

# TRIBAL CHANGEOUT CHALLENGES, PARTNERSHIPS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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# PRAIRIE BAND'S STORY

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Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation is a rural community that depends on multiple sources for heating. Including, residential wood stove heating.

Areas identified in wood stove heating:

- Improper stacking/storing of wood
- Wood stoves not properly maintained, cleaned or ventilated
- Old/uncertified wood stoves
- Outreach and awareness needs to be increased



# PRAIRIE BAND'S WORK TOWARDS WOOD STOVE CHANGE OUT

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- Surveys – increase capacity on wood stove use, needs, and practices within community.
- Database – developed a database to record keep # of devices, types, location, etc.
- Emission Inventory – inventory obtains most current information.
- Capture indoor air quality using particle counters.
- Collaboration with sister departments:
  - Used their mailing list to increase survey distribution
  - Outreach - literature of Burn Wise and Wet Wood is a Waste
  - Wood Delivery Program - how do we get seasoned wood to recipients



# INDIAN COUNTRY – HOONAH INDIAN ASSOCIATION

<https://www.hia-env.org/reports/>

- 2017 Demonstration Project under IGAP
- Participated in capacity building opportunities to better serve the community. Used 7 Generation Process and SMART.
- Established Hoonah Stewardship Council to engage with stakeholders
- Created a monitoring program – conducted IAQ Assessments and created a baseline of PM and CO data – found that homes with older stoves emitted PM 1.5x higher than homes with newer stoves
- Tested difference versions of wood piles to measure moisture content
- Multiple homes with 20+ yr. old stoves. \$\$ only allowed for 8 changeouts
- Used cultural values to select participants



# INDIAN COUNTRY'S STORY

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- Passamaquoddy Tribe – 2011 project, replaced 28 uncertified stoves.
- Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, R5, is currently doing a pilot project with American Lung Association.
- Bristol Bay Native Association – 2013 project on Home Heating, Steam Baths, Smoke Houses & Wood Harvest Practices helped identify needs and recommendations
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's Tribal Air Quality Program:
  - Wood Stove Emission was identified in the top 3 of air quality concerns
    - Since 2012, 203 assessments in 120 communities; with 47 assessments in 40 communities in 2018

# INDIAN COUNTRY'S VOICE

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- Change thinking of elder population who don't want to change their practices.
  - Increase community awareness to engage motivational change.
- Increase training opportunities to become certified to do a change-out program
  - Focus on picking local vendors if Tribal technicians can't become certified.
- Let data speak for itself – increase IAQ and EI
- Alaskan Tribes and Villages have voiced deeper issues than the lower 48
  - Transportation issues during winter months – so remote and can be expensive
  - Lack of access to resources – communities sometimes burn foreign material to stay warm because seasoned wood is hard to come by or hard to get to because of their location.

# TRIBAL CHALLENGES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND OPPORTUNITIES

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- Increase in fuel costs = increase in wood stove use
- “Making an Informed Change” – Hoonah Indian Association
  - Outreach – Getting in the door and helping homeowners understand the issues
- Alaska Tribes and Villages face major challenges
  - Homes are built so tight that air exchange is limited – increasing PM concentration levels
- Lack of Funding – an issue in all communities but...
  - Most organizations forget Tribes are there so we’re often left out of the pots of funding
  - Harder for Tribes to receive funding communication/apply when relationships are rocky with states/locals

# TRIBAL CHALLENGES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND OPPORTUNITIES

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How do we work together to increase communication to combat the same issues as our neighbor?

“Real change requires real connection” – Jeromy Grant, Hoonah Indian Association



# TRIBAL CHALLENGES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND OPPORTUNITIES

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# NATIONAL TRIBAL AIR ASSOCIATION:WOOD SMOKE WORK GROUP

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NTAA and EPA established this work group to collaborate with Tribal, state, EPA and other involved entities to research and implement a national residential wood stove program to address both the indoor and ambient air quality impacts of wood smoke, as well as address other wood smoke related issues on Tribal lands.



# NATIONAL TRIBAL AIR ASSOCIATION: WOOD SMOKE WORK GROUP

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During 2019, the WSWG provided a webinar series to Indian Country.

- Webinar 1 - 97+ attendees. Topics were Basic 101, fire safety, health effects, outreach.
- Webinar 2 - 70+ attendees. Focus was change-outs, fitting info, types of fuel, do's & don'ts.
- Webinar 3 - 45+ attendees. Closing topics tribal stories, success/challenges, program implementation.

The series had the highest viewing/attendance in NTAA's 2019 webinars

Partnered with EPA, ITEP, and Hearth (HPBA) to present



# NATIONAL TRIBAL AIR ASSOCIATION: WOOD SMOKE WORK GROUP NEXT STEPS

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- Increase capacity on regional data gaps. How do we work towards filling them?
- Share to knowledge obtained from this Workshop.
- Identify strategies that can be put out with or w/out a changeout program that can improve the lives of communities.
- Conduct a white-paper of the impacts of residential burning in Indian Country.
- Develop strategies to raise awareness for tribal programs and other decision makers.

# NATIONAL TRIBAL AIR ASSOCIATION: WOOD SMOKE WORK GROUP

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NTAA holds monthly work group calls.

Wood Smoke Work Group and the Indoor Air Quality alternates monthly calls.

Calls are typically held the third Thursday of every month.

Next Wood Smoke Work Group call is March 19<sup>th</sup>

Contact [Andy.Bessler@nau.edu](mailto:Andy.Bessler@nau.edu) to access call in number or receive NTAA updates

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

<https://www.ntaatribalair.org/work-groups/#WoodSmokeWorkGroup>