

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 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
Seneca-Cayuga Nation
Shawnee Tribe
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
Tonkawa Tribe
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees
Wichita & Affiliated Tribes
Wyandotte Nation
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
Zuni Tribe

January is National Radon Action Month



Test your
home.

Protect your
health.



epa.gov/radon

JANUARY IS

NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH

How To Get Involved in National Radon Action Month

- Set a goal to reduce radon risk in your community
- Plan activities and events in January
 - Work with radon partners in your community
- Publicize your activities and recognize your successes
- Collect results from your activities
- Share your project ideas, efforts, and results at www.epa.gov/radon/nram/activities.html.
- Use National Radon Action Month to kick off a broader radon awareness campaign in your community

ITEC NEWS

Director’s Corner

Luci McCloud, Seneca-Cayuga Nation Environmental Director

Where is your Tribal Community located?

The Seneca-Cayuga Nation jurisdiction is in Northeast Oklahoma and consists of approximately 4,037 acres, bordered by the Wyandotte Tribe on the North and the Grand Lake O’ The Cherokees on the West.

How many community members are served by the Environmental department?

The Seneca-Cayuga Environmental Department serves over 3,000 community members in Delaware and Ottawa county.

How long have you been the Environmental Director?

I have been serving the tribe as the Environmental Director since February 2025.

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

The primary environmental concerns that affect our community are non-point source pollution and impaired stream health.

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

As an Environmental Tribal Director, I enjoy spreading environmental consciousness to the local community most. The opportunity to encourage green living and increase awareness of environmental issues is the most rewarding aspect of my job.

What have been your biggest challenges?

Our biggest challenge by far has been maintaining rural water quality due to the significant amounts of illegal dumping and non-point source pollution in tribal waterways. The rural and agricultural land surrounding the waterbodies on our jurisdiction causes significant levels of runoff and dumping in these waterways, impairing the health of the waterbody. Our solution to this challenge is to pursue funding for cleanup efforts, preventative measures, and awareness outreach to improve the health of tribal waterways for the community.

ITEC NEWS

Director's Corner Cont.

Luci McCloud, Seneca-Cayuga Nation Environmental Director

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

One of our current rapidly developing projects is the food sovereignty project. This project focuses on providing fresh produce for the tribal community and for our ceremonies. The tribe currently operates one 30' x 72' greenhouse and is in the process of acquiring a second greenhouse of equal size to increase program capacity. In addition to the greenhouse, we practice traditional growing methods to provide corn, beans, and squash for the tribal ceremonies. Plans moving forward for this project, in addition to the second greenhouse, are to expand the capacity of the corn field to increase the annual yield.

Additionally, the department plans to eventually start a seed distribution program for tribal members to promote food sovereignty for individual tribal members. This, of course, could take several years to develop since the production of spare seeds can be a slow-moving development.

Another significant project for the department is our water quality project. Each month, environmental staff conducts routine sample collection from four sites on Grand Lake and four stream sites within the jurisdiction. These samples are then tested on multiple parameters including but not limited to Total Coliform Bacteria, E. coli, Total Phosphorus, and Nitrates to determine overall water quality. If necessary, the environmental department will release water quality advisories to inform the community of impaired waterbodies. Future plans for this program will include the testing of fish tissues to monitor the health and safety of local wildlife and determine how significantly the pollution of their habitat affects overall health.

Additionally, our recycling program has been expanding within the last few years and plans continue to develop. The department maintains two recycling trailers for community use which collect aluminum, cardboard, plastic (types 1, 2, & 5), and paper waste. These trailers are located at the southern end of the Tribal Offices located at 23701 S 655 Road in Grove, Oklahoma. These trailers are available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. In addition to the community recycling trailers, a large cardboard trailer is located at Grand Lake Casino to collect cardboard waste from the casino and surrounding tribal businesses. As part of the recycling project, environmental staff conducts yearly recycling events for E-Waste, tires, and other frequently discarded items to reduce the amount of waste thrown into landfills or illegally dumped in the community. Future plans for this project include the purchase of additional recycling trailers to support a larger volume of solid waste and expand recycling services to upcoming tribal businesses such as the Flint Fire Mercantile. Environmental staff will also install recycling locations at the ceremonial grounds to encourage recycling during ceremonies.



ITEC NEWS

Region 6 RTOC Meeting Tribal Caucus Virtual Meeting

The Regional Tribal Operations Committee Tribal Caucus meeting was held virtually on November 18, 2025. Topics of discussion included: NTC Support Funding, WOTUS Update, QMP Update, RTOC Election Results, and SAFETEA update. The meeting also included NTC, TECO and IRAC meeting updates as well as updates from the various committees and work groups in the region. The meeting ended with action item updates and scheduling for the Spring and Summer meetings.



ITEC NEWS

Cherokee Nation E-Waste Pick Up Event

by Shaun West

As a part of the General Assistance Program Grant from E.P.A. the Cherokee Nation Office of Environmental Programs is offering two (2) E-Waste Pick-up events in Tahlequah during the year. The first of these events was held on December 4, 2025 at the Cherokee Nation Warehouse in Tahlequah. This event, for Cherokee Nation Employees and families, was quite a success. There were 52 total vehicles that dropped off over 12 pallets of E-Waste with a total weight of 5,280 pounds.

“This event not only helps recycle the E-Waste but also keeps it out of our limited amount of landfill space and helps employees and citizens feel good about helping to recycle valuable assets” stated Shun West, Environmental Manager for Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs.



“The Official Newsletter of the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council”

ITEC NEWS

Upcoming Events:

EPA Region 6 Tribal Caucus/RTOC Meeting Tribal Environmental Summit

April 14-17, 2026

DoubleTree Dallas Near the Galleria
4099 Valley View Lane, Dallas, TX

Lead and Healthy Housing New Orleans National Conference

📅 April 28-30, 2026 • Crowne Plaza

739 Canal St, New Orleans, LA 70130

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ITEC NEWS

Check out ITEC’s YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC42GM_3wppOEPkgFEUj_CgQ

ITEC on the web

Check out the ITEC webpage for information on upcoming events, training and newsletters.

Please visit us at: www.itecmembers.org

ITEC NEWS

“The Official Newsletter of the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council”

The Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs (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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