



EPA-Tribal Environmental Plans (ETEPs) Protect People, Land and Water in Indian Country

What is an EPA-Tribal Environmental Plan (ETEP)?

- Jointly developed plan outlining how each tribe and the EPA will work together to support the tribe’s environmental goals within the context of all EPA tribal programs, including, but not limited to, the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program.
- A planning and communication tool for the tribe and EPA that provides a road map for future decision-making.

ETEPs have 4 components:

1. Inventory of regulated entities
2. Tribal environmental program priorities
3. EPA program priorities
4. Mutual roles and responsibilities

How do ETEPs lead to stronger environmental and public health protection in Indian country?

- ETEPs are unique documents that reflect the tribe’s and EPA’s government-to-government relationship, leading to a shared understanding of the most important federal environmental program issues facing the tribe.
- The tribe’s environmental program priorities are informed by EPA’s regulatory authorities and the best available data on the tribe’s environmental program needs.
- Plan implementation helps to target EPA financial assistance toward building tribal environmental program capacity to achieve the tribe’s goals.
- Plans identify areas where EPA may need to prioritize its work and resources for that particular tribe, given the tribe’s own priorities, environmental protection needs, and available resources, to carry out EPA’s federal environmental program responsibilities.
- ETEPs lead to better measurement of tribal environmental program progress over time, which informs stronger decision-making and real results.

ETEPs...

- Support Objective 2.1 of EPA’s Strategic Plan, “Enhance Shared Accountability”
- Continue a long-standing commitment to cooperative EPA-tribal planning
- Cover a 3 to 5-year period
- Vary in length and structure, providing flexibility to each tribe and EPA region

How are ETEPs implemented?

- ETEPs are intended to be practical documents that lead to informed decisions about how to allocate financial and technical assistance for environmental programs.
- Implementation involves coordination between the tribe and various EPA staff who administer EPA programs in Indian country and manage tribal grant programs.
- EPA and the tribe work together to monitor progress toward ETEP goals and to keep the plans relevant to the changing environmental and public health challenges facing the tribe.

Want to learn more? Visit the American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) website at <https://www.epa.gov/tribal>