have a nexus to water resources or water resources management.

All applicants must be located in the Western United States or United States Territories (includes Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington). States, tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts; state, regional, or local authorities, the members of which include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; other organizations with water or power delivery authority; and nonprofit conservation organizations.

Funding of up to \$2,000,000 per agreement for a project completed within three years is available. Further details are available on the

[WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects](#) website.

Brownfields State and Tribal Response Programs Fiscal Year 2022

FUNDING REQUESTS DUE: **December 17.**

Section 128(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended, authorizes a noncompetitive \$50 million grant program to establish or enhance state and tribal response programs. Generally, these response programs address the assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of brownfields and other sites with actual or perceived contamination. State and tribal response programs oversee assessment and cleanup activities at brownfield sites across the country.

The four elements of a response program are as follows:

1. Timely survey and inventory of brownfield sites in state or tribal land.
2. Oversight and enforcement authorities or other mechanisms and resources.
3. Mechanisms and resources to provide meaningful opportunities for public participation.
4. Mechanisms for approval of cleanup plans and verification and certification that cleanup is complete.

Details are available on EPA's [Funding Guidance for State and Tribal Response Programs Fiscal Year 2022](#) website. For information on how to submit your funding request, please contact **Madison Sanders-Curry** at 206-553-1889 or sanders-curry.madison@epa.gov.

Training & Technical Assistance

Training opportunities in this newsletter are either hosted, funded, or sponsored in collaboration with EPA. Any links to websites outside of EPA are provided for additional information that may be useful or interesting to our readers. EPA can neither attest to the accuracy of these third-party sites nor endorse any nongovernment websites, companies or applications.

Lead Awareness Curriculum Train-the-Trainer Sessions

November 9, Virtual

EPA's [Lead Awareness Curriculum](#) is a robust set of educational tools designed to provide community leaders with practical resources to raise awareness about childhood lead exposure; expand the understanding of lead's potential impacts on children's health and cultural practices; and encourage actions that can be taken to reduce and/or prevent childhood lead exposure.

The curriculum is designed to be taught by community leaders (educators, public health advocates, environmental justice advocates, outreach specialists, environmental staff, social workers, community health workers, youth leaders, local government officials) with experience educating and training members of their community, but does not require instructors to be experts on lead or lead exposure.

To learn how to use the Lead Awareness Curriculum to teach your community, attend an upcoming 2-hour training. [Register for the training](#) on **November 9** at 12:00 p.m. Pacific Time.



The Business of Trash

November 9-10, Virtual

Having trouble convincing your community to pay fees? Finding that your solid waste program starts and stops or doesn't seem to improve? This training looks at your solid waste management program as a utility operation.

This training offered by Zender Environmental Health & Research Group uses self-assessment exercises and discussions to explore the 9 management areas that contribute to effective and sustainable utility management. Participants will learn about your own program's weaknesses and strengths and leave with an identified approach to improving your program. This training includes developing a solid waste management budget and a community outreach strategy.

The training will be delivered by toll-free phone with live online presentations. If you don't have reliable internet, the host will mail you all the presentation materials to follow along by phone. No internet required. Details are available on the [Zender Environmental Health & Research Group](#) website.

ITEP 2022 Student Summer Internship

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals at Northern Arizona University offers Student Summer Internships for Native American students, and the opportunity for tribal environmental offices, EPA offices, and other tribal environmental organizations to host a college student.

The purpose of the internship programs is for students to gain hands-on skills with EPA or other governmental and tribal environmental offices. The 8-week, paid internships have an air quality research, technical, educational, or policy focus. Some internships will be local, and some may be virtual. The internship programs are funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For **students** to learn more and apply for the internship opportunity, check out ITEP's [Student Summer Internship](#) website. The deadline to apply for an internship is **February 1**.

For **tribes, agencies, and organizations** to learn more about becoming a host sites for a student summer intern, check out ITEP's [Student Summer Internship Host Site](#) website. The deadline to apply as a host site is **December 3**.

Watershed Academy

EPA's [Watershed Academy](#) provides self-paced training modules and webcasts from national experts about a range of watershed management topics. Watershed Academy Web is the program's distance learning program. The website offers a variety of self-paced training modules that represent a basic and broad introduction to the watershed management field.

A new [Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program](#) learning module was recently posted and is available for viewing. This training module is designed to provide a high-level overview of the Clean Water Action Section 319 Nonpoint Source (NPS) program for State and Territory NPS Programs. The first half of the training provides general information applicable to a wide variety of audiences interested in learning more about the NPS program, while the second half of the module is more specific information that would be beneficial to grantees. This learning module will be updated in the future to include information specific to tribes.

AirKnowledge E-Learning Training Materials

The [AirKnowledge](#) program is pleased to announce the availability of a variety of new air quality training materials. All materials are at the foundational learning level in an e-learning format. These materials are also available to tribal, state, and local air professionals through our learning management system.

The new materials include:

- A course defining criteria pollutants, air toxics and greenhouse gases,
- A course generally describing air pollution control techniques and technologies,
- A course explaining the key aspects of ambient air toxics monitoring,
- A module describing the structure and key provisions of the Clean Air Act,
- A module generally describing the sources of air pollution, and
- A module providing an introduction to the New Source Review program.

You can find the training materials on the [Air Pollution Training Institute Public Training Site](#).

Calendar of Events

November

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 9 | Lead Awareness Curriculum Train-the-Trainer. 12:00 p.m. Pacific Time
https://bit.ly/3CM3pcV |
| 9 | National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call. 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time
https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls |
| 9-10 | Harmful Algal Blooms: Federal and Innovative Funding Sources for the Prevention, Monitoring, and Treatment of HABs. 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time
https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_B7J5tY92RtGVlh2QxvqDrg |
| 9-10 | The Business of Trash. Virtual
https://zendergroup.org/what-we-do/training |
| 10 | National Environmental Justice Advisory Council Public Meeting.
10:00 a.m. Pacific Time
https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_7SKoF5PCT82z_pup10LCPQ |
| 10 | EPA Region 10 Webinar: GAP FY23 Notice of Funding Availability.
2:00 p.m. Pacific Time
https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_5QeNJDYLQuaknyrohRFyKw |
| 15-16 | White House Tribal Nations Summit.
https://sforce.co/3mHDair |
| 15-18 | Superfund Essentials: Introduction - CERCLA Overview - Statutory and Regulatory Basis. 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time
https://trainex.org/classdetails.cfm?courseid=1863&classid=8639 |

Continued ➡

Calendar of Events

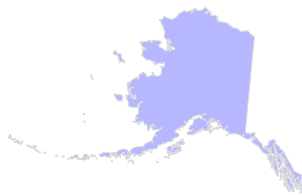
⇒ Continued **November**

- 15-19** **Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management**
<https://www.atcemak.com>
- 16** **Resilience of Ecosystems in a Changing World.** 12:00 p.m. Pacific Time
<https://www.epa.gov/air-research/air-climate-energy-research-webinar-series>
- 16-17** **NOAA National Integrated Drought Information System Oregon-Washington Water Year 2021 Recap and 2022 Outlook Meeting**
https://washington.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEvce2prDkvHtSGMPjSFIEQzyCQMDrs1_dx
- 17-18** **White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council Public Meeting.**
 12:00 p.m. Pacific Time • <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/white-house-environmental-justice-advisory-council>
- 19** **NOAA National Integrated Drought Information System Annual Idaho Fall Water Supply Outlook Meeting**
<https://www.drought.gov/events/annual-idaho-fall-water-supply-outlook-meeting>
- 19** **Show Me How: Brownfields Redevelopment in Economically Distressed Areas.** 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time
<https://clu-in.org/conf/tio/bfredev3>
- 23** **National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call.**
 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time
<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls>
- 30 – December 1** **Alaska Region: BIA Providers Conference.** Virtual.
<https://www.bia.gov/regional-offices/alaska>

December

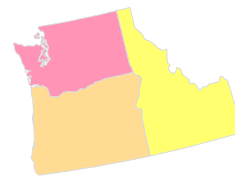
- 7** **National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call.**
 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls>

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Region 10 Tribal Newsletter

Vol. 30 No. 8 –November 2021



Region 10 Tribal Program

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Seattle, WA 98101

Got News?

Got News? Please send submission ideas to

R10TribalNewsletter@epa.gov

For Tribal Solid and Hazardous Waste Technical Assistance

ALASKA: **Jim Penor** • 907-500-4963

IDAHO, OREGON, WASHINGTON:
Rick McMonagle • 503-326-6363

Helpful Links

R10 Tribal Programs:

<http://go.usa.gov/xkdMv>

**Smoke Communications and burn bans on
NW Reservations under Federal Air Rules
for Reservations (FARR)**

<https://bit.ly/EPA-FARR>

EPA on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/EPARegion10>

Follow us @EPAnorthwest on Twitter!

<https://twitter.com/EPAnorthwest>

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Report Spills and Violations

In the event of an oil spill, release of hazardous materials, or accident that may lead to an immediate threat to human health or the environment, please call **911**. Then, report it to EPA's **National Response Center** by calling **1-800-424-8802**.

To report a possible environmental violation, submit information online to the EPA at <https://echo.epa.gov/report-environmental-violations>.

