



EPA

# Tribal Air News

February 2013

Volume 11, Issue 1

## Continuing Conservation Beyond a Grant

By: Tracy Horst,  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma’s green motto is “Sustaining our people, our traditions, our earth.” With that belief in mind, the Choctaw Nation created a Going Green Team and began considering all of the options that were available to ‘Be Green.’ In the last 4 years, the tribe distributed reusable cups for hot/cold beverages to all employees and distributed reusable shopping bags to Choctaw people and

customers. Energy efficiency audits have been completed at all of the Choctaw Nation’s facilities and, in the last year and a half, over one million pounds of material were recycled through the Choctaw Nation’s public recycling facility.

Building conservation has also become a big focus. This conservation includes updating HVAC systems and lighting as well as installing vending machine misers and occupancy sensors. Grants were crucial in getting a program started; however grants are becoming more

grant is a great way to jump-start a building conservation initiative. Keeping the initiative going after the grant ends may not be as difficult as you might expect.

*“In reality, it is a part of our culture to protect the environment and to keep it beautiful for many generations to enjoy.”*  
Assistant Chief  
Gary Batton

| Inside this issue:                    |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Region 5—Tribal Air Resources Journal | 3 |
| Clean Air Excellence Award            | 4 |
| Advance Program                       | 5 |
| Training Calendar                     | 9 |



difficult to obtain. With that in mind, the tribe began looking for alternative ways to fund the program. Hiring a qualified Energy Manager through a

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has identified ways to keep the momentum going. The tribe has proven energy conservation efforts are a great way to be green and also save some ‘green’. In 2010, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma became one of six tribes to receive a Climate Showcase Communities grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The tribe received more than

Continued on Page 2

# Continuing Conservation Beyond a Grant Cont.

*Continued from Page 1*

\$189,000 to implement the Choctaw Healthy Energy Living Project (Project HELP), designed to promote energy efficiency in healthcare facilities through lighting retrofits. With this grant, the tribe was able to completely update the lighting in two Choctaw Nation health clinics and the tribal hospital. The hospital lighting retrofit included lights inside and outside the building. Entrance canopy lighting was updated as well as the replacement of metal halide lamps from parking lot lights to new induction lamps. The lighting updates allowed the tribe to reduce their electricity usage by a little less than 400,000 kilowatt hours (kwh) at an estimated annual savings of approximately \$21,500. This savings also equates to the elimination of nearly 292 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, 1,439 lbs of SO<sub>2</sub>, and 888 lbs of NO<sub>x</sub>.

A knowledgeable Energy Manager can make a significant difference on a project. The Choctaw Nation Energy Manager contacted the electrical energy

provider, Public Service Company of Oklahoma, to report lighting updates. The tribe received \$28,757 in energy efficiency rebates for the project. The rebate dollars are then reinvested into other projects just like the hospital and clinics which allow the savings to grow and continue.

From July through September, 2012, the Choctaw Nation was able to retrofit seven Community Centers that previously used T12 light bulbs. This was a \$24,234 project which received \$6,000 in rebate dollars and therefore would have cost the Tribe \$18,234 to complete. The \$28,757 rebates from the Health System updates more than covered the cost of the Community Center retrofits.

In order to sustain the program beyond the life of the grant, all rebates received will be placed into the Building Conservation fund along with 25 percent of the first year's annual savings. The combination of these two contributions should be enough to allow updates to



continue on tribal facilities while at the same time save the tribe dollars and reduce green house gases released to the environment as well.

To date, the Choctaw Nation is pleased to have reduced over 5,000,000 kwh of electricity and received over \$110,000 in rebates while spending only around \$380,000 in tribal and grant funds to complete projects.

*EPA's Climate Showcase Communities Program helps local governments and tribal nations pilot innovative, cost-effective and replicable community-based greenhouse gas reduction projects. For more information, please visit [www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate/local/](http://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate/local/)*

# Region 5—Tribal Air Resources Journal

*By Brandy Toft, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe*

The tribes in the EPA Region 5 area (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan), would like to share with you the 2012 Edition of the Tribal Air Resources Journal.

The goal of the Journal is to communicate and promote potential partnerships and leverage resources for Region 5 tribes now and into the future.

The tribes in Region 5 have been compiling this Journal since 2009 to better publicize our air achievements, obstacles and struggles with their tribal communities and their air resources. In this Journal, each participating tribe has laid out a one-page entry on those issues. Each tribal entry reflects the unique nature of tribes in Region 5 and the different issues they face.

Included in the Journal is a summary of facts for Region 5 tribal funding and involvement on local, regional and national venues. Located in the back of the Journal you will find an updated Region 5 tribal contacts list to contact Tribal Air Professionals for further clarification, discussion and potential partnerships.

This year, we have included a QR Code allowing for electronic reading. The QR code is located on the top left hand corner of the cover page and also included here.

Please share the Journal with all whom you think would be interested. We greatly appreciate your feedback and look forward to it. Each year this Journal grows not only in number of tribes participating but in useful content to assist you the reader. Please send any correspondence on how the Journal enlightened or assisted you or ideas for how it can be improved upon for next year to Brandy Toft, or Jeremy Howe at the

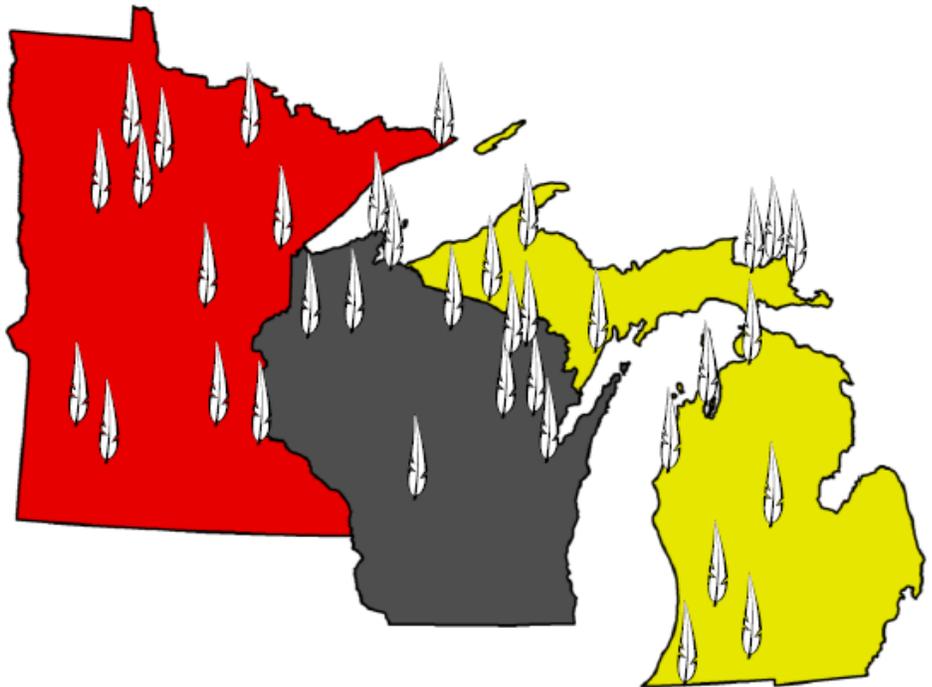


QR Code—Scan this code with your electronic device.

information below. Our goal is to reach out to everyone.

Brandy Toft  
Air Quality Specialist  
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe  
218-335-7429  
[air@lldr.org](mailto:air@lldr.org)

Jeremy Howe  
Air Quality Specialist  
Little River Band of Ottawa  
Indians  
231-398-2275



# Spokane Tribal Air Quality Program and InnerTribal Beat Recognized with Clean Air Excellence Award

The Clean Air Excellence Awards honors projects from EPA regulatory partners, industry and nonprofit organizations from across the United States for their work on clean air initiatives. The awards recognize innovative programs that protect Americans' health and the environment, educate the public, serve their communities and stimulate the economy. This year's winners included the Spokane Tribal Air Quality Program and their partners at KYRS Community Radio, in Spokane, Washington, for their radio show InnerTribal Beat.

InnerTribal Beat is the only locally produced Native radio show in Spokane. The radio show is a successful media venue through which a wider number of community members can access information about the importance of clean air, best

practices and community resources. The weekly radio show highlights stories and interviews with tribal partners about air quality issues in tribal communities. KYRS, the radio station airing the show, covers a listening area of more than 300,000 people. With signal strength now reaching three regional Native American reservations, information on air quality and other environmental education and outreach will reach tribal members who until now had no access to non-commercial radio. Show producer, Twa-le Abrahamson says "it has been great to be part of a community radio station that places such value in diversity. Through radio, we are able to educate listeners about our culture through music, and we can also share timely news and information to the tribal communities in the Spokane area."

"The 42-year history of the Clean Air Act is all about meeting challenges through commitment and innovation. The contributions of this year's award winners are continuing the Clean Air Act's progress in benefiting public health, our communities and the economy," said Gina McCarthy, EPA Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation regarding InnerTribal Beat and the other 2012 recipients.

For more information on this year's winners and the Clean Air Excellence Awards please visit

<http://www.epa.gov/air/cleanairawards/index.html>.

Twa-le Abrahamson  
Air Quality Coordinator  
Spokane Tribal Natural Resources

[www.spokanetribe.com/air-quality](http://www.spokanetribe.com/air-quality)

509-626-4403

[twalea@spokanetribe.com](mailto:twalea@spokanetribe.com)

**Portland Cement Manufacturing** - On December 20, 2012, the EPA finalized amendments to the agency's 2010 air toxics rules for Portland cement manufacturing. This amendment will maintain dramatic emission reductions from existing cement kilns across the country, while ensuring that emissions from new kilns remain low and allowing industry additional time to implement the revised rules. For more information about Portland cement, go to <http://www.epa.gov/airquality/cement>.

**Boilers and Incinerators** - On December 20, 2012, the EPA issued final adjustments to the Clean Air Act standards for major and area source boilers and commercial/industrial solid waste incinerators. These adjusted standards will achieve extensive public health protections by reducing toxic air pollution, including mercury and particle pollution, while increasing the rule's flexibility and dramatically reducing costs. For more information about boilers and incinerators, go to <http://www.epa.gov/airquality/combustion>.



Significant attention is focused on areas that have been designated nonattainment for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). That focus is appropriate given that those areas must work to improve their air quality to protect the health of the people living there. Rather than solely focus on problems that already exist, however, the EPA also encourages areas that are meeting the NAAQS (attainment areas), but that are possibly at risk of violating the standards in the future, to take some preventive steps that can help ensure their air quality continues to be healthy. The EPA started the Advance Program as a way to encourage attainment areas to be proactive.

**What is the Advance Program?**

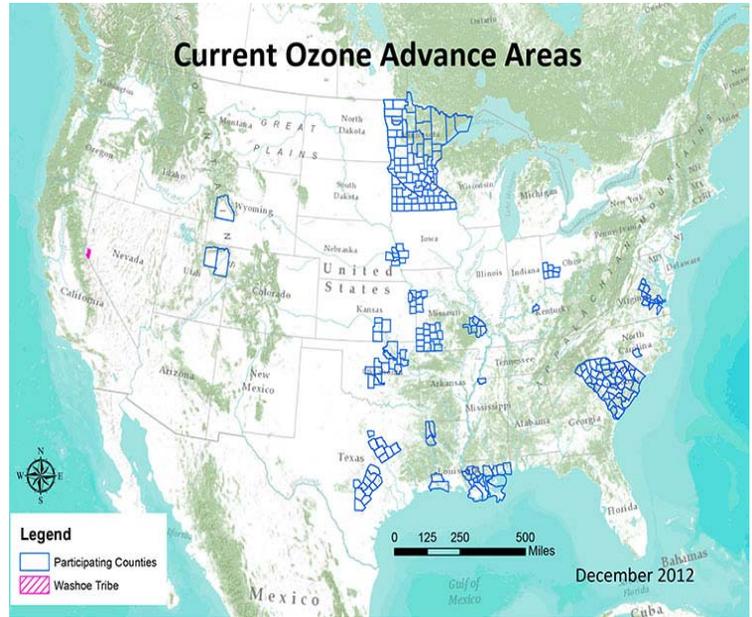
The Advance Program is a collaborative effort by the EPA, states, tribes and local governments to encourage emission reductions in attainment areas to help them maintain the NAAQS for ozone (Ozone Advance) and fine particulate matter or PM<sub>2.5</sub> (PM Advance).

The goals of the Program are to 1) help attainment areas reduce emissions in order to protect the health of their

citizens, 2) better position areas to remain in attainment, and 3) efficiently direct available resources toward actions to address air quality problems quickly. The Program will encourage the near-term implementation of local strategies and will emphasize coordination with stakeholders.

When states, tribes and local governments join the Advance Program, they commit to quickly selecting and implementing measures and programs that can reduce air pollution. The EPA provides assistance to support the areas' efforts; the types of assistance the EPA may offer will depend on each area's unique needs. For example, the EPA can provide technical advice, outreach materials, information about control options and available grant opportunities, and webinars on topics of interest to program participants. The EPA will not offer funding to

participants at this time and cannot guarantee that the steps taken in the Program will keep an area in attainment.



**Ozone Advance**

The EPA started the Advance Program with Ozone Advance in April 2012. Ozone Advance is aimed at helping attainment areas avoid violations of the 2008 (75ppb) ozone NAAQS and future revised ozone NAAQS. When the EPA began the Program, it was not clear whether many (or any!) areas would join. However, many attainment areas welcomed the EPA's offer of assistance and currently 30 areas within 18 states are participating. [Tribal in green; local governments in black; and states in red—see table on next page.]

*Continued on Page 6*

## Curent Ozone Advance Areas

| STATE | LOCATION   | ORGANIZATION   |
|-------|--|--|
| KS    | Wichita  | City of Wichita  |
| KY    | Jefferson County   | Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District  |
| LA    | Baton Rouge  | Capital Regional Planning Commission,<br>Baton Rouge Clean Air Coalition   |
| LA    | New Orleans  | Regional Planning Commission   |
| LA    | Shreveport   | City of Shreveport, City of Bossier City, Caddo Parish<br>Commission, Bossier Parish Police Jury, DeSoto Parish<br>Police Jury, Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments |
| LA    | South Central Louisiana  | South Central Planning and Development Commission  |
| LA    | Southwest Louisiana  | Imperial Calcasieu Regional Planning<br>and Development Commission   |
| MN    | Entire State   | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency   |
| MO/KS | Kansas City  | Mid-America Regional Council Air Quality Forum   |
| MO    | Southeastern Missouri  | Southeast Missouri Regional Planning and<br>Economic Development Commission  |
| MO    | Springfield  | City of Springfield, Missouri, Ozarks Transportation<br>Organization, Ozarks Clear Air Alliance  |
| MS    | DeSoto County  | Mississippi DEQ  |
| MS    | Gulf Coast   | Mississippi DEQ, Gulf Regional Planning Commission   |
| NE/IA | Omaha  | City of Omaha Public Works Air Quality Control, Douglas<br>County Health Department, and Omaha Council Bluffs<br>Metro Area Planning Agency                                |
| NV/CA | Washoe Tribal Lands  | Washoe Tribe of NV/CA  |
| NC    | Cumberland County  | Cumberland County Board of Commissioners   |
| OH    | Dayton-Springfield   | Regional Air Pollution Control Agency  |
| OK    | Oklahoma City  | Oklahoma DEQ   |
| OK    | Tulsa  | Oklahoma DEQ   |
| SC    | Entire State, except portion of York<br>County (nonattainment for 1997 standard) | South Carolina DHEC  |
| TX    | Hood County  | Hood County Clean Air Coalition  |
| TX    | Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos   | Central Texas Clean Air Coalition  |
| TX    | San Antonio  | Air Improvement Resources Committee of the Alamo Area<br>Council of Governments  |
| TX    | Waco   | Heart of Texas Council of Governments  |
| UT    | Uintah Basin   | Utah DEQ   |
| VA    | Caroline County  | Virginia DEQ   |
| VA    | Fredericksburg   | Virginia DEQ   |
| VA    | Hampton Roads  | Virginia DEQ   |
| VA    | Richmond-Petersburg  | Virginia DEQ   |
| WY    | Upper Green River Basin  | Wyoming DEQ  |

# Advance Program Continued

## PM Advance

In January 2013, the EPA expanded the Advance Program to include PM Advance. PM Advance will provide assistance to areas that are currently attaining the 1997, 2006 and 2012 PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS, and future revised PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS. Some of the current Ozone Advance areas are expected to join PM Advance as well; these areas will be encouraged to develop a multi-pollutant strategy to improve air quality rather than separate ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> strategies.

### Why should you be interested?

There are a variety of reasons why it makes sense to be proactive about improving air quality:

- Cleaner air means better health and environmental protection.

- Taking action to reduce air pollution now will help an area make progress before future nonattainment designations occur.

- Reductions in one kind of air pollutant are often accompanied by reductions in other pollutants such as hazardous air pollutants.

- Early emission reduction actions can generally be folded into State/Tribal Implementation Plans (SIPs/TIPs) in the event an area is eventually designated nonattainment. Although tribes are not required to develop TIPs, the implementation of early actions to improve air quality could help tribes who may want to develop a TIP in the future.

### How might a tribe become involved in the Advance Program?

A tribe could become

involved by signing up to become a participant itself, or by coordinating with a state or local government participant. State and local government participants will coordinate with tribal governments in order to alert tribes to actions undertaken by the state/local participant and to provide the opportunity for tribes to supplement these actions with measures/programs of their own.

### Where can you get more information?

<http://epa.gov/ozonemadadvance>

The program guidance is located at <http://epa.gov/ozonemadadvance/basic.html>.

Laura Bunte  
Advance Program Lead  
EPA Office of Air Quality  
Planning and Standards  
(919) 541-0889  
[advance@epa.gov](mailto:advance@epa.gov)

**PARTICULATE MATTER STANDARDS (PM NAAQS)** - On December 14, 2012, the EPA signed final revisions to the NAAQS for particle pollution. This rule strengthens the annual health standard for fine particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and retained the existing 24-hour health fine particle standard (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and the existing standards for coarse particle pollution (PM<sub>10</sub>). For more information about the PM NAAQS rule, go to [http://www.epa.gov/ttnnaaqs/standards/pm/s\\_pm\\_index.html](http://www.epa.gov/ttnnaaqs/standards/pm/s_pm_index.html).

**RECIPROCATING INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINES (RICE)** - On January 14, 2013, the EPA signed final revisions to the 2010 RICE NESHAP. In this rulemaking, the EPA addressed several petitions for reconsideration, legal challenges and new technical information submitted by stakeholders, including industry and environmental groups, which were brought to the EPA's attention after publication of the 2010 standards. The updates will ensure that the standards are cost-effective, achievable and protective, while continuing to provide significant emission reductions. For more information about the RICE rule, go to <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/rice/ricepg.html>.

# Burn Baby Burn, or NOT?

*“An air quality project by the Bristol Bay Native Association in partnership with the Aleknagik Traditional Council and EPA”*

## **Project Background:**

Concerns about indoor and outdoor air quality have been escalating due to heightened awareness of pollution sources and associated health risks. As fuel costs increase, more home-owners are burning wood to supplement their home heating needs.

To date, no data has been systematically collected to determine the type and age of wood stoves (and heating systems in general), and related harvest practices.

## **Project Description:**

The project is collecting information on home heating systems and harvest practices using a survey and a face-to-face interview. The survey focuses on stoves, steam baths and smoke houses.

A Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) was drafted to ensure data collected is valid and can be relied upon for its intended purpose.

Homeowners are offered educational materials on home energy efficiency, wood stoves, wood smoke, and wood energy fact sheets.

Data will be collected, analyzed, and presented to local leaders, homeowners, state and federal partners via workshops, reports and Tribal consultations.

## **Project Collaboration:**

The project is a collaboration between:

Tribal Environment Program (BBNA)  
Tribal Energy Program (BBNA)  
Tribal Forestry Program (BBNA)  
Aleknagik Traditional Council  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

## **For More Information:**

Sue Flensburg, Tribal Environmental Program Manager  
Bristol Bay Native Association  
P.O. Box 310  
Dillingham, Alaska 99576  
907.842.5257 or [sflensburg@bbna.com](mailto:sflensburg@bbna.com)



## **Efficiency & Sustainability**

### **Are we doing it right?**

- Are our wood and oil stoves efficient?
- Are we seasoning, storing and stacking our firewood properly?
- Are we familiar with EPA certified wood stoves?
- What type and how much firewood are we burning?
- How far are we travelling to get firewood?

## Tribal Air News

VOLUME 11  
ISSUE 1  
FEBRUARY 2013

U.S. EPA OAQPS  
109 TW ALEXANDER DRIVE  
C304-3  
DURHAM, NC 27711

Phone: 919-541-3650

Fax: 919-541-0942

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

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).



# Tribal Air Training

| <u>Date</u>  | <u>Training</u>                          | <u>Location</u> |
|--------------|--|-----------------|
| Feb 25—Mar 1 | Air Pollution Technology                 | Las Vegas, NV   |
| Mar 12—15    | Indoor Air Quality in Tribal Communities | Tucson, AZ      |
| May 14—17    | Weatherization and Indoor Air Quality    | Las Vegas, NV   |
| Jun 4—6      | Air Pollution Dispersion Modeling        | Flagstaff, AZ   |
| TBD          | Emissions Inventory / TEISS Training     | Las Vegas, NV   |

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