

Bay Mills Indian Community
Brimley, Michigan 49715
*Grand Traverse Band
of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians*
Suttons Bay, Michigan 49682
Hannahville Indian Community
Wilson, Michigan 49896
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858
*Little Traverse Bay
Bands of Odawa Indians*
Harbor Springs, Michigan 49740
*Nottawaseppi Band of
Huron Potawatomi*
Fulton, Michigan 49502



Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
Baraga, Michigan 49908
*Lac Vieux Desert Band
of Lake Superior Chippewa*
Watersmeet, Michigan 49969
*Sault Ste. Marie
Tribe of Chippewa Indians*
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783
*Pokagon Band of
Potawatomi Indians*
Dowagiac, Michigan 49047
*Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish
(Gun Lake Tribe)*
Dorr, Michigan 49323

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tribes Awarded Climate Change Support through MI Healthy Climate Corps and NOAA B-WET Projects

SAULT STE. MARIE -- The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan will be a new grantee of AmeriCorps's MI Healthy Climate Corps on Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. CPRG is a grant through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to help develop climate action plans with six Tribes in Michigan: Bay Mills Indian Community, Grand Traverse Band of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

The MI Healthy Climate Corps accelerates Michigan's climate action through capacity building and leadership development. Members serve across the state to advance the MI Healthy Climate Plan's goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. The plan, unveiled by Governor Gretchen Whitmer in 2022, aims to avert the worst impacts of the climate crisis; create good-paying jobs; position Michigan as a climate action leader; and build a healthier and more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable Michigan for all Michiganders.

MI Healthy Climate Plan lays out a broad vision for fulfilling Governor Whitmer's commitment to achieving 100% economy-wide carbon neutrality in Michigan by midcentury. MI Healthy Climate Corps members serve at organizations across Michigan, providing critical support to communities tackling climate change. The program launched in early 2024 with new cohorts selected annually. MI Healthy Climate Corps members receive significant training and career development support to step into Michigan's climate leadership pool. The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan is one of thirty-one communities or organizations that will be hosting the new MI Healthy Climate Corps

"Plans will include how the Tribes will combat climate change for the next 25 years," said Dustin Paras, the CPRG Program Manager. He continues "We also plan to include complete greenhouse gas inventories for each participating Tribe, emissions projects and emissions reducing projects that the Tribes can use to lower their carbon footprint."

"My role in this project will be helping create greenhouse gas inventories for the Tribes along with emission projections," said Lucas Roff, Environmental Technician with MI Healthy Climate Corps. He adds "I'll also help with obtaining Tribal members' input for these plans through outreach events this upcoming spring and summer."

Lucas is a cohort for the MI Healthy Climate Corps, partnered with Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan. He will be working out of Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan's central office in Sault Ste. Marie. Lucas is from Sandusky and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Lake Superior State University.

Lucas will also be assisting with the NOAA B-WET project this spring and early next fall. The NOAA B-WET grant is funded through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. ITCM has partnered to support Bay Mills Biological Services on the project. The main purpose of this program is to provide students at Ojibwe Charter School with meaningful watershed educational experiences. These experiences will teach students the importance of watersheds and how climate change has a major impact on local watersheds. In this program, students will attend field days at three different locations. In the field days, students will learn how to properly identify a healthy watershed. Lucas's role in this project is to help students during the field days this spring and next fall.

More information on MI Healthy Climate Corps can be found here: <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/climate-and-energy/mi-healthy-climate-plan/initiatives/mi-healthy-climate-corps>

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PHOTO CAPTION:

Lucas Roff, Environmental Technician with MI Healthy Climate Corps will be helping participating tribes create greenhouse gas inventories along with emission projections as part of Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. He will also be providing support on Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan's NOAA B-WET project to provide students with meaningful watershed educational experiences. Lucas's office is located at Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan's central office in Sault Ste. Marie.



NOAA B-WET promotes student learning in their local communities and encourages capacity building for environmental education. B-WET funding supports states, school districts, and their partners to develop high-quality environmental education experiences for every student, as well as rigorous teacher training opportunities. Learn more about NOAA B-WET at <https://www.noaa.gov/office-education/bwet>

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The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc. is a 501(C)3 non-profit corporation duly organized under a state charter filed April 16, 1968. The agency represents all twelve federally recognized tribes in Michigan. The agency is divided into several different divisions, including headstart; early headstart; health services; behavioral health; environmental services; child, family, and education services; and administration. The agency employs approximately 160 employees. 35 of these employees are based in the agency's central office in Sault Ste. Marie, while member tribes have offices and staff on site. Visit <http://www.itcmi.org/> to learn more about the agency.

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