



## *"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 (Creek) 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  
Thlophlocco Tribal Town  
Tonkawa Tribe  
Wichita & Affiliated Tribes  
Wyandotte Nation  
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo  
Zuni Tribe

## **Virtually Saving the Environment One Webinar at a Time**

*By Chelsea Jones, Cherokee Nation*

During the pandemic, ITEC has utilized technology to continue functioning business as usual, as many people around the world did. One of the major changes that was made is how meetings, conferences and workshops were held. EVERYTHING went VIRTUAL. Environmental Programs has been utilizing, Cisco WebEx Meetings and Events for nearly a year now and everything that has been done through this platform has been done successfully.



At first going virtual was a major adjustment, but now it has become a regular part of the job and everyone has begun to see all the good it has done for our environment. Going virtual has untimely decreased our carbon footprint! But how? No driving or flying to each meeting, conference or workshop equals a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions which in turn leads to energy savings, improved air quality etc. Going virtual isn't all bad, right?

### **Tips and Tricks** on how to participate in a webinar successfully:

***Before even trying to join a webinar you are going to want to ask yourself these questions:***

1. Am I connected to the internet?
2. Does my computer have a microphone AND speaker?
3. Do I have all of the call-in information or the link to join the webinar?
4. Am I webcam ready? This one is just a joke, totally optional!

***Now that you have asked yourself the questions above, let's get to those tips!***

- Ensure that your microphone is **MUTED!** Only unmute yourself when you are speaking to someone on the webinar.
- When the host of the webinar gives specific tips/logistics for that particular platform pay attention, not all platforms work the same way.
- Make sure your webcam is only on when you intend for it to be on and are actively listening in on the webinar.
- Be respectful of your background noise.
- Limit your distractions and avoid multitasking.
- If you plan to share your screen during the webinar ensure that whatever you will be sharing is already pulled up and ready to go before hitting the "share" button.
- Having a strong internet connection during webinars is vital. If your internet connection is not strong try to avoid using your webcam unless it is necessary for the webinar.





## **THE DIRECTORS CORNER:**

By Cynthia Naha, Santo Domingo Pueblo

### ***Where is the Santo Domingo Pueblo Community located?***

Santo Domingo Pueblo is located 35 miles north of Albuquerque and 25 miles south of Santa Fe. It is located in Sandoval County, NM.



### ***How many community members are served by the Natural Resources department?***

The entire Pueblo and its members are serviced by the Natural Resources Department (NRD). We are not technically an Environmental Department, however, we do have environmental programming that is provided to our community through such events like free trash week, recycling, and continuing to identify innovative strategies for outreach and education.

### ***How long have you been the Natural Resources Director?***

I have been the Director of the NRD for 3 years and almost 2 months.

### ***What are the primary environmental concerns that affect your tribal community?***

The primary environmental or natural resources concerns that affect the community I work for include but are not limited to illegal dumping issues and building a sustainable solid waste program with limited funding; water quality, as the Santo Domingo Pueblo sits downstream from the Los Alamos National Laboratory; Woodland smoke and the hazards to the health of the community, especially those of the vulnerable population; drought and enabling our resilience to ensure access to water quantity and security; food security and building our capacity to establish a network to continue to build a local food source and sovereignty; degradation of rangelands from overgrazing, a Brownfields site, and more.

### ***As a Natural Resource Director, tell us what you enjoy most about your work?***

Being able to develop working relationships/partnerships to address the many challenges faced in the community I work for and even beyond the Pueblo by working in a collaborative fashion across the states, regions, and even Tribal boundaries. Building the capacity to solve the challenges is also something that I enjoy about my work even if I do not see them in my lifetime. I do hope that others will see the dynamics of the work we are all involved in to protect Mother Earth, her lifeways, and our way of life as Indigenous and Native Nations. I've been in this field for close to 20 years and I have always had the passion and faith in the work we are doing as Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Land Managers, and I believe that in time, we will see the change we are working hard toward. I feel that it is imperative to challenge the status quo and to advocate for that change in policy, regulations and other laws that impact Indigenous and Native Nations; and that we are at the forefront of these discussions and are not left out or behind. Being an advocate and voice for building or rebuilding our Indigenous and Native Nations is part of who I am, and I would not change that.





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

The NRD and Tribal Utility Authority are always working to improve our solid waste collection and recycling efforts for the community as well as the Tribal Programs and Departments. Although the NRD does not oversee the transfer station or curbside collection program, we do our best to assist with monitoring illegal dumpsites through assessment forms, transporting recyclables and the collection/disposal of HHW. We monitor and collect information on the illegal dumpsites within the Pueblo boundary to capture what is being discarded and how we can plan for cleanup. We also collect this information so that we can input it into the w/STARS database as well as apply for state funding for abatement of these sites through the NM Recycling and Illegal Dumping Grant program. We've also been working to complete our ISWMP and once approved, plan to use it to increase our capacity to manage these problematic sites and to provide education to the community.

The NRD is starting on it's Treatment As State application for programmatic funding for a CWA §106 Water Quality Monitoring Program and as the NRD continues to build capacity for this program, we are hopeful that it will also enable an additional position for the department, and we are looking forward to developing a fundamental program. In 2022, the NRD will be updating it's EPA-Tribal Environmental Plan and will be looking at expanding our current capacity to include Emergency Response planning and Air Quality. The Pueblo has begun to build its knowledge and understanding of emergency management and the COVID-19 pandemic provided the opportunity for the development and implementation of this department and the NRD will assist with training opportunities.

The NRD also has projects that focus on Agriculture in which we will be building rain catchments for our rest and rotation demonstration ranches and forestry projects that require the NRD Forestry Crew to implement Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Forest Development, Woodlands and other field projects that are funded by the BIA, USDA-NRCS, and Bureau of Reclamation.



From L to R: Robert Fasthorse, Rex Coriz, Cynthia Naha, Kathy Ashley, Keith Pacheco and Time Tenorio.





## Leveraging Drones to Enhance Environmental Protection

By Chelsea Jones, Cherokee Nation

Many tribal nations are increasingly using drone technology to assist with field operations and project investigations. The usage of drones is continuing to grow within a variety of tribal programs and has become a major tool for tribes to collect information and complete projects more safely and in a timely manner.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is one of the many tribes that has integrated drone usage into their field work, mapping wetlands and collecting needed data for their tribe. For the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the main benefits to utilizing a drone is to save time, collect information and keep their staff safe from walking some of the more dangerous terrains. Information from the drones provide imagery to the Bureau of Indians Affairs; that allows coordination without their staff having to make multiple trips. Some of their lessons learned include having a visual observer for every flight, learning to fly the drone without smart features, and having someone familiar with the work the Tribe is doing and knows the equipment needed to be involved.

Other tribes such as the Passamaquoddy Tribe and Cherokee Nation have included drone usage into their Brownfield's Programs. Cherokee Nation utilizes a drone when conducting Phase I Environmental Site Assessments. The Passamaquoddy Tribe uses their drone for flying over unknown discarded waste and to document coastal erosion. The Bishop Paiute Tribe uses drones for projects like: solid waste surveys, cultural resource surveys, food sovereignty farms, nonpoint source streambank assessments and imagery for economic development projects.

Check out this recording from the EE2020 Webinar Series, [Deploying Drones for Improved Environmental Results](#). This webinar features an ITEC Member Tribe, Fort Sill Apache.

For basic drone usage questions contact Jurene Collis at 918-453-5148, [jurene-collis@cherokee.org](mailto:jurene-collis@cherokee.org) or Chelsea Jones at 918-453-5768, [chelsea-jones@cherokee.org](mailto:chelsea-jones@cherokee.org)



Drone footage provided by Cherokee Nation





## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

### WHY SHOULD I RECYCLE?

- ◆ It reduces the amount of waste that is sent to landfills.
- ◆ Pollution prevention.
- ◆ Energy is being saved
- ◆ Helps create jobs in the manufacturing and recycling industries in the United States.
- ◆ Helps conserve natural resources such as water, timber and minerals.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ Clean **PLASTIC BAGS** can be taken to Wal-Mart for recycling.
- ◆ **OIL AND FILTERS** can be taken to most auto parts stores for recycling.
- ◆ **MEDICATIONS** can be taken to many pharmacies, or to local law enforcement.
- ◆ **LATEX PAINT** is not considered hazardous, it can be solidified and placed in your household trash.

### WHAT CAN I RECYCLE?

- ◆ **PLASTIC** (Containers, Bottles, Tubs, Jugs and Jars)
- ◆ **PAPER** (Cardboard, Office Paper, Newspaper & Magazines)
- ◆ **METAL** (Steel, Aluminum and Foil)
- ◆ **GLASS** (Containers, Bottles and Jars)

\*\*All items must be clean and empty before they can be taken to a recycling facility.

\*\*EPA considers household products that can catch fire, explode, react, or that are corrosive or toxic as household hazardous waste?

**FOR MORE INFO:** *Earth911.com* has a database of recycling locations, and information on mail-in programs for various materials.

### What can I do to help reduce waste?

1. GET RID OF YOUR PLASTIC BAGS. Use your own reusable bag.
2. REDUCE FOOD WASTE. Only purchase food you plan to use or need.
3. GO PAPERLESS. Think before you print, use paperless billing and purchase recycled paper products.
4. USE REUSABLE. Instead of purchasing plastic water bottles, buy a reusable water bottle.





VIRTUAL 2021 NATIONAL TRIBAL FORUM ON AIR QUALITY

MAY 17 - 21

REGISTRATION LINKS COMING SOON!

SAVE THE DATE

HOSTED BY NTA, TAMS, ITEP, AND THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION



# SOUTH CENTRAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION SCIENCE CENTER

## 2021 Shifting Seasons Summit: Sharing Adaptation and Resilience Knowledge Across Indigenous Communities

*The summit will take place April 19-21, 2021 with a special Earth Day event on April 22, 2021.*

The summit will include climate adaptation sessions tailored to the needs and capabilities of tribes, and will focus on the development of in-depth case studies based on existing tribal adaptation work in the Northeast region. This summit also includes relevant tribal climate change initiatives developed outside of the Northeast by capacity-building organizations, academic institutions, and tribes who have approved climate adaptation plans, thus creating continued network-building opportunities.

<http://www.nicrn.org/2021-shifting-seasons-summit.html>





## 2021 Oklahoma Recycling Conference

Save the Date!  
September 22-23



<https://www.recycleok.org/oklahoma-events-activities/2021-oklahoma-recycling-conference/>

**BROWNFIELDS 2021** SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES START HERE

We hope this message finds you well and healthy. EPA and ICMA are closely monitoring the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and are adapting our in-person conference experience in consideration of your health and safety. We look forward to seeing you at the National Brownfields Training Conference in Oklahoma City.

SAVE THE DATE: OKLAHOMA CITY, OK | SEPTEMBER 27-30, 2021

EPA | ICMA

## 26th Annual ITEC Conference

*More information coming soon...*





## 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.*

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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 1-918-453-5109 or contact Karen Dye at: [Karen-dye@cherokee.org](mailto:Karen-dye@cherokee.org).

