

Dear Tribal Youth Educators and Leaders,

The Bureau of Indian Affairs is pleased to announce an upcoming virtual listening session focused on Tribal Youth and Climate, scheduled on October 13, 2021, 3:00-5:00pm Eastern. Climate change, equity, accessibility, and environmental justice are priorities of the Biden-Harris Administration. The Department of the Interior is seeking opportunities to hear from Tribal youth about what they view as important for climate resilience programs, and how the Department can improve equitable access. The feedback and perspectives shared from Indian Country and Alaska Native Village youth will shape policies and programs that promote and advance Tribal climate resilience.

The listening sessions will serve as the first of multiple opportunities for the Department to hear directly from Tribes who are passionate about their communities, climate, equity and indigenous resilience. We hope to have a thoughtful listening session to understand the immediate challenges and impacts Tribal communities face as a result of climate change. **As the next generation of indigenous scientists and leaders, input from Tribal youth is vital for climate action today and sustainability for the future.**

To help support student engagement and participation, we hope these additional tools, resources, and suggestions can be of service to you:

- [Tribal Climate Resilience Program \(bia.gov\)](https://www.bia.gov)
- [Youth Art Contest Mentor \(bia.gov\)](https://www.bia.gov) -includes curriculum ideas to engage students in climate change education
- [Youth Art Contest Students \(bia.gov\)](https://www.bia.gov)- includes a student-focused flyer that invites youth to think about climate change actions in their communities
- Incentives: Consider offering extra credit for students attending the listening session
- Set calendar reminders leading up to the session
- Develop a lesson plan to promote student discussion around the questions posed for the listening session to help students prepare to participate, or to submit in addition to, or outside of the session (if unable to attend the virtual session)- responses or questions can be submitted to Tribal.Climate@bia.gov
- Present this opportunity to students as a chance to (virtually) meet and learn from students from different tribal nations.

Thank you for your interest in climate resilience and engaging, your community- especially the tribal youth!

Sincerely,
BIA Tribal Climate Resilience Team