



“The Official Newsletter of the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council”

**ITEC
MEMBER TRIBES**

- Absentee-Shawnee Tribe
- Alabama-Coushatta Tribe
- Alabama-Quassarte Tribe
- Apache Tribe
- Caddo Nation
- Cherokee Nation
- Cheyenne/Arapaho Tribes
- Citizen Potawatomi Nation
- Comanche Nation
- Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
- Delaware Nation
- Delaware Tribe
- Eastern Shawnee Tribe
- Fort Sill Apache Tribe
- Iowa Tribe
- Jicarilla Apache Nation
- Kaw Nation
- Kialegee Tribal Town
- Kickapoo Tribe
- Kiowa Tribe
- Miami Tribe
- Modoc Tribe
- Muscogee Nation
- Osage Nation
- Otoe-Missouria Tribe
- Ottawa Tribe
- Pawnee Nation
- Peoria Tribe
- Ponca Tribe
- Pueblo of Laguna
- Pueblo of Pojoaque
- Pueblo of Santa Clara
- Pueblo of Taos
- Pueblo of Tesuque
- Quapaw Nation
- Sac & Fox Nation
- Seminole Nation
- Seneca-Cayuga Nation
- Shawnee Tribe
- Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
- Tonkawa Tribe
- Wichita & Affiliated Tribes
- Wyandotte Nation
- Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
- Zuni Tribe

RTOC MEETING

Regional Tribal Operations Committee meetings were held November 30– December 1, 2022 in a virtual format. Approximately 130 representatives from Tribes and EPA attended both the tribal caucus and RTOC Meeting. Topics on the agenda included:

Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum, Approval of Minutes, Tribal Leader Roundtable Discussion, Action Items from Leadership Discussion, CWA 319 Tribal Consultation, Joint RTOC Meeting with Region 8 Discussion, RTOC Executive Committee Nominations and Elections, NTC Representative Nominations and Elections, Tribal Partnership Group Nominations and Elections.

The following items were also on the agenda: the 2022 GAP Guidance Training, GAP Allocation, SAFETEA Update, Inflation Reduction Act, Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law and Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Program. National Tribal Air Association (NTAA), Tribal Environmental Coalition of Oklahoma Report (TECO), Inter Tribal Resource Advisory Committee (IRAC), Texas and Louisiana Tribes updates were also given.

The Tribal Governance Group (TGG)/E-Enterprise Leadership Council (EELC), National Tribal Water Council (NTWC), Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee, Tribal Science Council (TSC) reports were given along with EPA Division reports. Tribal Consultation regarding the Clean Water Act and EPA’s Resilient Water Utilities initiatives were discussed. Dates were picked for the April 2023 EPA Summit and the joint Region 6/Region 8 RTOC meeting in July 2023.



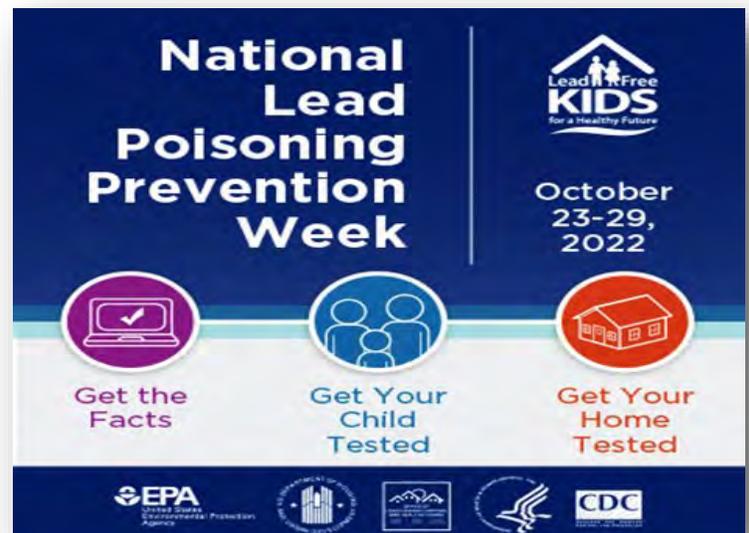


National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

Cherokee Nation Office of Environmental Programs kicked off National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (October 24-28, 2022) with a display at the Tribal Complex followed by an educational booth set-up at an all Employee Health Education Fair on October 27, 2022 which had over 150 attendees.

Each year, National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW) is a call to bring together individuals, organizations, industry, and state, tribal, and local governments to increase lead poisoning prevention awareness in an effort to reduce childhood exposure to lead. NLPPW highlights the many ways parents can reduce children's exposure to lead in their environment and prevent its serious health effects. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and our partners work to heighten

awareness of lead poisoning, provide resources, and encourage preventive actions during NLPPW and beyond.





Energy Conservation Poster Contest

By: Shaun West

Through a grant from the U.S. EPA Region 6, Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs (CNEP) staff initiated an energy conservation poster contest outreach effort for students in science classes at Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah. CNEP staff distributed information for the students to read in class and take home with them to their parents. Posters and supplies were given to the students and they were given two weeks to complete the posters.

A total of 53 students completed the poster contest and submitted their entries for review by CNEP staff. First, second and third place winners were selected and received a personalized gift. CNEP staff were excited to judge the posters and were amazed at the creativity of the student's work. "The kids had a great time doing the posters and the contest sparked conversations about energy



Gabrielle Billie, Victoria Robles, Lila Billie, Rayleigh Hyslope

conservation in my classrooms which was great" according to SHS science teacher Mrs. Brant.

"Having kids work on this poster contest was an excellent way to increase students and parent's knowledge of energy conservation basics and to make people aware of available state and federal programs that can help them conserve energy and save money." "Also, having students talk to environmental staff can lead to increasing their interest in other environmental issues often found in their homes" according to Shaun West Environmental Manager, CNEP.



Gabrielle Billie, Shaun West, Manager CNEP

For more information on energy conservation in Cherokee Nation please email Shaun West at swest@cherokee.org or call 918-822-2795.





IN THE DIRECTORS CORNER:

By— Shane Phillips Thlopthlocco Tribal Town Environmental



Where is your Tribal Community located?

We are located 7 miles east of Okemah on I-40 Exit 227 Clearview Rd. Our Environmental Department is in the Tribal Administration Building opposite the highway from The Golden Pony Casino.

How many community members are served by the Environmental department?

The Tribal Town is a Federally-recognized Native American tribe with over 1,000 members. The surrounding community consists of the city of Okemah with around 3,000 people.

How long have you been the Environmental Director?

I have been with the Tribe since October of last year.

As an Environmental Tribal Director tell us what you enjoy most about your work.

I like it when I can go out in the field and will hopefully be doing more of that soon. But most of all the people I work with are great and we have an excellent Tribal Administrator.

What are some of your current projects or future plans for your tribe's environmental programs to address tribal environmental needs or concerns?

This month we will be hosting our Fall Clean-Up and E-waste event going on for two weeks. We will have a roll-off dumpster positioned south of the casino on I-40 and the community is welcome to bring their junk and e-waste to be disposed of.

What have been your biggest challenges?

Since I am new and the only one in my department one of the biggest things would have to be the whole GAP grant application process which is still going on and it's almost October. Also updating some of the plans like the QMP and QAPP. This will get better with time when I am able to go to some trainings and meetings to help me learn the different aspects of my position, research the different environmental programs offered to the tribe and meet professionals in the field whom I can go to for assistance. I do thank the ITEC staff for the help they have given me so far and I look forward to working with them in the future.





Coming Soon: New Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant Program for tribes!

EPA anticipates releasing a new SWIFR funding opportunity to provide \$40,000,000 in funding for federally recognized tribes, including Alaskan Native Villages and intertribal consortia. This funding will help to develop or update plans focused on encouraging environmentally sound post-consumer materials management; establish, increase, or expand materials management infrastructure, and identify, establish, or improve end-markets for the use of recycled materials.

Learn more about each of these funding opportunities at EPA's [The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Transforming U.S. Recycling and Waste Management](#) web page.



TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SMALL CHANGES IN BEHAVIOR CAN HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON OUR PLANET!

WHEN YOU THROW SOMETHING AWAY, WHERE DOES IT GO?





Ft. Sill Apache Chiricahua Plaza

By Monte Scammahorn

The Fort Sill Apache Tribe is currently finishing construction of its new truck stop, Chiricahua Plaza, at its Reservation at Akela, NM. This project relied on ITEC's Phase I Assessment service and will include its own wastewater treatment facility with graywater recycling. We have also begun monitoring PM 2.5 with a remote air sensor at the Reservation as part of our CAA 103 grant. Other projects include the Tribal Complex converting from a rural water and lateral line system to an onsite well and wastewater lagoon system. This system will provide enough pressure for fire suppression, firefighting, and further complex development. Both projects were made possible by BIA ICDBG funds and ITEC Phase I Assessment services. These assessments were free to the Tribe and were very effective and beneficial to the Tribe's goals. The Tribe owes a debt of gratitude to ITEC for its continued service to its members.





SAVE THE DATE!
26TH ANNUAL TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT
APRIL 26-28, 2023
DALLAS, TX

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON ...

TRIBAL LAND STAFF NATIONAL CONFERENCE
12th

12TH TRIBAL LAND STAFF NATIONAL CONFERENCE
March 21-23, 2023
 Pechanga Resort Casino
 Southern California

NTFAQ 2023
NATIONAL TRIBAL FORUM ON AIR QUALITY
May 1, 2023 - May 4, 2023
 Gila River Resorts & Casinos Wild Horse Pass
 In-Person • Online via Zoom

#NTFAQ2023

AUSTIN TEXAS

IAQA 2023
ANNUAL MEETING & EXPO
 February 19-22, 2023 | Austin Marriott Downtown
 #IAQA2023 | annualmeeting.iaqa.org

Bridging Tomorrow Today





Upcoming ITEC Trainings:

Risk Communication -January 19, 2023

Phase I Site Assessment– February 21, 2023



More information about trainings will be sent out at a later date.

For more information about ITEC trainings contact:

Shaun West

Phone: 918-453-5363

Email: shaun-west@cherokee.org



Check out ITEC's YouTube

Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC42GM_3wppOEPkgFEUj_CgQ

ITEC on the web

Visit the ITEC webpage for information on upcoming events, training and newsletters.

Please visit us at:

www.itecmembers.org





ITEC NEWS

“The Official Newsletter of the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council”

The Cherokee Nation Environmental Program (CNEP) publishes ITEC News each quarter. The mission statement is to protect the health of Native Americans, their natural resources, and their environment as it relates to air, land and water. To accomplish this mission, ITEC provides technical support, environmental services, and assistance in developing Tribal environmental programs to the member Tribes.

The viewpoints contained in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the USEPA or the CNEP/ITEC. Free and open discussion of all environmentally related issues is strongly encouraged. We also encourage submission of letters, comments, and articles from readers so as to promote a greater awareness among our people about environmental issues and to foster the free exchange of information, technology, and culturally relevant values of Tribal people.

*Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs
Inter-Tribal Environmental Council
P.O. Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465
Phone: 918-453-5009
Fax: 918-453-2904*

The *ITEC NEWS* gladly accepts and encourages your Tribal environmental information for upcoming issues and events. If you wish to contribute any articles in the next issue or for questions about this newsletter, please call 1-918-453-5148 or contact Jurene Shannon at: jurene-shannon@cherokee.org.

