

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATES

October 2024

Environmental Health Services

Our Environmental Health Services program continues to assist Tribes with food safety, life safety, child safety, and health facility compliance.

Underground Storage Tank Program

Our UST program has been extended by EPA for the next two years. This program offers compliance assistance for Tribes and owners or operators of underground storage tanks (fuel service stations).

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program

Our CPRG program has continued to collect greenhouse gas emission data and is currently working on Comprehensive Climate Action Plans for the Tribes that have partnered on the program. We also are going to be a host site for Michigan's MI Healthy Climate Corps program and will be hosting a Climate Corps member November 2024 through November 2025.

Lake Huron GIS Project

ITC has been working with Tribes and the Lake Huron Important Habitat Subcommittee to create an interactive Lake Huron Important Habitat map. Currently we are trying to gain access to and compile Terrestrial LiDAR data from the United States Geological Survey and other federal agencies. The map is estimated to be completed sometime in 2025.

NOAA B-WET Program

ITC, NOAA, Bay Mills Biology Department and the Ojibwe Charter School (OCS) have all partnered to offer OCS students more meaningful watershed educational experiences. The watershed experiences have begun and the curriculum surrounding these experiences has started its implementation phase. This program is all about getting the youth involved in fun, educational, outdoor experiences that incorporate traditional and cultural teachings as well. So far feedback has been great, and ITC hopes to be able to expand this program to other Tribal schools in the near future.

EPA Community Change Grant - Tribal Home Energy Program

ITC will be partnering with several of the Michigan Tribes to provide weatherization assistance, install geothermal or heat pumps and electrify housing for Tribal homeowners. ITC is currently working with EPA to finalize the program and hopes to start working with Tribes within the next couple of months.

EPA Community Change Grant - Michigan Tribal and State Manoomin/Mnoomin/Mnomen Stewardship

ITC will be partnering with several Michigan Tribes, the University of Michigan and the State of Michigan to increase our efforts on protecting and managing Manoomin/Mnoomin/Mnomen. ITC is currently working with EPA to finalize the program and hopes to start working on this project within the next couple of months.

DOE Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation Program

ITC will be partnering with Slipstream, Inc and the Department of Energy to work with Tribal utilities and Tribal governments to offer technical assistance and workforce development related to updating building energy codes, making amendments to existing codes, or adopting energy codes for the first time.

EPA Voluntary School and Childcare Lead Testing and Reduction Tribal Grant Program (WIIN 2107)

The minimum threshold of lead in drinking water has been reduced to zero by EPA. ITC will be partnering with EPA and Michigan Tribes to make sure all of our schools and childcare facilities have zero lead in the drinking water. This program will fund drinking water analyses and remediation within the facility if lead is found.

Questions? Contact Bill Bernier at (906)632-6896 x115 or by email at bbernier@itcmi.org