

# TRIBAL AIR NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 2

December 2014

## Swinomish Indian Tribal Community's Tribal Implementation Plan Approved

By Claudia Vergnani Vaupel, EPA Region 10

The final rule approving the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community's Tribal Implementation Plan (TIP) was published in the *Federal Register* on November 24 (79 FR 69763). This action makes federally enforceable the tribe's regulatory open burning program that applies to all persons within the Swinomish Reservation. This is the first approved TIP in Region 10 and the fourth one in the country.

The TIP provides a framework for protecting air quality on the Swinomish Reservation from the impacts of open burning. It includes a permitting program, standards for open burning, a list of prohibited materials that may not be burned, circumstances under which the tribe may call a burn ban during periods of impaired air quality or high fire danger, a permitting fee system, a system of enforcement, including the authority to perform inspections and issue enforcement orders, and a process for hearings and appeals. The TIP will replace the provisions that regulate open burning within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation in the Federal Air Rules for Reservations (a Federal Implementation Plan).

The final rule is available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-11-24/pdf/2014-27634.pdf>.



Region 10 Administrator Dennis McLerran and Swinomish Tribal Chairman Brian Cladoosby

### Included In This Issue:

- AIEO Office Overview
- Little Traverse Bay Bands Energy Usage
- Clean Power Plan Supplemental
- NCAI Annual Convention
- 2015 ecoAmbassadors
- School Flag Program

# The EPA American Indian Environmental Office: An Overview

By Andy Byrne, EPA

Office of International and Tribal Affairs

The history of the American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) began in 1984, ten years before AIEO actually came into existence. It was in November of that year that the EPA officially published the *EPA Policy for the Administration of Environmental Programs on Indian Reservations*, better known today as the EPA Indian Policy. The EPA Indian Policy set forth nine principles that guide the EPA in working with tribal governments and in responding to the issues surrounding environmental management in Indian country. For example, Principle 1 reaffirms the government-to-government relationship with federally recognized tribes. In addition, the EPA Indian Policy was the first formal Indian policy published by a federal agency. The EPA continues to be very proud of this fact!

The EPA Indian Policy set in motion a growing awareness of the importance of strengthening tribal capacity to manage federal environmental programs as co-regulators. In the mid-1980s through the early 1990s, the U.S. Congress amended several federal environmental statutes to grant tribes the authority to apply to the EPA for treatment-in-a-similar-manner-as-a-state (TAS) status. For example, the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments included language that granted EPA the authority to eventually create the Tribal Authority Rule (TAR), which authorized tribal governments to participate in implementation activities under the Clean Air Act. Additionally, the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP) Act of 1992 furthered the EPA's ability to work with tribes to develop federal environmental programs by establishing a funding mechanism. This continued acknowledgement of the importance of working with tribes and eventually led to the creation of AIEO in 1994, though at the time it was known as the "Office of Indian Affairs."

Twenty years later, EPA continues to strengthen our partnership with tribes to build program capacity to manage environmental programs and to protect human health and the environment. AIEO is currently grouped into three teams. The Grants and Technical Assistance team manages EPA funding to tribes and intertribal consortia. This funding is used to develop tribal program capacity to manage federal environmental programs or assist EPA with the implementation of such programs. The Law and Policy team assists the EPA in understanding tribal legal and policy issues of national significance. This includes working with EPA staff in headquarters and the regional offices to identify tribal interests and concerns and to ensure federal environmental programs are as strong inside Indian country as they are outside of Indian country. The Outreach and Partnerships team works to sustain and strengthen our existing tribal partnerships, while leveraging opportunities for new partnerships. The cross-cutting communications and web teams ensure that we're informing our stakeholders and listening to our tribal government partners, while also managing new initiatives like our partnership with tribal colleges. AIEO Director JoAnn Chase and AIEO Deputy Director Karin Koslow oversee all teams as they lead EPA's efforts to protect human health and the environment of federally recognized tribes by supporting implementation of federal

*Continued on Page 3*



# AIEO Overview, Cont.

Continued from Page 2



Reaffirmation of the Indian Policy

environmental laws consistent with the federal trust responsibility, the government-to-government relationship, and the EPA Indian Policy.

As we celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our EPA Indian Policy, we welcome you to join us in looking back at how far we've come, and how much more we can accomplish together.

For further information, please contact the American Indian Environmental Office at (202) 564-0303 or visit the AIEO Tribal Portal at [www.epa.gov/tribalportal](http://www.epa.gov/tribalportal). We would love to hear from you!

## Grant Opportunities

**Reduce Diesel Emissions at Ports—Proposals due by December 11, 2014.** EPA anticipates awarding between two and five assistance agreements (a total of \$5 million) to establish clean diesel projects aimed at reducing emissions from marine and inland water ports located in areas of poor air quality. Applicants may request up to \$2 million in funding toward eligible projects. Port authorities, governmental or quasi-governmental public agencies that operate ports, and state and local governments with jurisdiction over transportation or air quality are eligible to apply. Community groups, terminal operators, shipping carriers, and other related entities are encouraged to participate through partnerships with eligible applicants. Projects may include drayage trucks, marine engines, locomotives, and cargo handling equipment at marine or inland water ports. Funding is limited to projects at ports located in areas of poor air quality; the list of eligible areas for this proposal request can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/ports/documents/fy14-ports-county-area-list.pdf>. For more information, go to <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/ports/ports-dera-rfp.htm>.

**2015 Environmental Justice Small Grants (EJSG) Program— Proposals due by December 15, 2014.** EPA anticipates awarding up to four grants per EPA region in amounts of up to \$30,000 per award for a two-year project (a total of \$1.2 million). The EJSG Program is for non-profit groups and tribal communities to address local environmental and/or public health issues within an affected community. The Program is designed to help eligible non-profit organizations and tribal communities understand and address exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks at the local level. This year's projects will have a special emphasis on proposals supporting community-based preparedness and resilience efforts (community climate resiliency). In an effort to ensure that support reaches new areas, the Agency is also prioritizing funding to organizations that have not recently received an award under the EJSG Program. For more information, go to <http://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-smgrants.html>.

*For more information about these and other EPA Grant opportunities, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/>.*

# Little Traverse Bay Bands Reduces Energy Usage

By Cynthia Meyer, EPA Region 5 and  
Jon Mauchmar, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians

Little Traverse Bay Bands (LTBB) of Odawa Indians in Michigan is working to reduce energy use by 25 percent by 2020. The Tribe is using EPA's Energy Star Portfolio Manager to develop a baseline of their energy usage and to plan for how they can reduce energy consumption in the future. Little Traverse has hosted an air quality and energy efficiency informational booth during Earth Day to increase awareness in tribal citizens and community members regarding air quality issues and energy efficiency. In addition, Little Traverse is also working with the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment graduate students on an energy project. They are working with the Indian Health Service (IHS) (Federal agency within the Department of Health and Human Services) to share their energy baseline including costs for the health clinic. They hope to be able to partner with IHS in the future for funding an energy audit.

Finally, Little Traverse shared their work experience on energy efficiency during a Region 5 Energy Star webinar that was held on Tuesday September 23, 2014. This call was held to educate the tribes in Region 5 on EPA tools and programs such as Energy Star's Portfolio Manager, EPA's Home Energy Yardstick Program and EPA's Indoor AirPLUS programs.



Symbol printed with permission from the  
Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Tribe



Pictured (left to right): Kevin Hurrell - LTBB Environmental Emergency Response Specialist, Jon Mauchmar – LTBB Environmental Specialist, and the wastewater treatment team from Odawa Casino Resort.

The photo to the left was taken at the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Earth Day event at the tribal government center. Approximately 100 tribal members visited the LTBB Environmental Services staff and discussed environmental concerns or commented on the work currently taking place. The displays included: soil sampling equipment, spill cleanup gear, EPA brochures on air quality and energy efficiency, free Energy Star certified CFL light bulbs, information on local air quality and the AirNow forecasting website. The wastewater treatment crew showed off their work with a fish tank containing live, healthy fish in their treated water. They also provided educational materials on things that should not be flushed.

# Wood Smoke and Wood Stove Interventions Grants Awarded

Two, five-year wood smoke and wood stove interventions grants have been awarded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). The first grant study will focus on a strategy to reduce exposure to indoor biomass wood smoke among elderly tribal members in two reservation communities: Nez Perce and Navajo Nation. A tribal agency-led wood bank program will be developed to ensure that elderly and/or persons with need have access to dry wood for heating. An education and outreach program on best burn practices will also be developed. Through these programs, sustainable strategies for reducing personal exposures to indoor particulate matter will help lead to respiratory health improvements in elderly Native populations. This study will advance knowledge of cost-effective environmental interventions within two unique Native American communities, and inform sustainable multi-level strategies in similar communities throughout the U.S. to improve respiratory health among at-risk populations. For more information on this grant study, go to [http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/portfolio/index.cfm/portfolio/grantDetail/grant\\_number/R01ES022583](http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/portfolio/index.cfm/portfolio/grantDetail/grant_number/R01ES022583).

The second grant project will focus on wood stove interventions and child respiratory infections in rural communities—it will target 3 unique and underserved study areas that have demonstrated associations between wood smoke exposure and lower respiratory tract infections (LRTI) among children. Within rural mountain valley communities in western Montana, Navajo Nation communities, and in Alaska Native communities. The study will be conducted in homes with children less than five years old. Education and training will be at the forefront while indoor air filtration units will be introduced. Reducing indoor wood smoke PM<sub>2.5</sub> and child LRTI will be evaluated in hopes that a low-cost, educational intervention will be sustainable, and can reduce children's risk of LRTI in underserved Native and rural communities. For more information on this grant study, go to [http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/portfolio/index.cfm/portfolio/grantDetail/grant\\_number/R01ES022649](http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/portfolio/index.cfm/portfolio/grantDetail/grant_number/R01ES022649).

## EPA Burn Wise Program



Now is a great time to promote best burn tips to help keep homes warm and healthier. It's also a great opportunity to share the health and safety benefits of replacing an old wood stove with cleaner, more efficient home heating.

Approximately 10 million wood stoves are currently in use in the U.S., and 65 percent of them are older, inefficient, conventional stoves. Just 20 old, non-EPA certified wood stoves can emit more than 1 ton of fine particle pollution (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) into your area during the cold months of the year.

Smoke from wood-burning stoves and fireplaces contains a mixture of harmful gases and small particles. Breathing these small particles can cause asthma attacks and severe bronchitis, aggravate heart and lung disease, and may increase the likelihood of respiratory illnesses.

EPA Burn Wise offers the following tools to encourage best burn tips and to help improve the air and health of your community. To help reduce wood smoke in your area, share these tools with local media, partners and others to promote on social media, websites and newsletters.

- News Article: <http://www.epa.gov/burnwise/pdfs/kitarticle.pdf>
- Fire and Health Safety Fast Facts: <http://www.epa.gov/burnwise/pdfs/kitfacts.pdf>

# EPA Burn Wise Program Cont.

Continued from Page 5

- Four Easy Steps InfoGraphic: [http://www.epa.gov/burnwise/images/infographic\\_square.jpg](http://www.epa.gov/burnwise/images/infographic_square.jpg)
- Asthma Video PSA: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJQ4IVDDA6Q>
- Split, Stack, Cover and Store Video PSA: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yo1--Zrh11s>

Additional Health Resources and Tools: <http://www.epa.gov/burnwise/kit.html>

More Video and Radio PSAs: <http://www.epa.gov/burnwise/psas.html>

Contact [Herrington.leigh@epa.gov](mailto:Herrington.leigh@epa.gov) to order free Burn Wise brochures and posters.

Join us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EPABurnWise>

@epaburnwise on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/epaburnwise>



## Clean Power Plan Supplemental Proposal Signed

On October 28, 2014, EPA issued a supplemental proposal to the Clean Power Plan to address carbon pollution from affected power plants in Indian Country and U.S. territories. Like the Clean Power Plan proposal for states, this supplemental proposal sets area-specific goals for Indian country and territories and provides options for meeting those goals in a flexible manner that accommodates a diverse range of approaches.

**Comments on the Clean Power Plan Supplemental Proposed Rule must be received by December 19, 2014. Be sure to reference Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0602.**

For more information about the supplemental proposal, visit <http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/clean-power-plan-supplemental-proposal>. See also 79 FR 65481 for the published rule.

# National Congress of American Indians Annual Convention

On Monday, October 27, 2014, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy gave remarks at the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. The Administrator focused on the Administration's commitment to strengthen our government-to-government relationship with tribal nations and the important partnership between EPA and tribal governments. Here are some highlights from her remarks.

This year, EPA celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our 1984 Indian Policy. From that single step, we've made giant leaps in protecting the environment. The Indian Policy created the American Indian Environmental Office, and much of the tribal environmental work that EPA does today.

One of the successes we're celebrating is the General Assistance Program (GAP), which took us from fewer than a dozen tribes with environmental programs in 1992, to over 540 today. There's still a lot of work to do and recently President Obama requested a \$30 million dollar increase for the GAP program in his 2015 budget. And just last week, EPA announced \$5.4 million in funding for northern California tribal environmental programs.

We're also celebrating 30 years of strengthening our tribal partnerships, and we're doing more to make those partnerships even stronger. The Environmental Council of States and our own National Tribal Caucus held their first meeting as co-regulators. EPA is proud to have facilitated this meeting. And we recently announced a climate change subgroup, which I co-chair, at the White House Council of Native American affairs.

When we partner together, we learn from each other. And there's so much we can learn from you. That's the motivation behind working arm-in-arm with our tribal partners to integrate traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) into our existing work, including some groundbreaking progress in our superfund program.

One area we are constantly focused on, is environmental justice. Because ensuring clean air, clean water, and healthy land for all people is at the core of our mission. This July, I signed our Environmental Justice Policy to ensure that all tribal and indigenous communities have strong environmental and public health protection. A big part of that effort is solid waste management on tribal lands. EPA led discussions with the infrastructure task force and tribal representatives to take on solid waste management challenges in Indian country. As new challenges arise, and we continue to work to deal with stubborn ones, I encourage you to keep making your voices heard.

Thank you to the more than 60 tribes that we heard from on the hydraulic fracturing rule to cut air pollution. And know that your voice can continue to make a difference now, during the open comment period for our proposed clean water rule; the goal of which is to protect at-risk streams and wetlands that provide drinking water to 1 in every 3 people in the U.S.

And of course, speaking of new, complex challenges, we must stand together on climate change. We know that tribes have long been leaders in mitigating and adapting to a changing climate because they see the impacts firsthand. Southwestern tribes now face severe drought, affecting their crops and water supply. Coastal tribes brave changing weather patterns, which affect their fish and shellfish harvest, and lead to an increased frequency of super storms. And the list goes on.

It's clear that our government-to-government relationship is as important as ever. And we can act on these threats, together, with the President's Climate Action Plan. Under the President's leadership, we're doing more to make our communities resilient to the impacts we face. But we also have to cut the harmful carbon pollution fueling climate change in the first place.

*Continued on Page 8*

# NCAI Cont.

*Continued from Page 7*

That's why this year, EPA proposed a clean power plan to cut carbon pollution from our power sector 30 percent by 2030. Cutting this carbon pollution also reduces smog and soot, which cause respiratory ailments. And through our process, a supplemental plan will target carbon pollution from power plants specifically in Indian country.

So the need for action is clear, and I am counting on you to stay engaged to help us take on our climate challenge together. Our trust responsibility with tribes is precious. It's key to progress. And on all fronts, EPA will continue to recognize the United States' unique legal relationship with tribal governments, and double down on our trust responsibility with tribes.

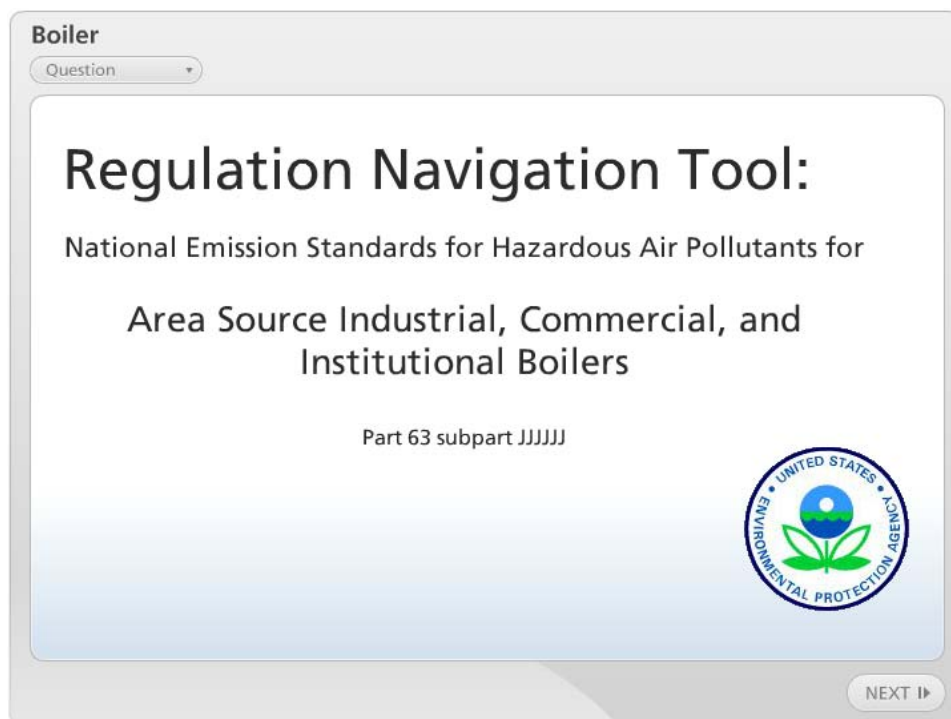
The tribal community has a powerful voice. And today, we are reminded of how much we can achieve when we work together. When we do, we can leave a healthier, safer planet for future generations.

## New Online Tool for Area Source Boilers

*By Melissa Payne, EPA  
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards*

The U.S. EPA has posted an interactive, online tool to assist in determining area source regulatory requirements for industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers (NESHAP part 63 subpart JJJJJJ). This interactive tool leads the user through a series of questions to determine the regulatory requirements for a specific boiler.

The direct link to this tool is <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/regnavboiler/quiz.html>. It can also be found under "More Information" at <http://www.epa.gov/airquality/combustion/compliance/index.html>.





# 2014 Vehicle Technology Showcase

On Thursday, October 9, 2014, EPA hosted the 2014 Vehicle Technology Showcase at the state-of-the-art, National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory (NVFEL) in Ann Arbor Michigan. The showcase highlighted the advanced Clean Car technology that auto manufacturers are developing. The EPA also discussed the *2014 Light-Duty Automotive Technology, Carbon Dioxide Emissions and Fuel Economy Trends Report* which was released October 8th. The report is the authoritative reference for carbon dioxide emissions, fuel economy and powertrain trends for new personal vehicles in the U.S. The report also compares automakers' fuel economy performance in model year 2013. The trends report is available at [www.epa.gov/otaq/fetrends.htm](http://www.epa.gov/otaq/fetrends.htm).

The event showcased industry and many of the innovative technologies being developed to improve fuel economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the U.S. fleet. These innovations address climate change, cut our dependence on foreign oil, address the President's Climate Action Plan initiatives, and save us all money at the pump.

Technology advanced vehicles and components included Electric Vehicles, Hybrid, Clean Diesel, Gasoline Direct Injection, Alternative Fuels, and Stop-Start from leading companies. Some of the vehicles



showcased were the Impala (start-stop hybrid system), the Tesla Model-S EV (200+ mile range), the VW e-Golf EV (70+ mile range), the BMW i3 (range extender), and the Mazda with its Skyactiv technology which extends the limits of gasoline engine technology.

Manufacturers are making great strides in fuel economy and in 2013 fuel economy reached an all time high with an average of 24.1 miles per gallon (mpg); a 0.5 mpg increase over 2012, and an increase of nearly 5 mpg since 2004. This fuel economy improvement is a result of automakers' rapid adoption of more efficient technologies and

hard work by scientists and engineers in both the public and private sector, learning from one another, supporting each other, and taking actions that have created positive change in the industry and on roads and highways across the country and the world. As these new technologies and vehicles are being introduced into the market, consumers have more and more choices.

# 2015 Tribal ecoAmbassadors are Announced

On October 27, the U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy announced the agency's 2015 Tribal ecoAmbassadors, tribal college and university professors who work in partnership with EPA scientists to improve environmental conditions and public health in tribal communities. The announcement was made at the National Congress of American Indians' annual convention in Atlanta, GA. The ecoAmbassadors program funds research at tribal colleges and universities, bringing environmental improvements to schools and neighborhoods.

"Through the Tribal ecoAmbassadors program, we are strengthening an important partnership between EPA and tribal communities in addition to supporting research to combat climate change and improve public health," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. "This program allows EPA scientists and tribal professors to work side-by-side to improve public health and the environment in tribal communities."

EPA's Tribal ecoAmbassadors, along with their students, will participate in training, conduct research, and share proposed solutions with tribal partners.

At the end of this academic year, EPA's Tribal ecoAmbassadors Program will have invested over \$1.4 million in tribal communities, and provided 20 tribal college and university professors, and 150 students, the opportunity to work with EPA scientists. In addition, the program has produced several transferable online courses, created a viable construction business opportunity, and forged dozens of new partnerships to sustain the program's work.

EPA is committed to supporting the implementation of federal environmental laws consistent with the federal trust responsibility, the government-to-government relationship, and EPA's 1984 Indian Policy of federally recognized tribes.

This year's recipients are:

- \* **Fond Du Lac College, Cloquet, MN** – Dr. Courtney Kowalczak: To conduct research on using dragonfly larvae to monitor mercury bioaccumulation in tribal waters.
- \* **Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, NM** – Dr. Annie McDonnell: To create a living, GIS map of sustainability projects on campus and educate the community on major environmental issues, including climate adaptation and climate mitigation.
- \* **Northwest Indian College, Bellingham, WA** – Ane Berrett, in partnership with AmeriCorps: To conduct several projects, including model garden and landscaping plan creation, to help build a model of food sovereignty for the Northwest Indian College and Lummi communities.
- \* **Salish Kootenai College, Pablo, MT** – Dr. Robert Kenning: To enhance the effectiveness of local camas restoration efforts on the Flathead Indian reservation by enhancing knowledge of soil moisture and competition from invasive species.

Congratulations to this year's recipients!

Information on Tribal ecoAmbassadors or to apply:  
<http://www.epa.gov/ecoambassadors/tribal/index.html>

Information on EPA ecoAmbassador programs:  
<http://www.epa.gov/ecoambassadors/index.html>



# School Flag PROGRAM

Know Your Air Quality to Protect Students Health



The School Flag Program alerts schools to the local air quality forecast and helps them to take actions to protect students' health, especially those with asthma.

Here's how it works: each day the school raises a flag that corresponds to how clean or polluted the air is. The color of the flag matches EPA's Air Quality Index (AQI): green, yellow, orange, red, and purple.



On unhealthy days, schools can use this information to adjust physical activities to help reduce exposure to air pollution, while still keeping students active.

Encourage your school and the schools in your community to adopt the **School Flag Program** – go to [http://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=school\\_flag\\_program.index](http://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=school_flag_program.index) and click on the **Get Started** tab to begin!

**Your City or School**

Today's Air Quality Forecast

2/26/2014

Ozone ● Good

PM2.5 ● Good

Current Air Quality	Tomorrow's Forecast
Air Quality Index	Activity Guidance

## NEW! A School Flag Widget for Your School

A widget is a little graphic of information that you can install on your school's homepage. The School Flag widget has a picture of the flag your school should fly. The widget updates automatically, so you will always know which color flag to fly!

With the School Flag Program widget you can:

- ◇ Customize the widget so it has your school's name at the top
- ◇ Click on **Tomorrow's Forecast** to see which flag to fly tomorrow
- ◇ Click on **Current Air Quality** to see the latest hourly air quality reading
- ◇ See if it is a good day to go out for recess by clicking on **Activity Guidance**

For more information on the new School Flag Widget or to get started, visit [http://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=school\\_flag\\_program.sfp\\_widget](http://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=school_flag_program.sfp_widget) and click on **Create My Widget**.



**Green** means air quality is good

**Yellow** means air quality is moderate

**Orange** means air quality is unhealthy for sensitive groups (people with asthma or heart disease, children and older adults)

**Red** means air quality is unhealthy

**Purple** means air quality is very unhealthy

# Reduced Lead Exposure in Children Celebrated at Tar Creek — A Follow-Up Story

By Regina Chappell, EPA  
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

In our September 2012, issue of the *Tribal Air News*, we reported on the “Tragedy at Tar Creek.” The article talked about how two small towns in northeast Oklahoma became a superfund site. Much of the Tar Creek site is in the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma territories. This article is to follow-up on the progress being made to improve children’s health in that area.

In 1850, the first mining activities took place and by 1926, the area became the world’s largest source of lead and zinc. The population soared to 20,000 and generated over 1 billion dollars. However, by the 1960’s, mining had ceased due to environmental impacts especially from a mining by product called “chat.” Chat is fragments of siliceous rock, limestone, and dolomite. The Tar Creek site was once home to over 75 million tons of chat sitting in piles as high as a 13-story building. Seepage from the mining operations and chat piles contaminated the area—land and water.

Children in these areas of Oklahoma have historically been exposed to high levels of lead from the former mining areas in and around the Tar Creek Superfund site. In 1997, 21.5 percent of children living near Tar Creek showed elevated blood lead levels, defined as readings above 10 µg/dl (micrograms per deciliter). For the same year, 12.61 percent of children living in Ottawa County, Oklahoma, showed elevated levels.

Over 30 years later, the U.S. EPA and its partners in Oklahoma can celebrate a significant achievement in children’s health—since 1997, blood lead levels of children in Ottawa County and Tar Creek have drastically declined, with 0 percent of children in these areas showing elevated levels by 2013.

Through EPA, state, and tribal cleanup activities, lead-contaminated soil has been removed from 2,887 residential yards and public properties in the area. With additional funding from EPA, the Ottawa County Health Department has worked to increase community awareness about lead poisoning prevention and the importance of blood lead screening for children. These activities have achieved striking results, with 0 percent of area children showing elevated levels in 2013.

“The children of Tar Creek and Ottawa County are healthier today because of the teamwork and dedication of many public health organizations,” said Regional Administrator Ron Curry. “I congratulate this team on improving children’s health today, and protecting future generations from further harm from lead exposure.”

Children six years old and younger are most vulnerable to the effects of lead because their growing bodies absorb more lead than adults, and their nervous systems are more sensitive to lead’s damaging effects. Children can be exposed to lead by putting their hands and other objects that can have lead from dust or soil on them into their mouths, inhaling lead dust from lead-based paint or contaminated soil, or consuming food or water containing lead. Children are different from adults in how they interact with their environment and how their health may be affected by these interactions.

For more information about protecting children's environmental health, visit <http://www2.epa.gov/children>.

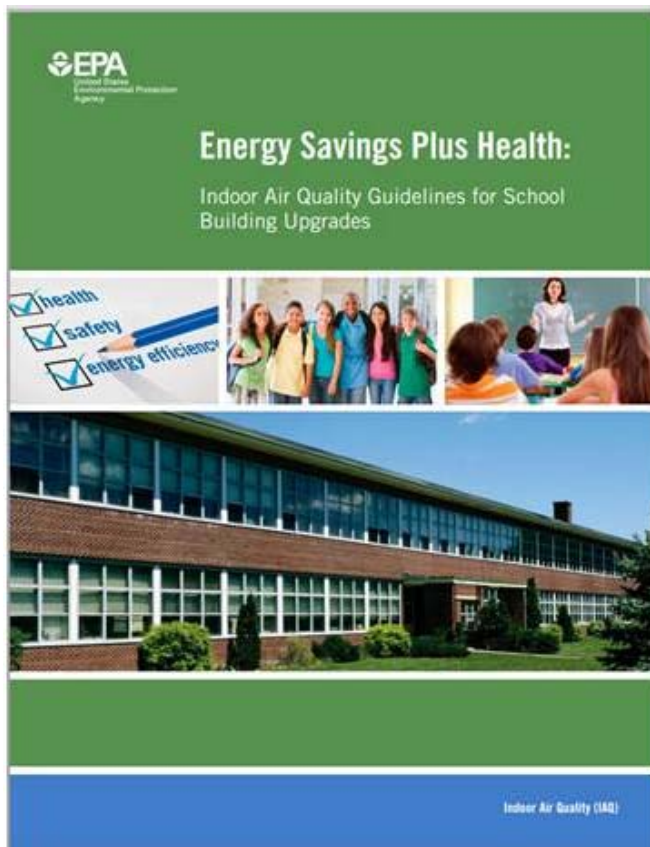


# New Guidance — Indoor Air Quality During School Renovations

On October 17, 2014, EPA released new guidance to help school districts protect indoor air quality while increasing energy efficiency during school renovations. The guidance, Energy Savings Plus Health: Indoor Air Quality Guidelines for School Building Upgrades will help school officials protect and improve indoor air quality (IAQ) in schools during building upgrades, particularly energy efficiency upgrades and building renovations. This document describes the opportunities such undertakings present to reduce energy costs and improve student health by addressing 23 specific priority issues and contaminants commonly associated with building upgrades.

Both energy management and protection of IAQ are important considerations for school facility management during energy upgrades and retrofits, and schools can protect occupant health by addressing both goals holistically. These renovation and construction activities can create dust, introduce new contaminants and contaminant pathways, create or aggravate moisture problems, and result in inadequate ventilation in occupied spaces.

The practices outlined in the new guidance support schools as healthy, energy-efficient buildings that play a significant role in local communities. Nearly 55 million elementary and secondary students occupy our schools, as well as 7 million teachers, faculty and staff. In addition, many communities use school buildings after regular school hours as after-care facilities, recreation centers, meeting places and emergency shelters during natural disasters.



For more than a decade, EPA has made significant strides in protecting children's health in schools by equipping personnel at the state, district and school level with the necessary knowledge and tools to create healthy indoor environments. The new guidance builds on EPA's existing programs, such as [ENERGY STAR](#) for schools and [Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools](#), which helps schools identify, resolve and prevent air quality problems, often with low- and no-cost measures.

Today, half of the schools in the U.S. have adopted IAQ management plans, the majority of which are based on EPA's IAQ Tools for Schools. However, there are still about 25 million children in nearly 60,000 schools who are not yet protected by IAQ management programs.

Visit [www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/energy\\_savings\\_plus\\_health.html](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/energy_savings_plus_health.html) to download the new guidance and [www.epa.gov/schools](http://www.epa.gov/schools) for other valuable school environmental health resources.

# Regulatory Updates

Carbon Pollution Standards for Modified and Reconstructed Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units proposed rule—signed June 2, 2014. [79 FR 34959](#)

Carbon Pollution Emission guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units proposed rule—signed June 2, 2014. [79 FR 34829](#)

Standards of Performance for Grain Elevators proposed rule—signed June 27, 2014. [79 FR 39241](#)

Standards of Performance for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills proposed rule—signed June 30, 2014. [79 FR 41795](#)

Emission Guidelines and Compliance Times for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills advanced notice of proposed rule—signed June 30, 2014. [79 FR 41771](#)

Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Reconsideration of Additional Provisions of New Source Performance Standards proposed rule—signed July 1, 2014. [79 FR 41751](#)

National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) Residual Risk and Technology Review (RTR) for Flexible Polyurethane Foam Production final rule—signed July 29, 2014. [79 FR 48073](#)

NESHAP for Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines; New Source Performance Standards for Stationary Internal Combustion Engines notice of final decision on reconsideration—signed August 1, 2014. [79 FR 48072](#)

Revisions to Ambient Monitoring Quality Assurance and Other Requirements proposed rule—signed August 13, 2014. [79 FR 54355](#)

NESHAPs: Ferroalloys Production supplemental notice of proposed rule—signed September 4, 2014. [79 FR 60237](#)

Revisions to Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements, and Confidentiality Determinations Under the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program final rule—signed September 26, 2014. [79 FR 63749](#)

NESHAP RTR for the Mineral Wool and Wool Fiberglass Industries; NESHAP for Wool Fiberglass Area Sources proposed rule—signed October 15, 2014; **comment period ends December 15, 2014.** [79 FR 68011](#)

Phosphoric Acid Manufacturing and Phosphate Fertilizer Production RTR and Standards of Performance for Phosphate Processing proposed rule—signed October 21, 2014; **comment period ends December 22, 2014.** [79 FR 66511](#)

Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: EGUs in Indian Country and U.S. Territories; Multi-Jurisdictional Partnerships supplemental proposed rule—signed October 28, 2014; **comment period ends December 19, 2014.** [79 FR 65481](#)

NESHAP for the Portland Cement Manufacturing Industry and Standards of Performance for Portland Cement Plants: Amendments proposed rule—signed November 4, 2014; **comment period ends January 20, 2015.** [79 FR 68821](#)

NESHAPs: Primary Aluminum Reduction Plants supplemental notice of proposed rule—signed November 13, 2014.

NESHAPs: Secondary Aluminum Production supplemental notice of proposed rule—signed November 13, 2014.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for Ozone proposed rule—signed November 25, 2014.

The Tribal Air News is produced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Outreach and Information Division, Community and Tribal Programs Group. The newsletter is produced and distributed electronically. For more information about the newsletter or to contribute stories and pictures, please contact: Regina Chappell at [chappell.regina@epa.gov](mailto:chappell.regina@epa.gov).



## Contact Us

US EPA / OAQPS / OID  
109 TW Alexander Drive  
C-304-3  
RTP, NC 27711

(919) 541-3650—phone  
(919) 541-0942—fax

[chappell.regina@epa.gov](mailto:chappell.regina@epa.gov)

Visit us on the web at  
[www.epa.gov/oar/tribal](http://www.epa.gov/oar/tribal).

# Tribal Training

[http://www4.nau.edu/itep/air/  
training\\_aq.asp](http://www4.nau.edu/itep/air/training_aq.asp)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Training Course</i>	<i>Where</i>
<b>2015</b>		
Jan 13—16	Air Quality Computations	Las Vegas, NV
Feb 3—6	Clean Air Act and Permitting	Las Vegas, NV
Mar 2—6	Air Pollution Technology	Flagstaff, AZ
Apr 7—9	GIS for Air Quality	Las Vegas, NV
Apr 14—16	Indoor Air Quality in Tribal Communities	TBD
Apr 28—30	Air Pollution Modeling	Las Vegas, NV
June 2—5	Introduction to Tribal Air Quality	TBD
Sept 1—3	Treatment as a State (TAS)	TBD
Spring 2015	Climate Change Science and Outreach	Web Based
Spring 2015	Emissions Inventory—Fundamentals	Web Based