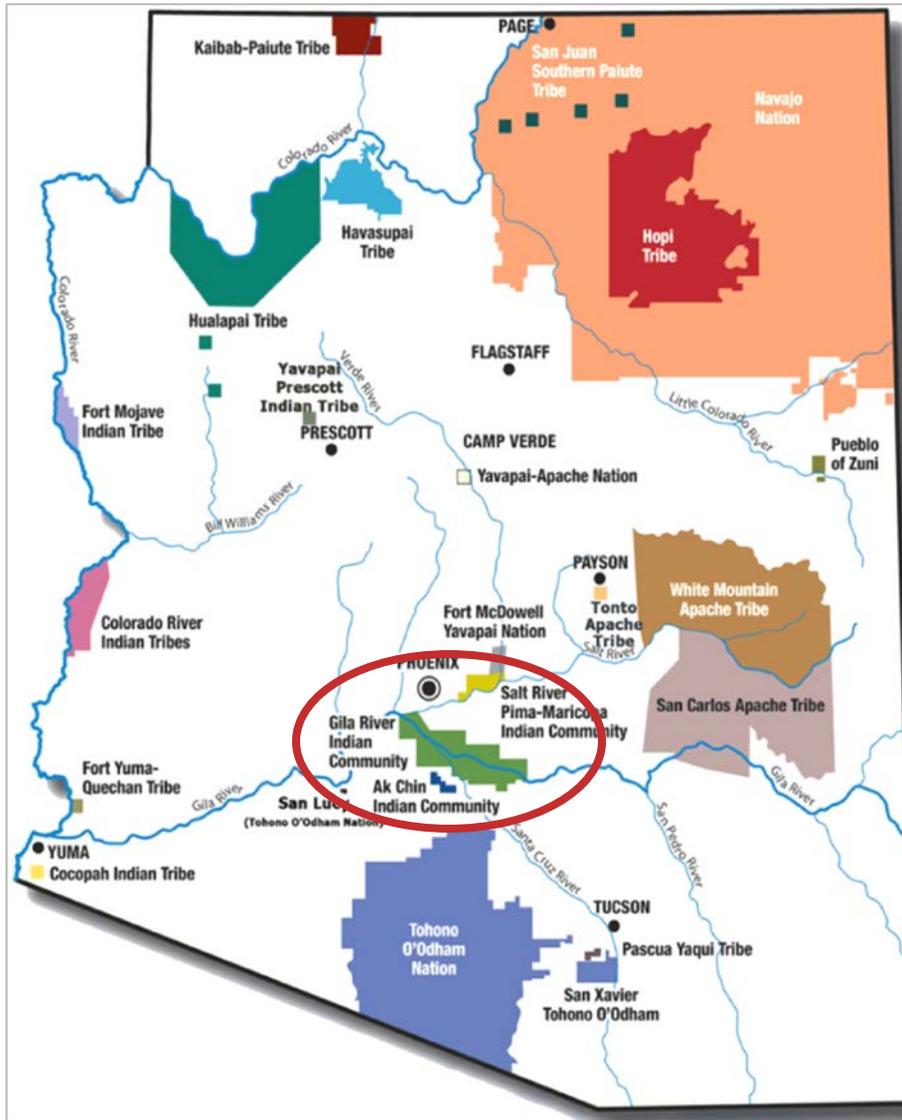


GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY RECYCLING INITIATIVE

Reducing Greenhouse Gases with Development of an
Innovative Climate Projects Coordination Structure

Sky Dawn Reed, Environmental Quality Project Associate
Gila River Indian Community
December 11, 2012

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY BACKGROUND



- Homeland to the **Akimel O'odham** (Pima) and **Pee Posh** (Maricopa)
- **21,000 population** with **17,000 residents** on the reservation
- **7 districts** with about **3,000 households**
- Located in both **Maricopa** and **Pinal** counties
- **374,000 land acres** (640 m²)
- **10th largest nation** in the United States

DEQ PROGRAMS

REGULATORY

- Air Quality*
- Pesticides
- Water Quality*
- Waste Programs* (Hazardous Waste / Solid Waste / Recycling)

EDUCATION & ENVIRONMENTAL OUTREACH

- Annual Events
 - Earth Day
 - Household Hazardous Waste collection
 - Winter Bird Count
- Routine Outreach
 - Schools
 - Special events



* Program includes climate elements

GRIC RECYCLING TIMELINE

1995: Cardboard Recycling

2007: Paper Recycling

2008: GRIC Toxics Reduction Initiative

[EPA Community Action for a Renewed Environment]

2010: Residential Recycling and Climate Project

[EPA Climate Showcase Communities]



2010 CLIMATE SHOWCASE COMMUNITIES GRANT



- **Establish Residential Recycling Program**
(key priority to reduce GHG emissions)
- Conduct Solar Energy Feasibility
- Provide Green Building Program support
(LEED Education)
- Exchange Incandescent/CFL bulbs for Household
Energy Use Reductions
- Conduct Baseline Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory



GRIC RECYCLING GOALS

- Reduce costs paid to off-community landfill
- Reduce the waste stream



- Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases
- Mitigate effects of climate change

PILOT PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Partner with GRIC Public Works

- **Assess need** for recycling service
(Waste characterization study – April 2010)
- Create **program plan**
- Establish **schedule** (weekly/monthly/bimonthly)
- Deliver blue **recycling containers**
- **Report results**
- **Expand** Community-wide

Deliver Recycling Program Message

- Community Saves \$
- Participate!
- Save natural resources (reduce greenhouse gas emissions)



COORDINATION & PARTNERSHIPS

- Recycling Center
[Materials Recovery Facility]
- Department of Public Works
- Department of Community Housing
- Facilities & Maintenance
- Department of Community Services

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- GRIN Articles
- Billing statement inserts (Public Works)
- Door-to-Door visits
- Presentations
 - Community Districts
 - Elderly Community support
 - Youth Council
 - Boys & Girls Clubs
 - Schools



CURBSIDE RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING

Pilot Program

- Single district: 676 residential units (May 2011)

Expansion

- 165 residential units (February 2012)

Curbside Collection (Department of Public Works)

- **Bimonthly residential recycling collection** – twice per month in two participating districts
- **Biweekly residential trash collection** - twice per week in every district

IMPACTS OF GRIC RECYCLING

- Increased Community Action
- Foundation for Sustainable Future
- Enhanced awareness



GRIC RECYCLING RESULTS

As of October 2012 (18th Month of the program)

- Residents recycled **117 tons** of glass, metal, paper and plastic (~6 tons per month)
- Achieved 40% participation (in pilot districts)
- **327 metric tons** of CO₂ equivalent *
 - Greenhouse gas emissions released from **66 passenger vehicles**.
 - CO₂ emissions from **energy use in 16 homes** within one year.

* **EPA Waste Reduction Model**

http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/waste/calculators/Warm_Form.html

FUTURE PLANS FOR GRIC RECYCLING PROGRAM

Update Schedule

- Weekly collection w/substitution of trash pickup (for current pilot residents in January 2013)

Expansion of Curbside Service

- One additional district (Summer 2013)

Collect Other Material

- Printer cartridges
- Clothing
- Electronics

LESSONS LEARNED

- Be creative
- Benefits of door-to-door outreach
- Start small then go BIG
(start in smaller district for pilot)
- Collaborate with key partners to set joint goals and expectations
- Celebrate milestones achieved

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

US Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration

- Public Works and Economic Adjustment Facilities Grant (2011 – 2012)

State / Local / National Recycling Coalitions

(Education / Material resources)

- State Recycling Coalitions ex. Arizona Recycling Coalition
- Keep America Beautiful ex. Coca-Cola Bin Grant (2011)

United States Department of Agriculture

- Solid Waste Management Grant Program (2010/2011)

Home Depot Gift Cards (seasonal)

Private Funding ex: Kresge Foundation; Rockefeller Foundation

Tribal budget allocations

RECYCLING PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

**Gila River Indian Community
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 97 / 35 Pima Street
Sacaton AZ, 85147
520 – 562 – 2234**

Rudy Mix ext. 2249

Acting Executive Director
(Waste Program Manager)

Rudy.Mix@gric.nsn.us

Janet Travis ext. 2252

Environmental Quality Project Associate
(Full time Recycling Coordinator)

Janet.Travis@gric.nsn.us

Sky Dawn Reed ext. 2286

Environmental Quality Project Associate
(Waste Program)

Sky.Reed@gric.nsn.us