

AGENDA

Introductions (5 min)

Valerie's work with R9 Tribes (20 min)

Q&A (10 min)

Draft Tribal Resource Directory and a few more resources (5 min)

Ideas for EPA-Tribal Conference (10 min)

Next Steps (10 min)

Indoor Air Quality RTOC Session

JULY 22, 2021

A Bit About Me

- Recent graduate (May 2021) of Ripon College in Ripon, WI
 - Graduated with honors in Environmental Studies and History and a minor in Spanish.
 - Will be attending the University of Oklahoma in August to attain my Master's Degree in Geography and Environmental Sustainability with a Certificate in Geospatial Technologies
- Want to work for the EPA after graduation
 - I have a passion for working with tribes and want to continue to incorporate this into my future career.

Presentation Agenda

1. An overview of my project
2. Helpful resources
3. A walk-through of Region 10's example GAP workplan and examples from Region 9



Picture Credit: City Council, 2020

My Project

An Overview of My Project

Host Site: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 Indoor Environments Team (Virtual)

- Start date: June 07, 2021.
- End date: July 30, 2021.

Project Description:

- As the ITEP (Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals) Intern, I worked with various tribes around Region 9 who have a IAQ (Indoor Air Quality) commitment in their GAP (General Assistance Program) workplan.
- I contacted them by phone or Zoom and offered to provide technical assistance, answer questions, and share additional resources.
- I have also had the opportunity to attend a variety of webinars and meet various EPA and tribal staff members.

Project Outcomes:

- The main output for this project will be an associated report which addresses various activities and concerns that tribes have when implementing strategies to mitigate IAQ issues.

Methodologies

1. Making Contact

- Gathered info from FY 21 and 22 GAP workplans
- Supervisor and myself sent introductory emails

- Gave 7-days time
- Sent follow-up email

- Asked them a series of questions
- Recorded and organized the responses in a spreadsheet.
- Sent additional information as needed (FLAG program, IAQ basics, etc.).

Subject: Questions Regarding Indoor Air Quality and Technical Assistance (TA) Needs

Dear (tribal point of contact)

Hello! My name is Valerie Doornbos, and I am an ITEP intern with EPA Region 9 who will be working this summer on exploring ways EPA can better support tribes with their Indoor Air Quality Programs. To support this effort, I am reaching out to you regarding the Indoor Air Quality Commitment found within your FY21 or 22 GAP workplan. You might have heard about my project from Juliann Schroeder at EPA last week. I wanted to ask you a few questions regarding this work and also see if you would like me to connect you with any EPA or ITEP resources or technical assistance in this area. I may also be able to help you find peer support with tribes who are doing similar work if you are interested.

I would greatly appreciate a few minutes of your time on the phone if interested. Could I give you a call later this week? If so, please provide me with the times that would be most convenient for you, and I will give you a ring.

Thank you for your time and consideration in answering my email and I look forward to hearing from you.

Valerie Doornbos

California Tribes with IAQ Components in Their GAP Workplans

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Cahto Tribe | Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians | Cedarville Rancheria |
| Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians | Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria | Hoopa Valley Tribe |
| Elk Valley Rancheria | Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians | Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel |
| Cedarville Rancheria | Morongo Band of Mission Indians | Chemehuevi Indian Tribe |
| Big Sandy Rancheria | Northfork Rancheria of Mono Indians | Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians |
| La Posta Band of Mission Indians | Resighini Rancheria | Trinidad Rancheria |
| Guidiville Rancheria | Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians | Kashia Band of Pomo Indians |
| Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians | Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe | |
| La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians | Hopland Band of Pomo Indians | |

Arizona Tribes with IAQ Components in Their GAP Workplans

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe | Colorado River Indian Tribe (also CA) |
| Cocopah Indian Tribe | Pascua-Yaqui Tribe |
| Tohono O' Odham | Ak-Chin Indian Community |

Nevada Tribes with IAQ Components in Their GAP Workplans

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Washoe Tribe (also CA) | Reno-Sparks Indian Colony |
| Yerington Paiute Tribe | Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe |
| Walker River Paiute Tribe | |

Key Takeaways

1. Tribes want more opportunities to collaborate and converse.
 - Quarterly meetings?
 - Successful and unsuccessful projects.
2. The amount of information available can be overwhelming.
 - Year 1 vs. Year 4
 - The EPA website “wormhole”
3. Small tribal environmental offices
 - Work has been very slow due to COVID-19.



Picture Credit: Flock Talk, February 25, 2020

Other Questions

- EPA guidance on drones
- How tribes can clean up mold themselves
- EPA guidance on air sensors



Picture Credit: Residential Tech Today,
June 20, 2020

Helpful Resources

The Flag Program

- What is it?
 - “Here's how the Air Quality Flag Program works: each day your organization raises a flag that corresponds to how clean or polluted the air is. On unhealthy days, your organization can use this information to adjust physical activities to help reduce exposure to air pollution, while still keeping people active” (Airnow.gov).
- Helpful Resources:
 - <https://www.airnow.gov/four-steps-to-starting-an-air-quality-flag-program/> (A guide with the 4 steps required to begin a program).
 - <https://www.airnow.gov/about-airnow/> (A brief explanation of the AirNow program)



Picture Credit: airnow.gov

Mold Resources

- <https://www.epa.gov/mold> (The official EPA website on mold).
- <https://www.epa.gov/mold/ten-things-you-should-know-about-mold> (An interesting list of facts about mold).
- <https://www.epa.gov/mold/mold-cleanup-your-home> (This article provides guidance for cleaning up mold in homes).



Picture Credit: HGTV

Wildfire Smoke Resources

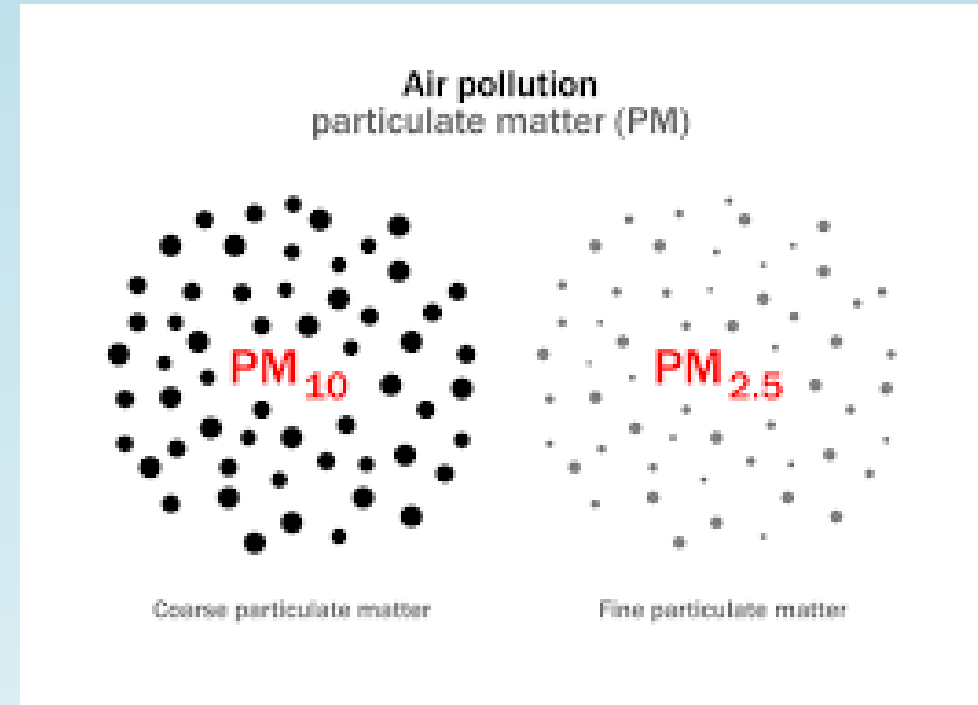
- <https://www.airnow.gov/publications/wildfire-smoke-guide/wildfire-smoke-a-guide-for-public-health-officials/> (Information for public health officials during a wildfire).
- <http://californiasmokeinfo.blogspot.com/> (You can check this blog for info about smoke and fires in your area).
- <https://fire.airnow.gov/> (This provides air quality data during wildfires).



Picture Credit: ucsf.edu

PM (Particulate Matter) Resources

- <https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution>
(The EPA's website on particulate matter).
- <https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/setting-and-reviewing-standards-control-particulate-matter-pm-pollution#standards>
(EPA's website on PM standards)
- <https://www.epa.gov/burnwise>
(The EPA's website on safe woodstove usage).



Picture Credit: breezeometer.com

Radon Testing and Mitigation Resources

- **#1 Item to Know: Fill out a QAPP (Quality Assurance Project Plan) BEFORE testing!**
 - https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-10/documents/tribal_radon_monitoring_program_measuring_indoor_radon_concentrations_using_name_of_detector_qappfinal.pdf. (A link to an example QAPP).
 - Keep testing!
- <https://www.epa.gov/radon> (The EPA's website on radon)
- <https://www.epa.gov/radon/find-radon-test-kit-or-measurement-and-mitigation-professional> (Link to find a radon test kit or mitigation professional).



Picture Credit: epa.gov

Air Quality Outreach and Educational Materials

- [http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/training/Webinars air 2021](http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/training/Webinars_air_2021) (ITEP (Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals) offers a wide variety of webinars).
 - ITEP is a great source of information and collaboration!
- <https://www.epa.gov/pacific-southwest-media-center/epa-pacific-southwest-videos> (Videos in Spanish and English on wildfire smoke and preparedness).
- Helpful Suggestions to Facilitate Outreach:
 - Consider offering food or another incentive (ie. Reusable water bottle)
 - Host meetings when people can attend (ie. Weekends, in the evenings)
 - Develop handouts to give out at the meeting, or include information in the tribal newsletter



Picture Credit: ICL Memphis.org

Additional Helpful Information

- https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2014-05/documents/healthy_homes_brochure_english.pdf (Tips to make your home more environmentally friendly).
- https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2014-05/documents/healthy_homes_brochure_english.pdf (Tools for schools action kit which describes low-cost ways that schools can improve indoor air quality).
- <http://npic.orst.edu/pest/ipm.html> (National Pesticide Information Center, with suggestions on approaching pest management).
- <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/indian-environmental-general-assistance-program-gap> (General information about the GAP (General Assistance Plan) grants).



Picture Credit: Community
Collaboration.umbc.edu

R. 10 GAP Workplan Example

Important Items to Consider

- Again, make sure to fill out a QAPP if you will be collecting data!
- Get feedback from your tribal council and PO about what you are proposing.
- Try to be as detailed as possible.
- Make sure to list your commitments and deliverables!
- Use the right template for your project (these are for projects with a main focus on air quality).

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-11/documents/r10-gap-tools-air-workplan-templates.pdf> (Example Workplan)

Region 9 Examples

Region 9 Example #1

- **Commitment:** The AQS (Air Quality Supervisor) will coordinate (in-person, via phone, email, project schedules, and approximately 1-3 meetings 45 minutes-1 hour or longer) with the Housing Improvement Program (HIP), Director, Tribal Housing, Tribal Council, and other partners relevant to this project in order to roll-out the use of best-practice protocols as a testing phase. The AQS will evaluate the testing-phase to edit/build on the best-practice protocols where needed. The best-practice protocols are a streamline process to assist others in identifying, managing, and addressing issues leading to poor IAQ (Indoor Air Quality). This is year 3 of the anticipated 4. The AQS intends to have the best-practice protocols adopted and practiced within housing programs, and to focus on the official adoption into Building Code as standard practice.
- **Deliverable:** The AQS will provide a list of dates/descriptions of attendance and include a summary of progress/status of best-practice protocols testing-phase throughout quarterly reporting.

Region 9 Example #2

- **Commitment:** The AQS will attend approximately 2-4 air quality training and/or workshops related to current and upcoming program activities/commitments on a quarterly basis to develop required programmatic and technical skills. Trainings average approximately 3-5 days each, and workshops are typically 1-2 days each. Trainings/workshops beneficial to the AQS include: Air quality training offered by ITEP/EPA/ NTAA/CARB/surrounding environmental and air quality offices and tribes with established air quality programs. Trainings/workshops offered are dependent upon other organizations schedules. The AQS will continue to complete any certifications or courses that were not completed in FY21.
- **Deliverable:** The AQS will summarize information gathered from each training and/or workshop, describe how the information learned will benefit the AQS and the Air Quality Program, and include certificates and topics discussed throughout quarterly reporting.

Region 9 Example #3

- **Commitment:** The Environmental Services Department will distribute monthly indoor air quality awareness information to coincide with EPA news releases (e.g. January = Radon Awareness Month, February = Cancer Prevention Month, etc.)
- **Deliverable:** Web site/Admin Building message board posts. A summary of activities will be included in EPA Quarterly reports.

Q & A Section

Thank you!

Requesting Comments: Tribal Indoor Air Quality Training and Resource Directory

Drafted by EPA in partnership with ITEP, NTAA and other partners

Requesting input by July 30th

- Are there any missing topics that should be included?
- Are there any resources missing?
- How do you think tribes might use this resource?
 - How can we best spread the word about its availability once finalized?
- Any other input or comments on the substance?
- As you review, please note that we plan to update many of the visuals/graphics. We would like them to be more specific to tribes.
- If you have any images that you would like to be included!

Please send R9 comments to: banos.alheli@epa.gov

Indoor Air Quality Virtual Course

Course Dates: July 26th to July 30, 2021

Course Times: Selected attendees should set aside 4-5 hours daily to engage in the course.

-Daily Live Zoom session: 10-11:30 am AKDT; 11-12:30 pm PDT; 12-1:30 pm MDT; 1-2:30 pm CDT; 2-3:30 pm EDT

-Homework: SLMS module completion (3-4 hours self-paced learning)

Application Due Date: July 8, 2021

Space is limited, please apply ASAP. Max of 20 participants.

Course Description: This entry-level course is designed to provide an understanding of common indoor air quality (IAQ) problems in tribal homes and schools. The course includes an overview of indoor air pollutants and their health effects, and tips for solving IAQ problems. This course will include a 1.5 hour daily live session via zoom. Much of the course content is conveyed in video recordings and activities available on the ITEP Scholar Learning Management System (LMS) online learning platform.

Topics Include:

- Indoor air concerns in tribal communities
- Overview of building science
- Mold and its health effects
- Radon
- IAQ and asthma
- COVID -19
- Hazardous materials in homes and schools
- Combustion products
- Instruments for assessing IAQ
- Outreach: prevention of IAQ problems
- Collaboration and resources

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course.

Please note: This course is a prerequisite for ITEP's Level 2 course, Indoor Air Quality Diagnostic Tools for Tribal Professionals.

ITEP Course: Indoor Air Quality

July 26-30

[Sign up here!](#)

Addressing Air Quality in Tribal Communities (for Beginners)

Course Dates: August 10-12, 2021

Course Times: 9am-2pm PDT; 10am-3pm MDT; 11am-4pm CDT; 12pm-5pm EDT
(2 hour session, 1 hour break, 2 hour session)

Course capped at 12 participants

Deadline: The application is due on Wednesday, July 28, 2021.

Learning objective:

At the end of the event, participants will articulate their community's main ambient (outdoor) air quality concerns and identify the resources (e.g., documents, contacts, training) needed to begin addressing air quality issues in their community.

Who should participate:

This workshop is for environmental professionals who are just beginning to address ambient air quality issues in tribal communities. No prior knowledge or background in air quality is needed.

Participants should:

- have less than ONE year of experience working in air quality,
- must be willing to actively participate in the community-based learning approach, and
- contribute to the assessment and evaluation activities.

General description of the event:

This event will focus on developing:

- a basic air quality assessment to identify main ambient (outdoor) air quality problems in a tribal community
- an action plan of activities aimed to address the main air quality issues identified in a tribal community,
- communication skills through presentations and guided discussions in an online community-based learning environment, and
- problem-solving and decision-making skills.

The workshop includes active participation in conversations, discussions, brain-storming, independent reading, exploring case studies, and conducting independent and collaborative tasks.

Topics:

- Basics of air quality: sources of pollution, pollutants, and their health effects

ITEP Course: Addressing Air Quality in Tribal Communities

August 10-12

(application due July 28)

[Sign up here](#)

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Topics:

- Basics of air quality: sources of pollution, pollutants, and their health effects

Asthma & Allergy Foundation Webinar: COVID and Your Family: Variants, Vaccines and Risks Based on Age Groups

July 22, 2021 at 1PM

[Sign up here!](#)

Tulalip Tribe Summer Smoke: The New Normal



Summer Smoke: The New Normal

Tulalip News



Summer Smoke: The New Normal

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/TulalipNews/videos/499438501135139/>