


2025 Tribal Environmental Health Forum

FINAL - EVENT AGENDA

 **May 6-7, 2025**

 **Harrah's Casino, Ak-Chin Indian Community, Maricopa, AZ**

Monday, May 5, 2025 - Travel Day

Day 1 – Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Time	Activity	Description
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Forum Sign-In / Registration / Breakfast	
9:00 AM - 9:20 AM	Blessing & Tribal Welcome Hon. Gabriel Lopez, <i>Chairman, Ak-Chin Indian Community</i>	
9:20 AM - 9:45 AM	Opening Remarks Dr. Karletta Chief (Diné), <i>Director Indigenous Resilience Center</i> Roman Orona (Apache, Yaqui, Pueblo), <i>Environmental Programs Manager, Ak-Chin Indian Community</i> Sofia Montes, <i>Assistant Director, SWEHSC Community Engagement Core</i>	Leaders will share insights on the significance of environmental health in tribal communities.
9:45 AM - 10:25 AM	Session I: Opening Plenary Amy Juan, (Tohono O'odham), <i>Administration Manager, San Xavier Coop</i>	This keynote session will set the tone for the forum, focusing on Indigenous resilience and environmental leadership.
10:25 AM - 10:35 AM	Break	
10:35 AM - 11:15 AM	Session II: Tribal Environmental Professional Panel Dr. Sarah Abney, <i>Program Manager, Hopi Water Resources Program, Hopi Tribe,</i> Alvin Crook (Hualapai), <i>Program Manager, Water Resources Program, Hualapai Tribe</i> Graciela Olivias (Navajo), <i>Environmental Specialist, Salt River-Pima Maricopa Indian Community Air Program</i>	Tribal environmental professionals will discuss pressing environmental concerns and ongoing projects in their communities.

	Moderated by: Roman Orona, Ak-Chin Indian Community	
11:15 AM - 12:00 PM	Tabletop Activity: Outreach & Engagement Dr. Marti Lindsey, Retired Benjamin Richmond, University of Arizona	There is a gap between the environmental information required by the EPA and the information community members and leaders want to know about the community's environment. This interactive session will discuss how to address the gap. This discussion will provide the participants with an opportunity to adapt environmental information for community member consumption.
12:00 PM - 12:30 PM	Lunch	
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Poster Session & Resource Fair- An opportunity to engage with faculty, graduate students, and organizations showcasing their environmental research and resources	Preparing for Heat Season: Sharing strategies and solutions - Heat season continues to break records due to intense, prolonged heat waves that have broken various heat records across the nation. Come join an interactive session hosted by the Southwest Center on Resilience to Climate and Health to share your experiences, insights, and ideas to shape effective strategies for improving resilience and safety during Arizona's hottest months. This is a come-when-you-can session so drop by during the poster session to learn and exchange ideas.
1:10 PM - 2:10 PM	Session III: Addressing Food Sovereignty through Traditional Agricultural Practices Lilian Hill (Hopi), Hopi Tutskwa Permaculture, Hopi Tribe Eric Shin, Nalwoodi Denzhone Community, San Carlos Apache Tribe Tito Romero, Flowers and Bullets, Tucson, AZ	This session will explore the role of traditional agricultural practices in enhancing food sovereignty in tribal communities. Experts will discuss the importance of revitalizing native food systems, the benefits of sustainable agriculture, and how these practices contribute to environmental resilience.

	<p>Marcela Tayaba, <i>Habitat Restoration Specialist, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians</i></p> <p>Moderated by Christina Gargus, Indigenous Resilience Center</p>	
2:15 PM - 3:05 PM	<p>Plenary Session II: Tribal Climate Change</p> <p>Cheyenne Kippenberger, (Seminole Tribe of Florida & Chilean American)</p> <p>Learn more about her here</p>	An expert will explore the impacts of climate change on tribal lands, featuring indigenous perspectives and youth engagement.
3:05 PM - 3:10 PM	Break	
3:10 PM - 4:15 PM	<p>Session V: Preparing the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards</p> <p>Ruben Aguirre (Pascua Yaqui), <i>Former President Yoeme Youth Council, Pascua Yaqui Tribe</i></p> <p>Jordania Livingston (Navajo), <i>Program Coordinator, SWEHSC Community Engagement Core</i></p> <p>Tossi-masso Molina (Yoeme), <i>A Student's Journey Alumni, Tohono O'odham Community College</i></p> <p>Kii'y'aa'nii Ross (Diné/Yaqui), <i>Eco Truths</i></p> <p>Georgie Pongyesva (Hopi), <i>Hopi Tribal Liaison/Consultant</i></p> <p>Moderated by Daniel Sestiaga Jr., Indigenous Resilience Center</p>	A panel of young environmental advocates will share insights on engaging the next generation in sustainability and climate action.
4:15 PM - 4:30 PM	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Sofia Montes, Assistant Director, SWEHSC Community Engagement Core</p> <p>Daniel Sestiaga Jr., Assistant Director, Indigenous Resilience Center</p>	A recap of key insights from the day and a look ahead to the next steps.
4:30 PM - 6:30 PM	Break	
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	Evening Activity: Indigenous Resilience Awards	Honoring individuals and organizations leading the way in

	<p>Honorees: Trent Teegerstrom, <i>Associate Director for Tribal Extension Programs Ag Economics Extension Specialist: Production Economics, Crop Budget Development & Risk Management Education</i> Roman Orona, (Apache, Yaqui, Pueblo) Environmental Programs Manager, Ak-Chin Indian Community</p> <p>San Xavier Coop Farm</p>	environmental resilience and advocacy.
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Day 2 – Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Time	Activity	Description	
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Forum Sign-In / Registration / Breakfast		
9:00 AM - 10:25 AM	<p>Workshop Session 1: Tribal Air Monitoring</p> <p>-</p> <p>Mansel Nelson, <i>Program Manager Indoor Air Quality in Tribal Communities Tribal Environmental Education Outreach Program Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals Northern Arizona University</i></p> <p>This session will focus on air quality monitoring efforts in tribal communities, featuring experts from the ITEP/TAMS Center. Attendees will gain insights into</p>	<p>Workshop Session 2: Tribal Environmental & IHS Collaboration (Septic Systems Case Study) -</p> <p>Christy Sangster-Begay, <i>Department of Environmental Protection San Carlos Apache Tribe</i></p> <p>This training will provide a case study on successful collaboration between tribal environmental departments, Indian Health Services, and Technical Assistance Providers to address septic system challenges. Experts will walk through best practices, funding opportunities, and real-world applications for improving sanitation infrastructure.</p>	<p>Training 3: ITCA Pesticide Exposure and Management</p> <p>Africa Dorame-Avalos, <i>Pesticide Program Manager, Environmental Quality Programs Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.</i></p> <p>This session will focus on pesticides and pesticide use safety. This includes the different types of pesticides, how to understand exposures, reading the label, and mitigate risks when utilizing these products.</p>

	monitoring techniques, data interpretation, and strategies for improving air quality		
10:25 AM - 10:35 AM	Break		
10:35 AM - 12:00 PM	Workshop Session 1 - Repeated	Workshop Session 2 - Repeated	Training 3 - Repeated
12:00 PM - 12:30 PM	Lunch:		
12:30 PM - 1:00 PM	Forum Closing / Call to Action	Final reflections and a collective discussion on future collaborations and commitments.	
1:00 PM - 1:15 PM	Load Up & Depart for Site Tours		
1:30 PM - 3:45 PM	Site Visits Tour of Ak-Chin Indian Community Water Treatment Plant and Wastewater Treatment Plant	Guided visits to wastewater and water treatment facilities to see environmental management in action.	
3:45 PM - 4:00 PM	Load Up & Return to Casino		

Thursday, May 8, 2025 – Travel Day