

NEWS

The Tribal Newsletter
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LETTER

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/TRIBAL.NSF/Newsletter/Issues> Vol. 17, No. 11 — November 2008

◁ CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS ▷

November

- 16-19 **2008 International Low Impact Development Conference, Westin Seattle, Seattle WA**
For information: content.asce.org/conferences/lid08/
- 17-20 **Tribal Energy Program Review, Renaissance Denver Hotel, Denver, CO**
For information: apps1.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/upcoming_events.cfm

Native American Heritage Day 2008

President Bush signed into law legislation introduced by Congressman Joe Baca (D-Rialto), to designate the Friday after Thanksgiving as Native American Heritage Day. The Native American Heritage Day Bill, H.J. Res. 62, is supported by the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) and 184 federally recognized tribes, and designates Friday, **November 28, 2008**, as a day to pay tribute to Native Americans for their many contributions to the United States.

The National Tribal Water Council (NTWC) is Seeking Nominations

The National Tribal Water Council (NTWC), a technical/scientific body of Tribal water professionals, is seeking nominations for additional Council members. The NTWC provides input to the Environmental Protection Agency Office of Water, and advocates for and assists Tribes by providing information regarding water quality issues. The NTWC is not a policy-making body, and its input is not a substitute for government-to-government consultation.

At its annual Washington, D.C. meeting earlier this month, the Council decided, by consensus, to seek three new Council members. The Council would like to add one member who has expertise about water quality issues impacting or potentially impacting Alaska Native Tribes. Other areas of expertise sought by the Council pertain to mining impacts on water, groundwater issues, hydropower impacts on water quality, and water quality threats to Native health (in Alaska and the lower 48 and Hawaii).

Please send nominations to: National Tribal Water Council, P.O. Box 1038, Chiloquin, OR 97624. The deadline for receiving nominations is Monday, **December 1, 2008**. If you have questions, please contact Kathy Hill at tribal_water_council@hotmail.com

Environmental Group Seeks Essays and Photos For Global Warming Book

Indian tribes interested in telling their stories about climate change to a larger audience may be interested in a project based on a partnership between Penguin Books and the Union of Concerned Scientists. Specifically, the two groups are inviting writers and photographers to submit their personal stories and images about global warming for a new online book, *Thoreau's Legacy: American Stories about Global Warming*, to be published in 2009.

To participate, contributors must write a 200-500 word first-person account of global warming that relates to their life or the world around them: a special place that they want to protect; people, animals or activities they love that are threatened by a warmer climate; or the steps they are taking to stem the tide of global warming. Contributors may also send a photograph related to these topics. The best submissions will be included in the online book and in a limited-edition hardcover version.

The deadline for making essay or photograph submissions is **November 15, 2008**.

Submissions may be made by going to www.ucsusa.org/americanstories

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EPA Releases Report on Climate Change and Health

The EPA has released a report that discusses the potential impacts of climate change on human health, human welfare, and communities in the U.S. The report, entitled "*Analyses of the Effects of Global Change on Human Health and Welfare and Human Systems*," also identifies adaptation strategies to help respond to the challenges of a changing climate and identifies near- and long-term research goals for addressing data and knowledge gaps.

The report discusses the challenges and potential effects of climate change, including unusual or unexpected weather, and how some individuals and communities may be disproportionately affected by climate change, including the elderly, the poor, children, and people with chronic medical conditions. However, the U.S. has well-developed public health infrastructures and environmental programs that protect our air and water, which can help minimize the impacts.

The Global Change Research Program in EPA's Office of Research and Development led the development of this report. It is one of 21 synthesis and assessment products commissioned by the U.S. Climate Change Science Program.

The peer-reviewed report is the most up-to-date synthesis and assessment of scientific literature on the impact of global change on human health, welfare and settlements in the United States. It was developed following the guidelines developed by the CCSP.

The CCSP was established in 2002 to provide the Nation with science-based knowledge to manage the risks and opportunities of change in the climate and related environmental systems. The program is responsible for coordinating and integrating the research of 13 federal agencies on climate and global change.

Information on Analyses of the Effects of Global Change on Human Health and Welfare and Human Systems: cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/cfm/recordisplay.cfm?deid=197244

The Office of Research and Development's Global Change Research Program:
www.epa.gov/ord/npd/globalresearch-intro.htm

The U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP): www.climatechange.gov/

Scientists Say Humans are Making Earth's Climate Warmer

Information on climate change is compiled and presented by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC. The group was formed in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Program and is run by experts in climate science from around the world. Hundreds of scientists contribute to the reports and the reports are meant to reflect the best understanding of the scientific community at the time and not to advocate any specific policy.

The current rate of warming is already much faster than normal, and if projections of future warming prove true, the change would likely be faster than at any time in the last 50 million years, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. And it's warming in most parts of the world, which wouldn't be the case with a natural cycle like El Nino or the Pacific Decadal Oscillation. The IPCC's main finding -- that most of the observed warming in recent decades is caused by humans -- is rated as "very likely," meaning scientists are more than 90 percent certain it's true.

newsmine.com/news/2008/jul/27/scientists-who-study-climate-say-humans-are-making

Annual Report to Protect Children

A new publication outlines national efforts to protect children from environmental risks over the last year. *EPA's Children's Environmental Health: 2008 Highlights* is the eighth in an annual series on work done in its programs, labs and regions.

EPA has funded research on how the environment affects children's health, promoted the education of health care providers, published information about how climate change affects children's health, and assembled data to quantify the extent of children's health issues. EPA is addressing environmental health disparities, issues during pregnancy, the rebuilding of communities with children's needs in mind and the health of children in our nation's schools.

Issues in the report include childhood asthma, lead poisoning, exposure to the sun, children and chemicals, integrated pest management, Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units and research findings.

More information on Children's Environmental Health: 2008 Highlights: [yosemite.epa.gov/oehp/ochpweb.nsf/content/2008_highlights.htm/\\$file/OCHP_2008_Highlights_508.pdf](http://yosemite.epa.gov/oehp/ochpweb.nsf/content/2008_highlights.htm/$file/OCHP_2008_Highlights_508.pdf)

Your Environment and EPA

"EPA has heard the voice of the people loud and clear! We're going to do everything possible to make participating in environmental protection a reality," said Molly O'Neill, EPA's Chief Information Officer and assistant administrator for the Office of Environmental Information. "We're using Web 2.0 technologies to give citizens a Web site that is more interactive, uses multimedia tools, and is better organized by what they want to do or know."

The new design includes: Links to immediate actions people can take to protect the environment at home or in their community: "How can I make my home more energy-efficient? What and where can I recycle? How do I learn about environmental conditions in my community? What can my community do to help to prevent pollution?"

Web 2.0 Tools to inform people on EPA activities: RSS news feeds to provide information to subscribers, Videos and podcasts, Widgets to put EPA information on their Web site.

Take your new Web site out for a "test drive": www.epa.gov

And please use the blog blog.epa.gov/blog/ to let EPA know how it runs.

About Energy Star

Energy Star was introduced by EPA in 1992 as a voluntary, market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through superior energy efficiency. Today, the Energy Star label is on more than 50 different kinds of products, on new homes, and on commercial and industrial buildings. In 2007 alone, Americans, with the help of Energy Star, saved more than \$16 billion on their utility bills while reducing greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 27 million vehicles.

To take a tour of Energy Star @ Work, go to: www.energystar.gov/work

Sewage into Drinking Water

A state-of-the-art water reclamation facility opened in California that is designed to treat sewage to a point of purity that will meet drinking water standards. To see animations of this treatment system's process and to learn more about the facility visit: www.gwrssystem.com/process/index.html

Interesting Web Sites

Check your air quality before you go - The Air Quality Index or AQI will help you reduce exposure to ground-level ozone pollution. AAQI forecasts range from code green, a good day to engage in outdoor activities, to code red, when you should use caution. yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/names/hq_2008-4-29_Air_Quality_Week

Plug-in to eCycling - Learn how to recycle cell phones, TVs, computers, and other electronics and help reduce greenhouse gas, save energy, and conserve resources. yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/names/hq_2008-4-23_E-Cycling

Pledge to fight climate change with Energy Star - You can use these set of steps to save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Taking energy efficient steps at home and at work can make an important difference in addressing climate change. yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/names/hq_2008-4-22_Energy_Star

Help your school with the online compliance tool for colleges - Find out what types of campus activities are regulated by EPA, see how best to comply with environmental regulations, how to apply for federal grants, and more. yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/names/hq_2008-4-1_compliance

Power, Buildings, Transportation, and Climate

The Energy Foundation accepts proposals on a continuous basis in the areas of power, building, transportation, and climate. The Foundation's mission is to advance energy efficiency and renewable energy, an essential component of a clean energy future. For more information, go to: www.ef.org

Projects on Tribal Lands

The Tribal Energy Program supports a variety of energy-related projects on tribal lands. Through these projects, tribes have built the institutional capacity to manage their energy needs, assessed the feasibility of energy efficiency and renewable energy installations, and have demonstrated the viability of installing renewable energy systems on tribal lands. To learn more about the Tribal Energy Program, or for additional information about a particular project, contact the DOE project officer or go to: apps1.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/projects.cfm.

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Renewable Energy Where?

Working with the Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the EPA has compiled a database of brownfields, hazardous waste dumps, and abandoned mines in all 50 states that could provide homes for renewable energy projects. The agency then created a nifty Google Earth layer that anyone can download and fiddle around with.

Building such projects on contaminated land has many advantages says the EPA. The land is cheap. Many sites already have existing power lines and roads leading to them (artifacts of the industrial activity that wrecked the land in the first place). And they offer good jobs in communities that are most likely economically depressed (because that industrial activity has moved elsewhere, and because people who can afford not to generally don’t live near hazardous waste sites).

There’s no shortage of contaminated sites. The EPA estimates that there are about 480,000 in the United States, adding up to almost 15 million acres of contaminated properties – a little more than 0.5 percent of the country’s total land area. For more: www.epa.gov/renewableenergyland/why_develop.htm

Wellhead Protection

Governor Gage of Jamestown, Virginia, understood the need to protect this area of land when he enforced one of the nation’s first wellhead protection ordinances in 1610. It read:

“There shall be no man or woman dare to wash any unclean linen, wash clothes, nor rinse or make clean any kettle, pot, or pan or any such like vessel within twenty feet of the old well or new pump. Nor shall anyone aforesaid, within less than a quarter mile of the fort, dare to do the necessities of nature, since by these unmanly slothful, and loathsome immodesties, the whole fort may be choked and poisoned.”

Arsenic

Arsenic is a naturally occurring metal found in rocks and soil, which can be released into the environment through geological events such as volcanic activity and erosion. Other releases of arsenic into the environment occur through industrial processes such as production of paints, metals, soaps, dyes, drugs, semi-conductors and wood preservatives, as well as in mining and smelting. From www.wqpmag.com/Arsenic-Zone8

EPA Sites

Nonpoint Source Outreach Toolbox: The Nonpoint Source Outreach Toolbox is intended for use by state and local agencies and other organizations interested in educating the public on nonpoint source pollution or stormwater runoff. The Toolbox contains a variety of resources to help develop an effective and targeted outreach campaign.

Stormwater Outreach Materials and Reference Documents: A set of materials that state or local governments can customize and use in their own stormwater outreach campaigns. The electronic files on this page contain space for officials to add their own contact information and inexpensively reproduce these materials. Also, you’ll find materials for the general public, homeowners, construction site operators, and children.

What you can do to prevent NPS pollution: Some examples of things we can all do to prevent NPS pollution. Nonpoint Source Pointers (Factsheets) - This is a series of factsheets designed to help the public increase their understanding and management of nonpoint source pollution in their community. www.epa.gov/owow/nps/eduinfo.html

USDA Rural Development:

The objectives of the Solid Waste Management Grant Program are to (a) reduce or eliminate pollution of water resources in rural areas and (b) improve planning and management of solid waste sites in rural areas. Rural areas are defined as any area not in a city or town with a population in excess of 10,000, according to the latest decennial census of the United States. Tribes, academic institutions and nonprofits are eligible. The grant focuses on landfill assistance as well as helping communities reduce the solid waste stream. For more information go to: www.usda.gov/rus/water/SWMG.htm

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Can Save Money and Time with 2009 Fuel Economy Guide

To help consumers make well-informed choices when purchasing new vehicles, EPA and the Department of Energy (DOE) have unveiled the 2009 Fuel Economy Guide.

Fuel-efficient models come in all types and sizes, so consumers can save thousands of dollars over a vehicle's lifetime without sacrificing performance. Included in the 2009 fuel economy leaders are diesel vehicles certified to EPA's tightest emissions standards. Consumers now have access to the cleanest diesels ever available in the U.S. marketplace.

Each vehicle listing in the Fuel Economy Guide provides an estimated annual fuel cost. The online guide includes an interactive feature that allows consumers to insert their local gasoline prices and typical driving habits to receive a personalized fuel cost estimate. Fuel economy estimates now include the revised test methods implemented in model year 2008. These revised tests better reflect "real world" driving conditions and habits, including higher highway speed limits and use of accessories such as air conditioning.

Joint DOE/EPA Fuel Economy website for detailed information on fuel economy, including a complete version of the Fuel Economy Guide to download: www.fueleconomy.gov

Comprehensive information about EPA's Fuel Economy program: www.epa.gov/fueleconomy

The Green Vehicle Guide website to locate the cleanest and most fuel efficient vehicles: www.epa.gov/greenvehicles

The 2009 fuel economy leaders within each class as well as the lowest fuel economy models: www.epa.gov/fueleconomy/overall-high.htm

319 Eligible Tribes

We have 6 new tribes eligible for 319 in Region 10: The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, The Puyallup Tribe of Indians, The Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, The Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, The Suquamish Indian Tribe, and The Yakama Nation. Congratulations!

Sleep, Does a Body and the Environment Good

EPA is asking organizations to join the Energy Star Low Carbon IT Campaign. By enabling the power management, or sleep mode, on their computers and monitors, organizations will help reduce our growing demand for electricity, and save money while fighting climate change. If all office computers and monitors in the United States were set to sleep when not being used, the country could save more than 44 billion kWh or \$4 billion worth of electricity and avoid the greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of about 5 million cars each year.

The Energy Star Low Carbon IT Campaign is partnering with the Climate Savers Computing Initiative, a non-profit group that includes technology firms, energy companies and nongovernmental organizations working to promote the use of more energy-efficient computers and increase the use of computer power management. Both efforts share similar goals and cooperate with each other on technical specifications and marketing through a strategic partnership.

By enabling power management settings, computers and monitors go into a low-power sleep mode after a period of inactivity. Power management has the potential to save up to \$50 per computer annually. Despite the significant savings, according to Lawrence Berkeley National Labs, only five to 10 percent of U.S. organizations have deployed these settings on computers.

To join the Energy Star Low Carbon IT Campaign, organizations simply take an online pledge to activate power management features on their monitors and computers to save energy and reduce their carbon footprint. Organizations can increase energy savings further by purchasing Energy Star qualified computers and monitors. In turn, EPA provides free assistance to help implement power management, an estimate of the organization's energy and carbon savings, and official recognition from the agency. Organizations can join the campaign by visiting: www.energystar.gov/lowcarbonit



Got E-mail?

Make the choice to receive this newsletter electronically. Send your e-mail address to Santina Gay at gay.santina@epa.gov

To Report Spills and Accidents

Note these emergency numbers to call in the event of hazardous material spills or accidents.

Alaska	800-478-9300	Washington	800-258-5990
Idaho	800-632-8000	National (EPA)	800-424-8802
Oregon	800-452-0311		

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**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Alaska Operations Office**

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