

2022 Tribal Climate Camp

Evaluation Report

May 8-14, 2022
Seward, Alaska

Hosted by:

Chugach Regional Resources Commission
Affiliated Tribes of NW Indians



Funded/Supported by the:

Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Climate Resilience Program
Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center
Alaska Climate Adaptation Science Center

About the 2022 Tribal Climate Camp

The 2022 Tribal Climate Camp (TCC 2022) was designed to bring together Indigenous peoples on the issues of food security and climate change impacts in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. TCC 2022 was co-hosted by the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) and Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC). The Camp ran from May 8th to May 14th, 2022, in Seward, Alaska. A total of 70 individuals representing fourteen Tribal Nations and organizations convened to share experience and knowledge, while also learning about planning strategies for engaging their communities in addressing climate change impacts and other risks to their food security.

The curriculum of TCC program focused on facilitating dialogue between Tribal delegates and subject experts brought in through the partner networks through team-based learning. The structure of the curriculum included a combination of brief presentations, group activities, and breakout sessions. Sharing circles, that included TCC delegates and invited guests, served as the main pedagogical space during the week of the programming. These sharing circles provided students the opportunity to learn how other Indigenous peoples across a diversity of regions and contexts are approaching food security risk in relation to climate change and the possible solutions peoples are implementing in their planning. The lead facilitator of each sharing circle prompted the group with guiding questions to guide them through each topic. These sharing circles were then divided into smaller groups to allow for more focused discussion on the prompts. Beyond the sharing circles, TCC 2022 included field trips, presentations from expert instructors, and independent time for tribal delegations to work and reflect. To culminate this collaborative learning experience, each delegation developed a climate change plan which they presented to their cohort and camp staff on the 5th day of the 6 day program..

Purpose of the TCC 2022 Evaluation

Delegates were invited to share their experiences attending TCC 2022 to help improve the future offerings of TCC and prove its efficacy as a useful intervention in the training of Tribal climate staff and professionals.

Structure of the TCC 2022 Evaluation

Delegates were invited to participate in two surveys to provide information for the evaluation. The first survey was included in the application process for the camp and, in turn, was collected prior to attendance. This pre-survey asked applicants to self-report on the competency of their prospective delegation in climate change planning and implementation. The exit-survey asked participants to, again, self-report on their delegation's competency in climate change planning and implementation, and to provide any additional feedback on the implementation of the TCC 2022.

Description of the TCC 2022 Delegates

Sixteen Tribal communities submitted applications to attend the 2022 Alaska TCC. Fourteen of those Tribal communities sent delegations to participate in the camp. Delegations included between 1 and 4 staff members and/or Tribal leaders. Single staff members were paired with

facilitators to support their plan development. 59 individuals participated in the camp. 31 Tribal delegates attended from 11 Tribal delegations, including:

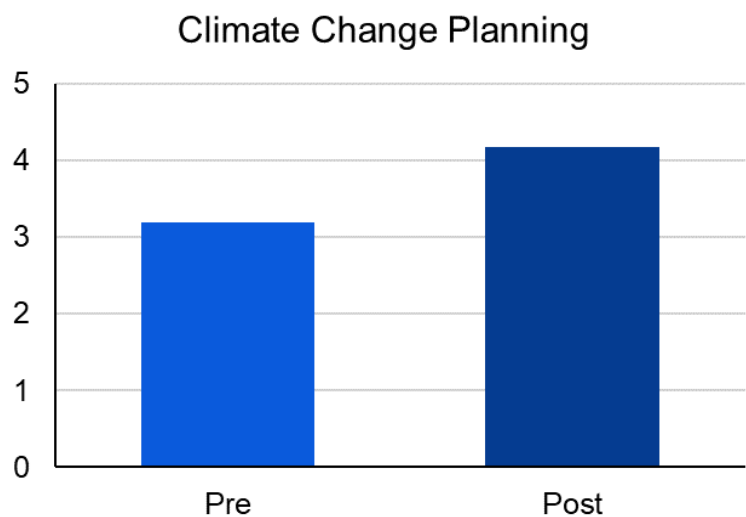
1. Aleut Community of St. Paul Island
2. Kokhanok Village Council
3. Ketchikan Indian Community
4. Kodiak Area Native Association
5. Native Village of Chenega
6. Native Village of Valdez
7. Port Graham Village Council
8. Native Village of Eyak
9. Qutekcak Native Tribe
10. Chugach Regional Resources Commission
11. Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe
12. Nez Perce
13. Umatilla
14. Hoh Tribe
15. Coquille Indian Tribe
16. Shoalwater Bay

What Was Learned from the ATNI: TCC Delegates?

Competency Surveys Responses

A climate change planning and implementation competency survey was included in the application survey and exit survey. The pre-survey and exit-survey included seven Likert-type questions (5-point scale, 1 = Not at all to 5 = A great deal) that asked participants to self-report on their competency engaging in several different activities related to climate change planning (ex. “Please rate your delegation’s ability to find and utilize climate data and technology:”).

Ten tribal delegations out of fourteen who attended (71.43%) completed both competency surveys. The graph to the right compares the average score of delegations on the climate change planning competency survey before and after attending the TCC 2022. The average composite score on the competency survey among delegations prior to attending the camp was 3.19. After attending the camp the average increased to 4.17. While the size of the groups does not allow for a statistical test of these mean differences, the increase in averages does suggest that attending the camp improved the



self-perception of tribal delegations in their ability to engage in climate change planning and implementation.

Feedback on the ATNI: TCC

In addition to the climate change competency survey, participants were asked to provide open-ended feedback. Overall, attendees spoke positively about the camp. For example, one participant wrote, *“Lastly, I want to say that this is one of the best workshop/conferences that I have ever been to!”* Some attendees shared that, while the camp was a great experience for them, they hope that future workshops will include experts from other salient disciplines. One participant wrote, *“I think data is a key some was shared but I would like to see more experts in this field, possibly having to assess the needs of where you are in the plan and organize teams by where you are at in the planning process.”* In addition, one delegate brought up that they had hoped for, “more of a camp feel...” as they did not find many opportunities to bond with the other attendees. The same delegate said that they found themselves learning the most when they did have opportunities to sit and visit with the other delegates, like during lunches or when Malinda facilitated one-on-one conversations.

I felt this was a perfect combination of group work, mixing of attendees to grow relationships and ideas, speakers to expand knowledge, and events that were amazing, but also showed examples of the local changing climate. I can't express how valuable this was to our community and future planning. Thank you!!!!

Most concerns with the camp, and possible avenues for improvement, were around camp logistics. Some delegates noted that there were issues with the transportation arrangements and that they were not planned in a way that was responsive to the normal conditions. This was especially concerning as flight delays are common in Alaska and can result in people missing connecting flights or “milk runs” that can strand them in locations for entire days. Another major logistics concern with delegates was the room arrangements and lack of communication around them. Several delegates noted that they were not told that they would be having a roommate during their time at the camp. While some delegates conceded that having roommates may have given other attendees the opportunity to meet each other, they still noted that differences in personal comfort and norms resulted in disruption for themselves and their roommate. These delegates also noted that sharing the rooms defeated the purpose of COVID precautions throughout the rest of the camp. Delegates wished that they had been notified beforehand that they would have roommates to allow them to prepare appropriately.

This is one of the best trainings I've been to and I think that it was well thought out and executed very well.

Suggestions for Next Steps for the ATNI: TCC

Based on the survey results and open-ended feedback, the evaluator presents the following list of suggestions and next steps:

- Maintain current curriculum and learning goals: Survey results indicate that attending the camp for Tribal delegates is improving their perceived competency in climate change planning and policy implementation. These survey results were supported with positive acclaim from several attendees in their open-ended feedback. These results together suggest that the Tribal Climate Camp structure and curriculum is a broadly successful intervention in the training and development of Tribal staff in climate change planning and policy implementation.
- Include more informal and formal relationship building opportunities: While the camp was successful in its goals of improving Tribal staff competency in climate change planning and policy implementation, delegates indicated opportunities to improve pedagogy. Delegates indicate that they wished they had more opportunities to visit and learn from the other tribal delegations. These opportunities could look like longer and more relaxed mealtimes or take the form of relationship-based learning activities (e.g., one-on-one conversations, team sharing).
- Develop transportation plans that are based on regional norms and needs: Given the regional differences in transportation norms and needs, attention should be paid to ensuring that travel plans are based on local expectations and context. Partnering with local partners on travel planning might ameliorate this issue in future camp offerings. Additionally, assuming extra time for travel may be necessary for camps where partners are traveling from remote and isolated locations that are vulnerable to climatic disturbances.
- Prioritize clarity and consent in communication on room arrangements: Ensure that room arrangements are clearly explained and consented to by future camp attendees. This suggestion is especially important given the still present public health concerns around event planning and organization.

Additional Resources:

Video from 2022 Alaska Tribal Climate Camp: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GcShxtXSI_4
 Promo Video for ATNI TCC filmed in Alaska: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rVD01loJLsU>