



“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
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
Tonkawa Tribe
Wichita & Affiliated Tribes
Wyandotte Nation
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
Zuni Tribe

National Healthy Homes Month



NATIONAL HEALTHY HOMES MONTH JUNE 2021

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/healthy_homes/nhbm

June is designated as National Healthy Homes Month by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Most people spend at least half of their lives inside their homes. Kids can spend up to 90 percent of their time indoors. Having clean air inside the home is important for

Tips for Keeping a Healthy Home:

Keep it Dry: Prevent water from entering your home through leaks in roofing systems, rain water from entering the home due to poor drainage, and check your interior plumbing for any leaking.

Keep it Clean: Control the source of dust and contaminants, creating smooth and cleanable surfaces, reducing clutter, and using effective wet cleaning methods.

Keep it Safe: Store poisons out of the reach of children and properly label. Secure loose rugs and keep children's play areas free from hard or sharp surfaces. Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and keep fire extinguishers on hand.

Keep it Well-Ventilated: Ventilate bathrooms and kitchens and use whole house ventilation for supplying fresh air to reduce the concentration of contaminants in the home.

Keep it Pest-free: All pests look for food, water and shelter. Seal cracks and openings throughout the home; store food in pest-resistant containers. If needed, use sticky-traps and baits in closed containers, along with least toxic pesticides such as boric acid powder.

Keep it Contaminant-free: Reduce lead-related hazards in pre-1978 homes by fixing deteriorated paint, and keeping floors and window areas clean using a wet-cleaning approach. Test your home for radon, a naturally occurring dangerous gas that enters homes through soil, crawlspaces, and foundation cracks. Install a radon removal system if levels above the EPA action-level are detected.

Keep it Well-Maintained: Inspect, clean and repair your home routinely. Take care of minor repairs and problems before they become large repairs and problems.

Thermally Controlled: Houses that do not maintain adequate temperatures may place the safety of residents at increased risk from exposure to extreme cold or heat.

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/healthy_homes/healthyhomes



USDA Confirms Box Tree Moth and Takes Action to Contain and Eradicate the Pest



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has confirmed the presence of box tree moth, *Cydalima perspectalis*, in the continental United States and is taking action alongside state partners and industry to contain and eradicate the invasive pest that was imported on nursery plants shipped from Ontario, Canada.

The box tree moth can significantly damage and potentially kill boxwood plants if left unchecked. Between August 2020 and April 2021, a nursery in St. Catharines, Ontario shipped boxwood (*Buxus* species) that may have been infested with box tree moth to locations in six states—25 retail facilities in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Ohio, and South Carolina—and a distribution center in Tennessee. At this time, the pest has been identified in three facilities in Michigan, one in Connecticut, and one in South Carolina, and APHIS is working with state plant regulatory officials to determine whether other facilities may be impacted.

On May 26, 2021, APHIS issued a [Federal Order](#) to halt the importation of host plants from Canada, including boxwood (*Buxus* species), Euonymus (*Euonymus* species), and holly (*Ilex* species). In addition, APHIS is coordinating closely with the affected States to:

- Find and destroy the imported plants in the receiving facilities
- Trace imported plants that were sold to determine additional locations of potentially infected boxwood
- Provide box tree moth traps and lures for surveys in the receiving facilities and other locations that received potentially infected boxwood

Prepare outreach materials for State agriculture departments, industry, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agriculture Specialists stationed along the Canadian border, and the public.

These immediate measures are focused on protecting the economic viability of the thriving U.S. boxwood industry as well as nurseries and other establishments that sell these plants wholesale and direct to consumers.

The box tree moth is native to East Asia and has become a serious invasive pest in Europe, where it continues to spread. In 2018, it was found in the Toronto area of Canada. The caterpillars feed mostly on boxwood and heavy infestations can defoliate host plants. Once the leaves are gone, larvae consume the bark, leading to girdling and plant death.

Members of the public can prevent the box tree moth from spreading. Please allow State or Federal agricultural officials to inspect your boxwood trees and place an insect trap if they visit your home. If you bought a boxwood plant within the last few months, please inspect it for signs of the box tree moth and report any findings to your local [USDA office](#) or [State agriculture department](#).



Additional information can be found at the following website:

[USDA APHIS | USDA Confirms Box Tree Moth and Takes Action to Contain and Eradicate the Pest](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/newsroom/stakeholder-info/sa_by_date/sa-2021/sa-05/box-tree-moth)



Egg mass under the leaves



Caterpillars and webbing (larvae can reach 1.5 Inches long)



Dark form of the moth



Damage

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/newsroom/stakeholder-info/sa_by_date/sa-2021/sa-05/box-tree-moth





Celebrate National Pollinator Week, June 21 - 27, 2021!

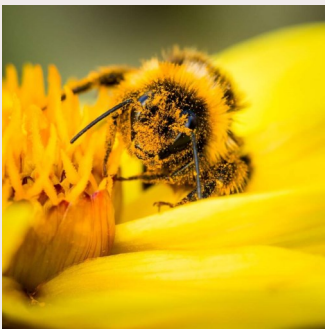
These hard-working animals help pollinate over 75% of our flowering plants, and nearly 75% of our crops. butterflies, and flies that carry pollen from one plant to another as they collect nectar. Yet without them, wildlife would have fewer nutritious berries and seeds, and we would miss many fruits, vegetables, and nuts, like blueberries, squash, and almonds . . . not to mention **chocolate** and **coffee**...all of which depend on pollinators.



What is pollination?

Pollination is a vital stage in the life cycle of all flowering plants. When pollen is moved within a flower or carried from one flower to another of the same species it leads to fertilization. This transfer of pollen is necessary for healthy and productive native & agricultural ecosystems.

- About 75% of all flowering plant species need the help of animals to move their heavy pollen grains from plant to plant for fertilization.
- About 1,000 of all pollinators are vertebrates such as birds, bats, and small mammals.
- Most pollinators (about 200,000 species) are beneficial insects such as flies, beetles, wasps, ants, butterflies, moths, and bees.



Why are pollinators important?

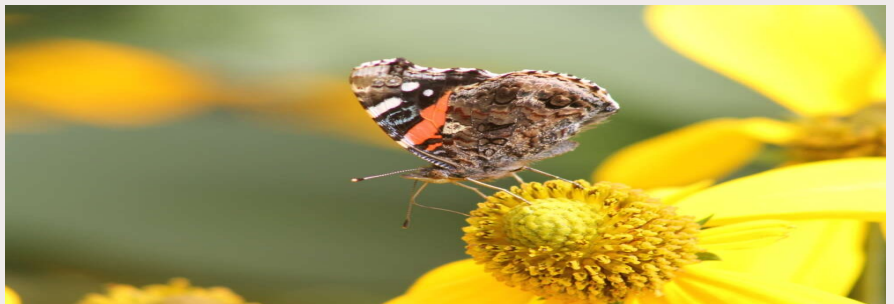
Pollinators are often keystone species, meaning that they are critical to an ecosystem. The work of pollinators ensures full harvests of crops and contributes to healthy plants everywhere.

- An estimated 1/3 of all foods and beverages is delivered by pollinators.
- In the U.S., pollination produces nearly \$20 billion worth of products annually.

How you can help:

- Reduce your impact. Reduce or eliminate your pesticide use, increase green spaces, and minimize urbanization. Pollution and climate change affect pollinators, too!
- Plant for pollinators. Create pollinator-friendly habitat with native flowering plants that supply pollinators with nectar, pollen, and homes. For information on what to plant in your area, download a free eco-regional guide online at www.pollinator.org.
- Join the Pollinator Partnership Go to www.pollinator.org and click on "Get Involved." Be part of a growing community of pollinator supporters.

<https://www.pollinator.org/>





THE DIRECTORS CORNER:

By ~ Cheryl Stafford, Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma

Where is the Ottawa Tribe Community located?

The Ottawa Tribe Community is located in the northeastern corner of Oklahoma in Ottawa County. Our offices are in Miami.

How many community members are served by the Environmental Department?

We have approximately 3200 tribal members.

How long have you been the Environmental Director?

I have worked for the tribe for more than 18 years and have been the Director for 11 years.

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

While there are many environmental concerns, we are located downstream of the Tar Creek Superfund site which causes many issues for our people. The contamination is a serious threat to all who live in and downstream of the site.

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

What I really enjoy about my job is that no two days are alike. One day you may be water sampling and the next in a meeting or on a conference call. There are so many different aspects to our programs that you never know what you might be doing on any given day. I also like that our programs can help make a difference not just for our Tribe but our communities as well.

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

My biggest challenges have definitely been learning so many new and different things. I was a grade school teacher before coming to work for the Tribe and this was a whole new skill set to learn for me. Things change every day in our environment so we are constantly learning new things. I would say dealing with the Tar Creek downstream effects is definitely challenging!





LED Light Upgrade

What are LEDs and how do they work?

LED stands for light emitting diode. LED lighting products produce light up to 90% more efficiently than incandescent light bulbs. How do they work? An electrical current passes through a microchip, which illuminates the tiny light sources we call LEDs and the result is visible light. To prevent performance issues, the heat LEDs produce is absorbed into a heat sink.



Lifetime of LED Lighting Products

The useful life of LED lighting products is defined differently than that of other light sources, such as incandescent or compact fluorescent lighting (CFL). LEDs typically do not “burn out” or fail. Instead, they experience ‘lumen depreciation’, wherein the brightness of the LED dims slowly over time. Unlike incandescent bulbs, LED “lifetime” is established on a prediction of when the light output decreases by 30 percent.

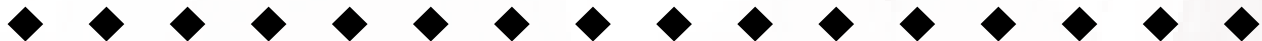
Why Upgrade to LED

Light emitting diode (LED) technology has evolved to the most efficient light source and costs can be competitive with incandescent, halogen and CFL bulbs. Upgrading from incandescent or halogen can: Produce energy savings of up to 75%. Have simple payback in 1 to 3 years for many applications. Reduce frequency of bulb burnout by a factor of 10 for incandescent and halogen bulbs.

Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs recently upgraded to LED lights. The office had nearly 620 fluorescent bulbs in two buildings combined with an annual cost to power these bulbs of nearly \$8400. All the fixtures were replaced (with 2 led bulbs) and all ballasts were by passed totaling 310 bulbs, and a total annual cost of \$1600. This should save the department \$6800 annually, and there will no longer be deficient ballasts causing the lights to go out!

https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/FactSheet_LightingUpgradesWithLEDbulbs.pdf

https://www.energystar.gov/products/lighting_fans/light_bulbs/



Cherokee Nation Underground Storage Tank Program

The underground storage tank program at Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs operates under the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council (ITEC). It is through ITEC that the program can offer a variety of services to tribes that are members of ITEC. Currently the UST program services 22 tribes and 38 facilities across New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

The UST program offers compliance assistance and training to these 22 tribes and 55 facilities. This includes:

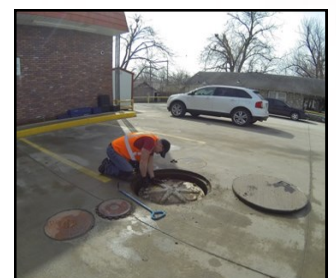
- A visit to the tribe's UST facility annually to perform a compliance assistance inspection.
- A detailed report of the compliance issues that were observed and steps to take to remediate these issues.
- Answers to UST related questions and contractor information for the tribe.
- On-site owner and operator training for the people who operate the UST facility.

The UST program will also assist Tribes with the planning and installation of a new station or help investigate stations that the Tribe may be interested in purchasing. Along with that, ITEC will monitor tank installs and removals to ensure they are done properly and by regulation.

If there are any questions regarding the UST Program please contact:

David Hayes: 918-453-5149 or 918-316-7531 david-hayes@cherokee.org

Bobby Short: 918-453-5089 bobby-short@cherokee.org







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

Save the NEW Dates!
December 8–11, 2021

2021 Oklahoma Recycling Conference

Save the Date!

September 22-23, 2021



OKLAHOMA RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

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

26th Annual ITEC Conference

July 26—August 5, 2021





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.

