



Briefing Notice

Climate Change: Challenges and Opportunities for Communities of Color and Tribal Nations

Monday, March 18, 2013

12 PM – 1:30 PM

628 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Lunch will be provided

Please RSVP to expedite check-in: www.eesi.org/031813_diversity#RSVP

The **Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI)**, the **Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)**, the **National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)**, the **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)**, the **Moapa Band of Paiute Indians**, and the and the **Franciscan Action Network** invite you to a briefing on the disparate impact climate change has upon communities of color and tribal nations in congressional districts around the country. The speakers will also talk about steps and initiatives they are taking to sustain and strengthen their communities, create jobs, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Speakers include:

- **Jacqueline Pata**, Executive Director, National Congress of American Indians
- **William Anderson**, Chairman, Moapa Band of Paiute Indians
- **Joseph Reed**, Policy Analyst, NAACP Washington Bureau
- **Shamar Bibbins**, Senior Political Associate, Green For All
- **Anthony Giancattarino**, Coordinator of Research & Advocacy, Center for Social Inclusion
- **Diane Randall**, Executive Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation
- **Carol Werner**, Executive Director, Environmental and Energy Study Institute (moderator)

Climate change impacts every state and Congressional district. The nation's experience with Hurricanes Sandy and Katrina and with continuing drought demonstrates that the impacts of climate change are felt by every sector of society, including governments, businesses, farms, and faith communities. Extreme weather and other events exacerbated by climate change directly impact housing, food and water supplies and the health, welfare, and livelihoods of our nation's citizens. These impacts are often disproportionately felt by African Americans, other communities of color, and tribal governments, each of whom is a growing sector of our national population. Indeed, the diaspora caused by Hurricane Katrina came mostly from African American communities, and rising sea levels and flooding have already compelled the relocation of 31 Alaska Native Villages.

Tribal nations and communities of color create solutions. But these communities are not merely disproportionately impacted: they are agents of positive resilience and change. Many tribal nations and communities of color have responded to these challenges with investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and improvements in their communities and ecosystems. For example the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians is installing a 250MW solar farm on their land, creating 400 jobs during construction and up to 20 permanent jobs for continued operations. Speakers at the briefing will discuss how tribal nations and communities of color are creating solutions that provide stable jobs, reduce pollution, grow the economy, and address climate change.

This event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP to expedite check-in: www.eesi.org/031813_diversity#RSVP
For more information, contact Amaury Laporte at alaporte@eesi.org or (202) 662-1884.

