Every day is Earth Day at EPA. But officially, it’s April 22nd. [Here are a few ways you can celebrate with EPA](http://www.azeha.org/Home.html) on Earth Day and throughout the month of April.
Greetings to all AZEHA members! This message to you comes on the heels of another successful annual educational conference. I would personally like to thank all of our board members who helped to ensure the conference was educational and informative. They really made my job a lot easier! Our President-Elect, Cheri Dale, helped to secure speakers and make sure we had open lines of communication going back and forth so all were kept informed of dates and times to keep everything on track. Board member Veronica Oros helped to secure the fabulous room and fantastic lunches. Aramark really did another great job providing delicious meals for all who attended. Past President Michelle Chester was also instrumental in finding speakers and her experience in putting on past conferences also helped us to keep everything on track. David Morales, who helps with the publication of this newsletter and handles our web site, was also provided insight into speakers, and was always willing to lend a hand wherever help was needed. Jennifer Podulka did a great job in coordinating all of the awesome swag and treats for the gift bags, as well as helping out with registration. Speaking of registration, Tesann Achilles again handled that job with great aplomb. I also would like to thank the people who helped us fill the gift bags, including Danny Chhun, Tom Dominick, Jennifer Podulka, David Morales, Mike Britt, Jon Tran, and Tina Schoville. Last but not least, I owe a huge amount of indebtedness to Tom Dominick, who helped us find speakers, exhibitors, and provided the AV support for the conference.

Also, I would like to encourage all of our members to run for an office and to vote in the upcoming election. This is your opportunity to team up with an outstanding group of individuals to advance the goals of the Association. You can help shape the future of AZEHA and help to provide vision and direction to our organization.
Hello to all who attended the 2018 AZEHA Spring conference –
Hello to all who attended the 2018 AZEHA Spring conference –
Hello to all who attended the 2018 AZEHA Spring conference –
THANK YOU!

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Every year for the spring conference, the board members select a non-profit organization to support. Attendees are asked to provide anything they can from a provided “want/ need list” from the organization, in return for additional raffle tickets for great prizes at the conference. This is also a way for the Arizona Environmental Health Association to give back to our community. A big thank you to all who donated to our charity this year, Arizona Animal Welfare League (AAWL). AAWL is the oldest and largest no kill shelter in Arizona, re-homing more than 4000 dogs and cats. There was a total of $143 cash, assorted office supplies, cleaning supplies, towels, food, leashes, and toys donated for all of the shelter dogs and cats awaiting their forever homes.
SPECIAL THANK YOU

NSF and ARAMARK

A special THANK YOU to our lunch sponsor NSF, who provided for our wonderful lunches!

And to ARAMARK for serving up a wide variety of foods and those delicious deserts!
THANK YOU TO OUR EXHIBITORS!

A THANK YOU to our EXHIBITORS who always are willing to take time to talk with us AND make the conference a success!
THANK YOU!

A BIG THANK YOU!!! to all of the organizations who donated items for the tote bags and raffles: We received many compliments from attendees regarding all of the goodies in the tote bags and great raffles prizes this year.

Maricopa County Air Quality for the great re-usable bags.

Frys Food Stores for the wine and gift cards for the raffles and snacks, pens, and personal toiletries.

EcoLab for the mini flashlights and pens

GOJO for the sanitizer dispensers for the raffles and tote bags

Sprouts for the fresh fruit during our breaks and coffee mugs, snacks, and pens.

Safeway/ Albertsons for the snacks, pens, and sanitizer
Air Quality Awareness Week

Air Quality Awareness Week is April 30–May 4. This year's theme is “Air Quality Where You Are.” The goal of this observance is to promote events that increase air quality awareness and inspire people to take steps, no matter how large or small, to reduce their contribution to air pollution.

Sometimes the smallest things can make the biggest difference, even when it comes to measuring air quality.
EPA and partners are looking at ways to use miniature sensors to monitor air quality near wildfires. Data from these small sensors can complement measurements obtained from more complex regulatory-grade monitors that are stationary or not easily transported.

What Health Professionals Should Know About the Cardiovascular Risk of Air Pollution
Many people are aware of the ways that they can reduce their risk of cardiovascular disease: control blood pressure, stop smoking, exercise, and eat a healthy diet. Air pollution is also a risk factor for approximately 92 million American adults who have some form of cardiovascular disease or stroke-related health problem. Here’s what you should know to protect your heart.

EPA awards University of Washington nearly $3 million to further study air pollution & cardiovascular disease link
EPA awarded a grant to the University of Washington to expand and inform the understanding of how air pollution contributes to cardiovascular disease. This research supports reducing uncertainty regarding the effects of particulate matter and other criteria pollutants on health.

The Science Behind Wildfire Smoke’s Toxicity
Wildfire smoke is dangerous. It’s also a major component of air pollution. EPA researchers are investigating whether particles in wildfire smoke have different health effects depending on the type of wood burned and stage of the fire, such as flaming or smoldering.
The Reality of Intentional Food Contamination Threats

FSM EDIGEST | April 3, 2018

The headline splashed across the front page of The Sun, a British newspaper known for sensationalism, had everything necessary to get the public’s attention. Entitled, “ROBOT WARS – Russia could use robots to poison food for ‘untraceable’ AI assassinations in ‘chilling new Cold War,’” the article included robots, war, Russia, assassinations, a brave computer engineer presented as an expert warning the world, and apocalyptic visions reminiscent of The Matrix.

2018 Dirty Dozen and Clean Fifteen Lists Rank Produce Items by Pesticide Level

The Environmental Working Group (EWG) has once again released their annual list of the “dirtiest” and “cleanest” fruits and vegetables available to U.S. consumers.

EWG, a nonprofit and nonpartisan group has been ranking fresh produce based on their levels of pesticide contamination (number of pesticides and amount of each pesticide) since 2004. The results are compiled into their Shopper’s Guide to Pesticides in Produce each year. The guide is meant to be a resource for consumers who cannot buy organic produce—for whatever reason.

Fifth Recall Reveals Known Contamination at Raw Pet Food Plant

Arrow Reliance Inc. (dba Darwin’s Natural Pet Products) sells its raw pet foods exclusively to customers via a subscription service. The Washington-based company just issued its fifth product recall since 2016 due to possible pathogenic contamination.
The Federal Food Safety Modernization Act was enacted by Congress in 2011. It is the national reformation of the United States food safety laws. The goal of this legislation was to reduce food-borne illness by preventing potential contamination rather than reacting to outbreaks. The seven components of FSMA are Preventative Controls for Human Food, Preventative Controls for Animal Food, Mitigation against Intentional Adulteration, Accredited Third Party Certification, Sanitary Transportation of Human and Animal Food, Foreign Verification Program and the PRODUCE SAFETY RULE (PSR).

The Act authorized the FDA to develop the PSR, which was finalized in November 2015 and became effective January 2018. The PSR is science-based and applies to produce that is consumed raw (covered produce). Growers, Harvesters, Packers and Holders, who based upon their operations, grow, harvest, pack or holder of covered produce are responsible for compliance.

The Key Requirements of the PSR are Agricultural Water, Animal Intrusion, Biological Soil Amendments, Worker Health/Hygiene and Sanitation of Buildings, Tools and Equipment. These requirements will necessitate additional record keeping subject to inspection.

FDA’s goal is to Educate prior to Regulation. To accomplish this task the Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) thru a cooperative agreement with the FDA has developed a Training/Outreach program for Stakeholder participation. The AZDA utilizing existing produce food safety programs within the Citrus, Fruit and Vegetable Program (CFV) at the AZDA to meet the needs of Arizona farms.

The FDA requires all farms to attend the Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training class, AZDA has sponsored several classes, 4 in English and 3 Spanish, training over 160 participants. The AZDA will continue to regularly offer this training throughout Arizona.

The AZDA is also providing Arizona farms with the Arizona LGMA Food Safety Training Kit, which helps farms to comply with several of the PSR training requirements, which cover basic food safety training though tailgate flipcharts, video and PowerPoint presentation.

In June 2018, the AZDA will begin utilizing a technical assistance tool called an On Farm Readiness Review, to provide stakeholders a one-on-one farm visits to help them prepare for a PSR inspection.

The Cooperative Agreement has enabled the AZDA in conjunction with industry partners such as the Yuma Fresh Vegetable Association, Western Growers and Farm Bureau to develop legislation to assume primacy over the PSR. Currently, SB1063 is working its way through the legislative process this legislative session.

The benefits of this bill will allow for AZDA as opposed to the FDA control over the Education and Inspection requirements of the PSR. Understanding Arizona Growing, Harvesting, Packing and Holding practices will allow for faster response times to questions, needs and compliance issues. Inspections will be completed by AZDA staff which will allow for greater consistency in inspection performance. Continuing to work industry partners and governmental entities will insure the success of the Produce Safety Rule.

**AZDA Citrus Fruit & Vegetable Division - Produce Safety Rule Team**

Joe Oddo, PSR Program Manager (602) 542-0976
Norman Barnett, Training Officer (602) 542-0978
Michael Brown, Training Officer (602) 542-0977
1688 W. Adams, Phoenix, AZ 85007
Vector

EEK: Vectors & Public Health Pests Virtual Conference 2018

The EEK Virtual Conference is designed to enhance the knowledge of environmental health professionals to help them respond to events of public health concern, as well as bring professionals together to exchange information and discover new solutions to issues in vectors and public health pests. We are looking to facilitate collaboration across multiple sectors (including academia, research, private industry, and environmental public health) and encourage anyone who is interested the field of vector control or public health pests to attend. Registration is now open for NEHA's Enhancing Environmental Health Knowledge (EEK): Vectors and Public Health Pests Virtual Conference being held on May 15–16. EEK is a free virtual conference where you can learn about the latest information on vector borne diseases, network with professionals from multiple sectors across the country, and learn about successful programs, vector surveillance, and pest management methods.

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) is hosting two upcoming webinars:

1. Cross-Jurisdictional Considerations for Addressing Zika and Other Public Health Threats: Communicating, coordinating, and collaborating with adjacent or overlapping governments can be daunting in the best of situations. Collaboration becomes especially complex when those partnerships get tested in critical public health situations. Many Tribal governments face additional challenges, including the need to educate state and local partners on Tribal sovereignty and jurisdiction, and the status that Tribes and Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TECs) hold as public health authorities. Using Zika as an example, the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) Deputy Director and Director of Public Health Programs and Policy, Carolyn Angus-Hornbuckle, JD, will discuss benefits to cross-jurisdictional collaboration and tools to use to advance partnerships. Learn more or register HERE

2. Zika Champions in Indian Country: Spotlight on Three Zika Projects Funded by the National Indian Health Board Last summer, the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) announced a funding opportunity that would provide Tribes and Tribal organizations with up to $5000 to tackle one or two high impact, capacity building activities to prepare for the possibility of Zika transmission in Tribal communities. Three awardees received funding: Bishop Paiute Tribe (California), Indian Health Council (California), and Kaw Nation (Oklahoma). These Tribal champions have been striving to address this critical threat in creative ways within their communities and will wrap up their current projects at the end of April 2018. Learn more or register HERE

CDC Bottle Bioassay

The CDC bottle bioassay determines if a particular formulation (combination of the active ingredient in the insecticide and inactive ingredients) is able to kill an insect vector, such as a mosquito, at a specific location at a given time. It can detect resistance to insecticides in mosquitoes and other insects. The technique is simple, rapid, and economical, compared with alternatives. The results can help guide the choice of insecticide used for spraying.

Bottle bioassay kits and insecticide resistance formulations are only available for international programs. If your institution or program would like to order a bottle bioassay kit, which contains bottles, insecticide formulations, manual, and instructional video, please contact CDC to discuss the collaboration at bottleassay@cdc.gov. To order only the bottle bioassay insecticide resistance formulation, please send your request to bottleassay@cdc.gov. The formulations are free.
‘Wall of sound’ helps corral 47,000 Asian carp; invasive species overran Missouri county lake

St. Louis County scared invasive fish out of a lake with the sound of motorboats. Rounding up 47,000 fish in a 320-acre lake in a Missouri county took some ingenuity, using a method that has been used in Asia but not often in the United States. Read More.

EPA Announces Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Program

On April 4, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the availability of new funding through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program. The WIFIA program is a federal loan and guarantee program within EPA designed to accelerate investment in the nation’s water infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant projects, including many county water infrastructure projects. The new funding announcement could provide up to $5.5 billion in loans and leverage over $11 billion for water infrastructure projects. Prospective borrowers seeking WIFIA credit assistance must submit a letter of interest (LOI) and all required documents by July 6, 2018 via email to wifia@epa.gov. Applicants may also upload the required documents directly to EPA’s SharePoint site. Access to this site must be requested before noon on July 3, 2018 by emailing wifia@epa.gov.

The funding announcement lists two major priorities for this round of funding: providing clean and safe drinking water and reducing lead exposure; and repairing, rehabilitating and replacing aging infrastructure and conveyance systems. Generally, WIFIA credit assistance can be used for a wide range of projects including drinking water treatment and distribution; wastewater conveyance and treatment; enhanced energy efficiency at drinking water and wastewater facilities; desalination; water recycling; and drought prevention or mitigation projects, many of which involve county owned and maintained water infrastructure.

The WIFIA program received $63 million in funding in the FY 2018 omnibus appropriations package, more than doubling the program’s overall funding from 2017, which should provide for increased investment in local water infrastructure in 2018. In 2017, EPA invited 12 projects across nine states to apply for WIFIA loans totaling over $2 billion.

Counties play an essential role in building and maintaining America’s water infrastructure and invest more than $120 billion overall in infrastructure per year. In addition, more than 70 percent of counties invest in storm sewer systems. Counties are regularly addressing water infrastructure needs, especially when preparing and responding to flooding threats and other water challenges and hazards, and call on the federal government to provide reliable, long-term and substantially increased investment in water infrastructure and protection of water resources. As Director of EPA’s Office of Wastewater Management Dr. Andrew Sawyers stated in the announcement, “An investment in water infrastructure is an investment in our communities. The WIFIA program helps improve water quality and protect public health while supporting the local economy.”

Typically, the WIFIA program helps finance larger water infrastructure projects – primarily those with an anticipated cost of $20 million or more. However, recognizing the need for investment in both large and small communities, Congress stipulated 15 percent of WIFIA funds be set aside each year for small communities serving fewer than 25,000 residents. Such projects have a lower cost threshold for eligibility, only requiring an anticipated cost of $5 million or more.
Firefighters Turn to Chemical Detox Saunas to Thwart the Cancer Threat

Firefighters are at increased risk because of toxic smoke and chemicals on the job.

Firefighters are suffering from an inordinate number of cancer deaths and some departments are hoping Chemical Detox Infra-red Saunas can, at least partly, provide some hope.

EPA Researches Publish Paper Analyzing Household Products for Chemical Presence

Typically, when a product is screened for chemicals, the researcher is only looking for the presence of a few specific chemicals. Using a new approach, called suspect screening, EPA researchers are testing household products for all chemicals present. These data can be used to prioritize which chemicals should be screened for health risks.

Body Art Model Code: Public Comment Open

Since 2016, NEHA has been facilitating revisions to its 1999 Body Art Model Code (BAMC) to identify current best practices and develop updated standards in the body art field. The code is now ready for public review and you can view the draft BAMC and guidelines to submit your comments. Please contact Solly Poprish if you have any questions about the code or review process. Deadline to submit comments is May 4.
In previous editions of the AZEHA newsletter, a partial listing of the bills introduced in the Arizona House and Senate have been cited. Almost 900 bills have been introduced this session. With the new Arizona State Legislature website, it is easier and more efficient to search for bills that are or may be relevant to an individual or agency. To provide relevant information to your specific area(s) of interest, below is a simple and effective means of conducting your own search of the Arizona House and Senate Bills. To keep informed, follow the simple instructions below.

1. Access the Arizona State Legislature website at https://www.azleg.gov/bills/?body=S
2. Simply type in a search word such as “water” and a list of House and Senate bills will appear.
3. Click on the bill you would like to review.

**EXAMPLE:**

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“Arizona Bill” provides a fun and easy-to-read overview on how a bill becomes a law within Arizona. “Arizona Bill” can be accessed at https://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/hbillaw.pdf

From Idea ...... To Bill ...... To Law

The Legislative Process in Arizona

by State Senator Randall Gnant

Per the acknowledgment by State Senator Randall Gnant (February, 2000) “The first edition of this booklet was published in December of 1995 and was quickly "sold out" (if you can use that expression for a free booklet)...My goal has always been to be able to put this booklet into the hands of any Arizona citizen who wanted it.” Now, thanks to the booklet being posted electronically, more can learn how the legislative process works in Arizona. The complete “booklet” can be accessed at https://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/BillToLaw.pdf
EPA’s EcoService Models Library is now live! This online database allows users to find, examine, and compare more than 150 ecological models that can be used to estimate the benefits we receive from nature, like clean air and water, pollination, and flood control. It’s designed to help people, such as community planners, choose which models to use to understand how their decisions will impact these benefits.

A healthy environmental is fundamental to a healthy community. That’s why EPA partners with public health organizations to share science and ensure a healthy future for our nation’s communities. Read about some of the positive impacts these partnerships have had.

Experience Food Safety Strategies online.

This ALL NEW resource provides food safety professionals with unparalleled information on how to monitor, defend and solve safety issues around food and beverage products and processes. Want to receive twice-monthly updates from Food Safety Strategies? Subscribe to the Food Safety Insights eNewsletter.

ECOTOX Update Improves Search for Environmental Chemical Toxicity Data

It just got easier to find environmental chemical toxicity data. EPA has updated ECOTOX, a publicly available application that provides environmental chemical toxicity data used to assess the effects of chemical exposures to aquatic life, terrestrial plants, and wildlife. ECOTOX 5.0 is now available in beta version, offering an opportunity to provide feedback before this updated version becomes final.

New Video: Why Are Environmental Health Services So Important?

How does environmental health services work with epidemiology and laboratory professionals to protect public health? Through this new video from CDC, you can share how environmental health services answer how and why a disease occurs, recommend actions to stop outbreaks and prevent future ones, and shield hosts from harmful agents through environmental controls.
CEU Opportunities

Free Online Courses Enable Training of Spontaneous Volunteers Before or During a Disaster
Software provider launches five video-based courses that aim to aid continuity during disaster. READ MORE

Webinar: Simultaneous Compliance Considerations and Best Practices

Tuesday April 24 | 2:00 pm ET
Water utilities are tasked with complying with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations and ensuring safe drinking water is delivered to their customers. The first presentation, by Michael Finn from EPA's Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water, will cover tools and resources that States and water systems can use to meet drinking water standards and identify potential concerns when making treatment changes. Many inorganic contaminants coexist in groundwater and present treatment challenges to small water utilities. The second presentation, by Thomas Sorg from EPA's Office of Research and Development, will highlight the results of a study conducted to evaluate the performance of arsenic adsorptive media treatment technologies that were in use at fullscale drinking water treatment systems and were found to simultaneously remove other co-occurring contaminants. Register here.


Monday April 30 | 8:30 am ET and 1:30 pm ET
In recent years, EPA's Sensor Performance Evaluation and Application Research (SPEAR) initiative has conducted a variety of laboratory and field-based evaluations and deployments of air quality sensors and other next generation air monitors. This webinar will summarize general findings across a broad base of air sensor research activities from 2014 - 2018. Each session will feature presentations by some of the SPEAR research team on such topics as sensor evaluations, data analytics, ammonia detection, citizen science, and detection of select emission sources. Register here.

EPA Air Quality Sensor Workshop and Webinar

June 25-26, 2018
EPA will host an in-person workshop and online webinar, Deliberating Performance Targets for Air Quality Sensors, to discuss a broad range of issues involved with establishing and adopting a common set of non-regulatory performance targets for air sensor technologies. The workshop will be held at EPA's research campus in Durham, NC. Anyone from state and local government, tribes, industry, academia, or the public with special interest or technical expertise in measuring ambient or near source air pollution is encouraged to attend the workshop. Register here.
CEU Opportunities

Environmental Public Health Online Courses (EPHOC)

EPHOC is an online/on-demand package of e-learning courses for environmental public health practitioners. The goal is to provide access to comprehensive, worthwhile, and affordable workforce development resources for practitioners in environmental public health. This has been a major issue of concern across the United States for the past decade or more.

**EPHOC courses are free.** They are taught by a group of environmental public health subject-matter experts from across the country. Each course includes a pretest, a number of individual 40- to 60-minute modules, and a posttest. Course content includes information on various roles and responsibilities of environmental public health staff.

NEHA will award REHS/RS continuing education credit for each course successfully completed.

New Food Safety Degree Program at University of Arizona

The University of Arizona has introduced a new bachelor's degree program in food safety. Housed within the School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences, the food safety curriculum will include subject matter that focuses on epidemiology, food toxicology, the legal aspects of the food industry, and more. [Read More]

NEHA is pleased to announce that our library of [E-learning courses](#) is now available on our new learning management platform. NEHA’s E-learning courses are recorded directly from our [Annual Educational Conference](#) and highlight the latest environmental health topics and issues in areas such as food safety, climate change, water quality and more. These courses are free if you are a NEHA member and available for purchase for non-members.

Safe Water Program Improvement e-Learning Series

NEHA is excited to announce the launch of the new [Safe Water Program Improvement (SWPI) e-Learning Series](#). Created in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Network of Public Health Institutes, Texas Health Institutes, Tulane University, and NEHA, SWPI provides information and resources for improving health department programs on household wells, springs, cisterns, and other drinking water sources. The training is free and available online. [NEHA continuing education units are available upon completion of the courses and the final evaluation](#).
OPPORTUNITIES

UL - FOOD SAFETY AUDITOR: Search [here](#) or for Arizona jobs.

STERITECH – SPECIALIST: OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE AND FOOD SAFETY: Search [jobs](#).

COCONINO COUNTY

CONTACT US

Arizona Environmental Health Association

[http://www.azeha.org/Home.html](http://www.azeha.org/Home.html)

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 24, 2018 (Webinar details: CEU Opportunity Page)
EPA Webinar: Simultaneous Compliance Considerations and Best Practices [Register here](#).

April 30, 2018 (Webinar details: CEU Opportunity Page)

April 26, 2018 Webinar (Details on Vector Page)
Cross-Jurisdictional Considerations for Addressing Zika and Other Public Health Threats

[Learn more and register](#)

May 15-16, 2018 Virtual Conference (Details on Vector Page)
Vectors and Public Health Pest Virtual Conference 2018

[Learn more and register](#)

May 18, 2018 Webinar (Details on Vector Page)
Zika Champions in Indian Country: Spotlight on Three Zika Projects Funded by the National Indian Health Board

[Learn more and register](#)

June 25-26, 2018 (Webinar details: CEU Opportunity Page)
EPA Air Quality Sensor Workshop and Webinar [Register here](#).

June 25 – 28, 2018
NEHA 2018 AEC & Exhibition and HUD Healthy Homes Conference
Anaheim Marriott Hotel, Anaheim, California

[Register Now](#): The [2018 AEC](#) early registration pricing extended to APRIL 23, 2018. You don’t want to miss out on all the amazing education and networking opportunities we are planning. [Attendee registration](#) is now open! You can also reserve your group rated [hotel room](#) and check out other travel information.

July 25-26, 2018
Arizona Infectious Disease Training
Black Canyon Conference Center

For more information: [Agenda](#) | [Register](#)

November 7-8, 2018
Arizona Sanitarian Conference, agenda and registration to be announced at a later date

WWW.AZEHA.ORG