



Tribal Exchange Network News



December 2018

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Important Dates:

February 26-28, 2019
Tribal Exchange Network Conference - San Diego, CA

March 6-7, 2019
E-Enterprise Leadership Council Face-to-Face Meeting
- Location TBD

Tribal Exchange Network Conference 2019

Planning for the Tribal Exchange Network Conference 2019 is underway! The Conference is set to take place February 26-28, 2019 in Pala, California. The Tribal Exchange Network Conference provides tribal professionals, and those working with tribes, an opportunity to meet and learn about current initiatives, funding, and technical topics related to the Exchange Network. Come and share your experiences or to learn from and network with other tribal professionals!

Stay tuned! Registration, scholarship/presenter/poster/sponsorship requests, and an agenda will be shared when available at www.tribalexchangenetwork.org.

Tell us what topics you are interested in by completing this short poll: goo.gl/QmiUHg.

Please share this announcement with others who might be interested in attending. To stay notified of updates related to the Tribal Exchange Network Conference, sign up for our [email listserv](#)!

E-Enterprise National Meeting 2018 (powered by the Exchange Network)

EE2018 continued the longstanding series of national meetings held by the Exchange Network, with a pivot towards highlighting the E-Enterprise for the Environment initiative. For three days in October, over 300 participants from 44 state agencies, 27 tribal representatives, and U.S. EPA offices convened for the 2018 E-Enterprise National Meeting in Dallas, Texas.

The meeting's re-branding reflects the deep connection between E-Enterprise and the Exchange Network and the desire to promote integrated conversations around process improvement, program modernization, advanced technology, and data management. This year's conference theme of "Shared Stories, Shared Services, Shared Success," provided discussion among attendees to collaborate.

The Tribal Governance Group (TGG) hosted the Tribal Exchange Network Support session for a diverse group of nearly 30 individuals from states, tribes, and EPA, interested in learning more about tribal involvement in the Network. The TGG and the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) provided brief overviews of current efforts to support tribes and engage in EN and EE governance initiatives, followed by a robust and informative discussion of topics and questions raised by the audience.

Several tribal representatives delivered individual presentations and served as panelists during the event, including representatives from the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Native American Environmental Protection Coalition, and Bishop Paiute Tribe.

All EE2018 session recordings are now available on the [EE2018 website](#) or in the meeting app. To view the recordings, follow the links to the [online agenda](#). Once there, just click on the session you would like to view and look for the link within a section entitled "Session Recording." (The trainings and the discussion sessions on October 23rd were not recorded, but most other sessions are available.)

Whether or not you attended the [E-Enterprise Digital Strategy, Architecture, and Technology Roadmap](#) session, EE would love to learn more about your experience developing digital strategies and architectures in your own organization. Be a part of the ongoing conversations on this topic by responding to [this discussion thread in the E-Enterprise Community Inventory Platform](#) (EECIP).

E-Enterprise Community Inventory Platform

The [E-Enterprise Community Inventory Platform](#), or EECIP, is an online community and living project database for State, Tribal and, local environmental agencies across the US. The platform currently contains 2,000 projects and enterprise services spanning a broad range of topics including IT, process improvement, advanced monitoring, and Exchange Network grant project information.

By joining EECIP, you can:

- >> Add your agency's projects. Projects posted can be under consideration, under development, or finalized.
- >> View partner agencies' projects, enterprise services and other information.
- >> Find potential collaborators for Exchange Network Partnership and other grant programs.
- >> Get ideas for shared services and find example RFPs, position descriptions, and other types of documents.
- >> Build community by participating in discussion threads to get answers and connect with peers.
- >> Customize content displays based on your interests.

If you don't have an account yet, you can register with your .gov email address. Most tribal email extensions have been added into the platform, and new ones can be easily added upon request. Please feel free to reach out to Owen McAleer at ECOS - omcaleer@ecos.org, or use the support email, support@eecip.net with any questions you might have or if you need technical help.

EN Grant Solicitation

The Exchange Network Grant Program provides funding to states, territories, and federally recognized Indian tribes to support the development of the National Environmental Information Exchange Network. The primary outcome expected from Exchange Network assistance agreements is improved access to, and exchange of, high-quality environmental data from public and private sector sources. With this outcome in mind, applications should demonstrate support for and results toward EN program priorities.

A draft version of the FY 2019 Exchange Network Grant Program Solicitation Notice is now available for stakeholder review. See: [Draft Fiscal Year 2019 National Environmental Information Exchange Network Solicitation Notice](#). The final solicitation notice will be available soon and will be announced on our [tribal listserv](#).

The EN Grant Program is soliciting project proposals that use the EN to:

- >> Facilitate sharing environmental data, especially through shared and reusable services.
- >> Streamline data collection and exchanges to improve its timeliness for decision making.
- >> Increase the quality and access to environmental data through discovery, publishing, outbound, and analytical services so it is more useful to environmental managers.
- >> Develop foundational EN shared services to reduce burden and avoid costs for co-regulators and the regulated community.
- >> Expand and improve participation in the EN by strengthening the requisite information management and technology capabilities for interested parties to fully participate in the EN.

For more information on EN Grants, view [How to Write a Winning EN Grant Application](#) or contact Ed Mixon, mixon.edward@epa.gov, or Wendy Blake-Coleman, blake-coleman.wendy@epa.gov, at the EPA Office of Environmental Information (OEI).

Read the Fourth Issue of the E-Enterprise Bulletin

On December 4, 2018, E-Enterprise released the [fourth edition of the E-Enterprise Bulletin](#). This quarterly newsletter spotlights activities led by the E-Enterprise partners – U.S. EPA, states, and tribes – and presents special interviews, project success stories, outreach highlights, and more.

This issue features a message from Acting U.S. EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler as well as featured E-Enterprise projects including the Be Well Informed App and Smart Mobile Tools for Field Instructors. Readers can also stay up to date on numerous exciting E-Enterprise

For More Information:

[Tribes & the Exchange Network](#)

A resource for tribes interested in information and assistance on Exchange Network topics.

[Exchange Network](#)

The Exchange Network's main website with information on technical resources, data partners, and governance.

[E-Enterprise](#)

The E-Enterprise for the Environment initiative website has information on current projects and activities, and governance membership lists.

[EPA's EN Grants](#)

EN grant solicitation information, grant award history, and key EPA contacts.

[Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals](#)

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals' website contains information on training and other services provided, including national conferences, tribal partnership efforts, and more.

developments, including an expansion of the Disaster Debris Recovery Tool and the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) streamlining event held this fall in Washington, DC.

>>To subscribe to future issues of the newsletter, [click here](#).

Bits and Bytes

<<>> ***EPA's Office of Research & Development (ORD): Tools & Resources Webinar Series highlights new science and technology.*** Representatives of government environment and health agencies, community leaders, and others interested in learning about EPA tools and resources available to help inform decision-making will find informative monthly resources on topics ranging from wildfire smoke emissions to cyanobacteria to green infrastructure. Check out the archived webinars and check for announcements on upcoming topics: [HERE](#).

<<>> ***Web-based Data Discovery and Analysis Tool for STORET available on the WQ Portal!*** Check out the Water Quality Portal for the web-based tool for easily reviewing and assessing your WQX data. Complete instructions and tool download are available here: [HERE](#).

<<>> ***Confused about QA/QC? Staring down a QAPP?*** ITEP's new online training site boasts several free courses and modules on Quality Assurance fundamentals, and writing a QAPP, with straight-forward lessons relevant to a wide variety of environmental monitoring and data collection activities. Check out these FREE courses [HERE](#).

<<>> ***New to AQS (or need a refresher)?*** Check out ITEP's ***AQS Fast-Track*** videos—14 short video tutorials designed to get you entering data into AQS fast! Find them online [HERE](#).

<<>> ***In need of assistance with an EN project?*** We can help! Visit our website, download the [EN Mentorship Request Form](#), and submit the completed form to [ITEP](#).

<<>> ***Have expertise to share? Become a mentor to other tribes!*** Contact [ITEP](#), or submit the short online form [HERE](#) to sign up to be a mentor; we'll profile you on our website so tribes in need of relevant guidance or assistance know where to turn.

<<>> ***Google Introduces New Search Engine for Finding Datasets.*** Simply called "Dataset Search," the tool provides easier access to millions of datasets across thousands of data repositories on the web.

<<>> ***FY 2018 EN Grants Program Awards list:*** also included are [previous Exchange Network Grant Projects](#).

*****Tribal**Consultation**Opportunities*****

Find details and supporting documentation on current consultation actions at the [TCOTS website](#).

<<>> EPA is initiating consultation and coordination with federally recognized tribes on a proposed regulatory revision to the Clean Water Act (CWA) section 404 permitting program. In the Spring 2018 Regulatory Agenda, the EPA announced the Agency's plan for the first comprehensive revision to the existing section 404(g) regulations since 1988. The Administration recognizes the need for greater clarity on the requirements for state and tribal assumption of the section 404 permitting program and identifies this issue as one of its priorities. The EPA intends to modernize these regulations and foster a greater interest by the authorized tribes and states in assuming this authority.

Tribes will have until December 21, 2018, to provide comment on this action. For any questions, please contact Lauren Kasperek, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, by email at 404g-rulemaking@epa.gov or by phone at (202) 564-3351. Additional information on

state and tribal assumption of the CWA section 404 permit program and this rulemaking activity can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/cwa404g>.

<<>> ***Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Emission Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources Reconsideration***

On September 11, 2018, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed targeted improvements to the 2016 New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for the Oil and Natural Gas Industry, including amendments to the fugitive emissions monitoring requirements in the rule. The proposal would significantly reduce regulatory burden, saving the industry tens of millions of dollars in compliance costs each year. The changes also would streamline requirements and improve alignment between EPA's rule and existing state programs. For more information about this proposed rule, see <https://www.epa.gov/controlling-air-pollution-oil-and-natural-gas-industry/proposed-improvements-2016-new-source>.

Tribes will have until December 17, 2018, to provide comment on this action. For any questions, please contact Toni Colon by email at colon.toni@epa.gov or by phone at (919) 541-0069.

<<>> ***Sign up for TCOTS emails:*** Stay up-to-date on current and upcoming EPA consultation opportunities for tribal governments. Sign up for the Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System (TCOTS) email list by sending a request to: Join-epa_tcots@lists.epa.gov. You can also view current initiatives on the [TCOTS website](#).

*******Tribal**Consultation**Opportunities*******

Contact Us!

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*Have events, announcements, ideas or stories to share?
Interested in a particular topic you want to hear more about?*

Other questions or thoughts?

Please contact us!