

TRIBAL CLEAN TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



Welcome to ITEP's New Tribal Clean Transportation Program's Monthly Newsletter with information about Tribal clean transportation projects, funding sources, news stories/analysis, policy updates, and upcoming event/conferences. If this landed in your email inbox, you have been added to ITEP's TCTP listserv! If you wish to discontinue this, feel free to send an unsubscribe request to ryan.tsingine@nau.edu.

Featured News

Tribal activists oppose Nevada mine key to Biden's clean energy agenda as 'green colonialism'

OROVADA, Nevada (AP) — Just 45 miles (72 kilometers) from the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation where Daranda Hinkey and her family corral horses and cows, a centerpiece of President Joe Biden's clean energy plan is taking shape: construction of one of the largest lithium mines in the world.

As heavy trucks dig up the earth in this remote, windswept region of Nevada to extract **the silvery-white metal used in electric-vehicle batteries**, the \$2.2 billion project is fueling a backlash. "No Lithium. No mine!" proclaims a large hand-painted sign in Hinkey's front yard.

The Biden administration says the project will help mitigate climate change by **speeding the shift away from fossil fuels**. But Hinkey and other opponents say it is not worth the costs to the local environment and people.

Similar disputes are taking place around the world as governments and companies advancing renewable energy find themselves battling communities opposed to projects that threaten wildlife, groundwater and air quality. **[Read More Here.](#)**



Gary McKinney, a spokesman for People of Red Mountain and a member of the nearby Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, walks near Sentinel Rock on April 25, 2023, outside of Orovada, Nev. A huge lithium mine under construction in northern Nevada is at the center of a dispute over President Joe Biden's clean energy agenda. McKinney said the project will cause irreparable damage. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tribes Driving Clean Transportation



A YUROK TRANSPORTATION DRIVER DELIVERS LUNCH TO YUROK ELDER.

We would like to highlight, YET AGAIN, the **Yurok Tribe's** Transportation Program. In May, the Yurok Transit Program opened a fixed route from Weitchpec to Orleans and Willow Creek. This means passengers will be able to regularly connect to the Humboldt transit system from Willow Creek, eventually reaching Weaverville, Redding, Arcata or the Eureka area. This month, the Tribe received \$977,058 from the California State Transit Agency's Transit and Intercity Rail Capitol Program to purchase four electric vehicle charging stations and four electric transit vans and these vehicles will be used for a permanent extension of the Yurok Transportation Program's transit route from Weitchpec to Willow Creek and Orleans. **[Read More Here.](#)**

CHEROKEE NATION WELCOMES ELECTRIC VEHICLES ON HISTORIC ROUTE 66

VINITA – Cherokee Nation is celebrating the addition of three electric vehicle charging stations at its newly opened cultural and welcome center in Vinita. On Friday, Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. visited the Cherokee Nation Anna Mitchell Cultural & Welcome Center, which opened in October 2022, overlooking iconic Route 66. The charging stations are part of the tribe's ongoing efforts to reduce its carbon footprint. **[Read More Here.](#)**



DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL VICTORIA VAZQUEZ, CHEROKEE NATION PRINCIPAL CHIEF CHUCK HOSKIN JR. AND CHEROKEE NATION SECRETARY OF NATURAL RESOURCES CHAD HARSHA VISITED VINITA TO CELEBRATE THE ADDITION OF THREE ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS AT THE CHEROKEE NATION ANNA MITCHELL CULTURAL & WELCOME CENTER.



Clean Transportation News

NEVI FORMULA PROGRAM STATE PLAN GUIDANCE UPDATES

FHWA has released updates to NEVI program guidance. The \$5 billion NEVI Formula Program provides dedicated funding to states that deploy electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. Under NEVI, each state is required to submit plan updates describing how it intends to use its NEVI Formula Program funds in accordance with the guidance. You must submit your state's plan update no later than **August 1, 2023**. All states must adhere to the latest guidance, released on June 2, 2023. In addition to the upgraded program guidance, FHWA released an updated EV infrastructure deployment plan template and an updated NEVI Formula Program Q&A. You can also find the latest state plan update template and guidance on DriveElectric.gov.



A MAP OF THE PROPOSED NEVI ROUTE SYSTEM IN AMERICA.



EDER ESTRADA, SERVICE TECHNICIAN, WIPES DOWN AT TESLA MODEL 3 DURING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE SANTA ANA TESLA DEALERSHIP ON THE SANTA ANA PUEBLO IN N.M., ON JUNE 1, 2023. CHANCEY BUSH/JOURNAL

IT'S HERE: TESLA OPENS SECOND NEW MEXICO LOCATION

SANTA ANA PUEBLO — About eight months after it was first announced, the new Tesla store located in Santa Ana Pueblo is now open for business. Thursday's grand opening for the 35,000-square-foot facility at 1300 Jemez Canyon Dam was attended by tribal and local officials, and included a tour and test drives for the roughly 200 people in attendance. The Tesla facility, which sits near the Santa Ana Star Casino Hotel, is the second in New Mexico. In 2021, the electric vehicle manufacturer led by Elon Musk opened its first store in the state at a former casino just north of Santa Fe in the Nambé Pueblo. [Read More Here.](#)



Clean Transportation News

RIVIAN JOINS FORD AND GM IN TURNING TO TESLA CHARGERS

CNN — Rivian, the electric truck and SUV company backed by Amazon, announced on Tuesday that it will join Ford and General Motors in adopting Tesla's so-called North American Charging Standard (NACS). Rivian said it will start building its R1T pickup and R1S SUV with NACS-style charging ports starting in 2025. Its upcoming smaller models will also have the Tesla-style charging ports. By spring, 2024, Rivian owners will be able to use adapters to access Tesla's, Supercharger network, with its roughly 12,000 fast charging stations throughout the US and Canada. While Rivian isn't nearly as large of an automaker as GM or Ford, it's reasonably popular among EV buyers, so the move marks a significant step for broader acceptance of the Tesla standard. [**Read More Here.**](#)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, IRS RELEASE GUIDANCE ON PROVISIONS TO EXPAND REACH OF CLEAN ENERGY TAX CREDITS THROUGH PRESIDENT BIDEN'S INVESTING IN AMERICA AGENDA

Washington, D.C. — As part of the Biden-Harris Administration's Investing in America agenda, the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) released guidance on key provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act to expand the reach of the clean energy tax credits and help build projects more quickly and affordably, which will create good-paying jobs, lower energy costs for families, and advance American innovation. The Inflation Reduction Act created two new credit delivery mechanisms —**elective pay** (otherwise known as "direct pay") and **transferability**—that enable state, local, and Tribal governments; non-profit organizations, U.S. territories; and other entities to take advantage of clean energy tax credits. Until the Inflation Reduction Act introduced these new credit delivery mechanisms, governments, many types of tax-exempt organizations, and even many businesses could not fully benefit from tax credits like those that incentivize clean energy construction. [**Read More Here.**](#)

- [**To Learn More about Elective Pay & Transferability Click Here.**](#)



Clean Transportation News

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ANNOUNCES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN RURAL AND TRIBAL COMMUNITIES (GRANTS DO NOT REQUIRE A LOCAL MATCH).

The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT's) Build America Bureau (the Bureau) released a **Notice of Funding Opportunity** for a new pilot program created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The **Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program** offers technical assistance grants to rural and tribal communities. The Program makes \$10 million available over five years to advance infrastructure projects in these communities. **Read More Here.**

USDOT PROPOSES REQUIREMENTS FOR REAL-TIME HAZMAT INFORMATION FOR FIREFIGHTERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS TO IMPROVE FREIGHT RAIL SAFETY

WASHINGTON –The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) announced it is proposing a new rule aimed at improving public safety and preventing environmental impacts by strengthening requirements governing railroads' provision of hazardous materials information to responders during a hazmat incident. The proposal would require railroads to always maintain — and update in real-time — accurate, electronic information about rail hazmat shipments in a train consist that would be accessible to authorized emergency response personnel. Railroads would also be required to proactively “push” that information to authorized local first response personnel as soon as the railroad is aware of an accident involving any hazardous materials. **Read More Here.**

- NOTE: The proposed rule has been transmitted to the Federal Register. A publication date will be provided when it becomes available along with an opportunity to provide public comment.

THE JOINT OFFICE OF ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION

The Joint Office Welcomes New Program Staff. The Joint Office of Energy and Transportation (Joint Office) welcomed five new team members to the staff. These professionals will bring a wealth of experience in business, policy, and community engagement to help the Joint Office achieve its mission of accelerating an electrified transportation system that is affordable, convenient, equitable, reliable, and safe —ensuring a future where everyone can ride and drive electric. **See The New Hires Here.**



Policy Updates

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE ON LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES BONUS CREDIT PROGRAM

COMMENTS: WRITTEN OR ELECTRONIC COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 30, 2023.

This document contains proposed rules concerning the low-income communities bonus energy investment credit program established pursuant to the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. Applicants investing in certain solar and wind powered-electricity generation facilities may apply for an allocation of environmental justice solar and wind capacity limitation to increase the amount of an energy investment credit for the taxable year in which the facility is placed in service. This document describes proposed definitions and requirements that would be applicable for the program allocating the calendar year 2023 capacity limitation, which also would inform guidance applicable for future program years. The proposed rules would affect applicants seeking allocations of environmental justice solar and wind capacity limitation.

- Docket Number: REG-110412-23
- **[Read Proposed Rule Here.](#)**

MULTI-POLLUTANT EMISSIONS STANDARDS FOR MODEL YEARS 2027 AND LATER LIGHT-DUTY AND MEDIUM-DUTY VEHICLES

COMMENTS: WRITTEN COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE JULY 5, 2023.

Under its Clean Air Act authority, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing new, more stringent emissions standards for criteria pollutants and greenhouse gases (GHG) for light-duty vehicles and Class 2b and 3 (“medium-duty”) vehicles that would phase-in over model years 2027 through 2032. In addition, EPA is proposing GHG program revisions in several areas, including off-cycle and air conditioning credits, the treatment of upstream emissions associated with zero-emission vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles in compliance calculations, medium-duty vehicle incentive multipliers, and vehicle certification and compliance. EPA is also proposing new standards to control refueling emissions from incomplete medium-duty vehicles, and battery durability and warranty requirements for light-duty and medium-duty plug-in vehicles. EPA is also proposing minor amendments to update program requirements related to aftermarket fuel conversions, importing vehicles and engines, evaporative emission test procedures, and test fuel specifications for measuring fuel economy.

- For Further Information Contact: Michael Safoutin, Office of Transportation and Air Quality, Assessment and Standards Division (ASD), Environmental Protection Agency, 2000 Traverwood Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48105; telephone number: (734) 214-4348; email address: Safoutin.Mike@epa.gov.
- Docket Number: EPA-HQ-OAR-2022-0829-0451
- **[Read Rule Here.](#)**



Upcoming Events/Conferences

The Green Transportation Summit & Expo (GTSE) is the West Coast's premier fleet modernization and sustainable transportation event. GTSE offers attendees an inside look at the latest in fleet technologies and innovation and provides informative sessions featuring a who's who of national and regional transportation leaders.

- [Click Here to Register FREE](#) using CODE: **DERA-TRIBES**
- [Click Here to Learn More](#)



Connect with colleagues across the country as we address Tribal waste and response issues. This is the thirteenth annual forum for environmental professionals from Tribes, USEPA, State/Local/Federal agencies, community organizations, and other interested parties to meet, share knowledge, and learn from one another how to improve management, protection, and restoration of Tribal lands for us and all our relations. This year we'll meet in-person in Syracuse, NY and online everywhere.

- [Click Here to Register.](#)
- [Click Here to Learn More.](#)

EPA TOOLS AND RESOURCES WEBINAR SERIES

EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) hosts this monthly public webinar series to translate EPA research and share research resources and information that are useful, practical/applied and available to meet research needs of states/territories and other entities, such as tribes, local governments, and communities. In addition, the EPA Tools and Resources Training Webinar Series provides in-depth overviews and step-by-step tutorials on popular EPA science-based models and tools.

NOTE: Attendees have the option of receiving a certificate of attendance. Acceptance of certificates is contingent on organization requirements—EPA cannot guarantee acceptance. Closed-captioned recordings of the webinars are provided below for later viewing and as a training resource; certificates cannot be provided for viewing webinar recordings. Webinar dates and topics are subject to change.

- [Click Here to See Past & Future Webinars](#)



Funding Opportunities

Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program NOFO Department of Transportation. A total of \$3.4 million is made available under this Notice, comprised of \$1.6 million from Fiscal Year 2022 and \$1.8 million from Fiscal Year 2023. Awards are available up to the statutory limit of \$360,000. Actual amounts awarded will be based on the needs of each grantee. Applications are reviewed in the order in which they are received, beginning 60 days after the Notice is posted. Applications are only accepted through a web-based form; a link is provided in this notice. Application reviews will conclude once the full \$3.4 million has been awarded. Half of program funds are reserved for tribal governments that apply in the first month of the program. There is no local match required to participate in this program.

- [Read More Here.](#)

The U.S. EPA Clean School Bus Program's 2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity. Approximately \$400 million in competitive grant funding is now available under the Clean School Bus (CSB) Grants Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The program is soliciting applications nationwide for a grant competition to fund the replacement of existing school buses with clean and zero-emission (ZE) school buses. Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and tribally controlled schools are eligible that are responsible for: Providing school bus service to one or more Bureau-funded schools, or responsible for the purchase, lease, license, or contract for service of school buses; nonprofit school transportation association; and eligible contractors;

- All application packages need to be submitted electronically to EPA through Grants.gov no later than **Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. (ET)** to be considered for funding.

Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formal Grants Amended to Better Support Tribal Entities! The Grid Deployment Office (GDO) today released an amendment to the **Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grants**, a \$2.3 billion program supported by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law designed to strengthen and modernize America's power grid against wildfires, extreme weather, and other natural disasters that are exacerbated by the climate crisis. This amendment increases formula grant allocations for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 to better account for the probability of disruptive events on Tribal lands. To encourage participation, GDO also extended the Tribal application deadline to **August 31, 2023 by 11:59 ET (with a mail-in option post-marked by this date)**

