

# Tribal Air News

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

Inside this issue:

Coco the Chameleon	3
Building Capacity	5
Gila River	6
Regulatory Updates	8
Calendar	9

## EPA's RAD in Yakama Nation

*By: Evelyn Swain, Office of Air and Radiation, EPA*

EPA's Responsible Appliance Disposal (RAD) Program promotes the proper disposal of old, inefficient refrigerators and freezers to minimize the release of ozone-depleting substances (ODS), greenhouse gases (GHGs), and other harmful substances. In 2009, the RAD Program received funding from EPA's Tribal Program to conduct a small-scale refrigerator/freezer recycling pilot program designed to benefit a tribal community. Specifically, the pilot program targeted the removal and proper disposal of approximately 250 old refrigerators and freezers from within tribal land, as well as outreach to and education for tribal residents.

The RAD pilot program ran from August to November 2010; during the two-month program, a total of 192 units from the Yakama Nation community were collected and processed in accordance with the RAD standards at a local recycling facility managed by JACO Environmental, Inc. By disposing of these units using the best available practices, Yakama Nation helped protect the ozone layer, reduce GHG emissions, and increase the recycling of durable components.



The benefits of these practices are shown in the table on page 2. Additionally, an incentive of \$30 was offered to residents to give up old refrigerators, with a limit of two per household. One hundred sixty-three incentive checks, totaling \$4,890, were delivered to community members.

A number of program goals were identified to benefit the greater community, namely:

- Avoid illegal dumping of refrigerators and freezers;
- Prevent pollution through proper recycling;
- Educate residents about proper waste disposal;
- Employ local residents; and
- Provide economic benefit through financial incentives.

These goals were indeed achieved, and the

*Continued on page 2*

Yakama Nation was selected as the RAD pilot program host. The Yakama Nation Reservation occupies 1.4 million acres located in south central Washington, which is the largest land area of the 29 Tribes in Washington State. EPA partnered with the Yakama Nation Department of Solid Waste to administer the program.





# RAD Continued

Continued from page 1

RAD pilot program garnered widespread community support and praise.

Overall, the Yakama Nation RAD Pilot Program achieved great success, especially as the first effort to implement a RAD recycling program on tribal lands within a very tight timeframe. Given the positive community responses and overall program benefits, it is clear that this program model can be used in the future for similar and larger-scale programs.

*“The RAD pilot program resulted in significant pollution prevention and avoidance of illegal refrigerator dumping, as well as economic benefits for the Yakama Nation community.”*  
 -Loretta Zammarchi,  
 Yakama Nation  
 Solid Waste  
 Department

Summary of Units & Materials Processed	
Number of Units Processed	192
Refrigerators	169
Stand-Alone Freezers	23
Ozone Benefits (ODP-weighted kg avoided)	95
Climate Benefits (MTCO <sub>2</sub> e)	717
Durable Materials Recycled (lbs.)	30,336
Hazardous Substances Properly Treated	
Used Oil (gal.)	15
PCB Containing Capacitors	11

Yakama Nation disposed of 192 appliances in the pilot program; this resulted in 717 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e GHG emissions reductions, equivalent to approximately:



**137 passenger cars NOT driven for one year**

Source: EPA's Greenhouse Gas Equivalency Calculator. Available at <http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-resources/calculator.html>.



Yakama Nation Dept. of Solid Waste Staff Collecting Units



# Why Is Coco Orange?

EPA has recently published a children's book titled, *Why is Coco Orange?*

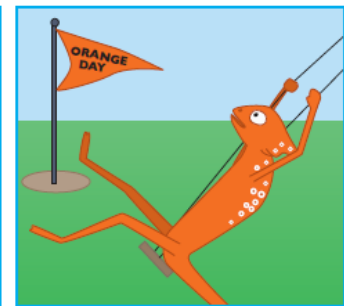
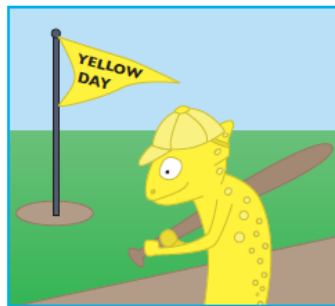
The book introduces the colors of the Air Quality Index (AQI) to students in grades K-2 (ages 4-8). It teaches children how to recognize health symptoms and what actions to take when ozone levels are high. The book can be used in conjunction with the AQI Teacher Toolkit which may be found at [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov) and the School Flag Program at [http://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=school\\_flag\\_program.index](http://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=school_flag_program.index).

The children's book can be downloaded at [www.airnow.gov/picturebook](http://www.airnow.gov/picturebook). If you are interested in a hardcopy for your school, library, doctor's office, or for your child, go to [www.epa.gov/ncepihom/ordering.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ncepihom/ordering.htm) for ordering information.



*"Coco the chameleon can't change colors and his asthma is acting up."*

What color is YOUR air today?



## Winter Air Quality



EPA, together with state and local governments has expanded air quality forecasting to include year-round, daily information on particle pollution. "Particle pollution" consists of microscopic particles in the air that can get deep into the lungs, potentially causing serious health problems. Unlike summertime ozone, particle pollution can occur throughout the year. Although particle levels are not high every day, you should check your Air Quality Index (AQI) forecasts to determine whether you need to take action to reduce your exposure. Forecasts, health information, and maps showing real-time particle levels are available on EPA's AIRNow web site at: [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov).





# Tribal Air Quality Calendars

In partnership with tribal air staff, schools, children and parents, EPA Region 10 has produced a Tribal Air Quality Calendar for 2011.

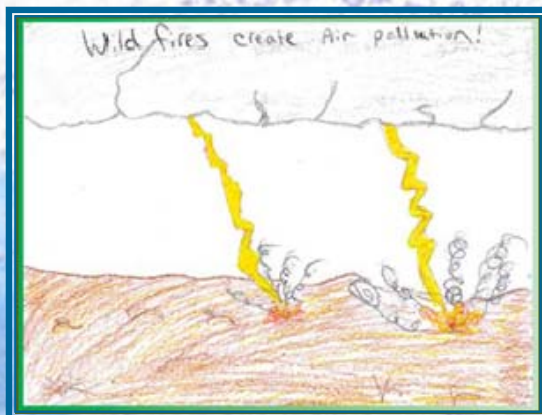
The calendar highlights artwork from children who attend schools on Indian Reservations or Native Villages in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

The artwork is paired with an air quality topic for each month (ex: indoor air, asthma, road dust, wildfires, solid waste

burning, transportation, wood stoves, etc.) and gives basic information and “What You Can Do” ideas to protect air quality.

If you would like to work with EPA to help distribute these calendars to school-age children and families in your area, please contact Joan Tovsen (Alaska) at (907) 271-1481 or [tovsen.joan@epa.gov](mailto:tovsen.joan@epa.gov) or Anne Dalrymple (Idaho, Oregon, Washington) at (206) 553-6313 or [dalrymple.anne@epa.gov](mailto:dalrymple.anne@epa.gov).

*Learn “What You Can Do” to protect your air quality.*



# Taking Advantage of Opportunities— Building Tribal Capacity Through Grant Funds

*By: Rod Watkins, Pala Band of Mission Indians*

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 provided \$2.7 billion in formula grant funds for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG). Each tribe was allocated an amount based on population and climate factors. The Pala Band of Mission Indians was allocated \$33,600 under this program.

The program became available in the spring of 2009, and the Department of Energy (DOE) was tasked with the responsibility to administer the grants.

In the end, Pala used the \$33,600 to leverage an additional \$6,685 of California Solar Initiative funding to complete a project. With this funding, we placed 24 solar panels on a newly constructed fire station. The panels are estimated to produce 8,821 kWh per year. Not a giant amount, but every little bit helps. The panels and the inverter are set up in such a way

as to make them easily expandable. The system is monitored by computer, the site can be checked at any time, and a monthly report can be produced. Since its installation at the end of September 2010 through January 2011, it has produced 2,223 kWh of energy and diverted 3,734 pounds of carbon.

*“We placed 24 solar panels on a newly constructed fire station.”*

Thanks to EPA and the A-103 program, the stimulus funding from ARRA, and the supplemental funds from the State of California, the Pala Band of Mission Indians fire station has been able to reduce its utility costs, improve air quality, and establish a platform for future renewable energy projects.





# Climate Showcase Community Grant Highlight—Gila River

By: Nicole Lents and Neelam R. Patel, EPA Office of Atmospheric Programs

The Gila River Indian Community is now one step closer to reaching both environmental and economic sustainability thanks to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Climate Showcase Communities Initiative. This competitive grant program assists local and tribal governments in implementing climate change activities that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, promote public health, create green jobs, and save money through energy efficiency. The overall goal

of the Climate Showcase Communities program is to create models of sustainable community action that not only

generate cost-effective and persistent GHG reductions within the participating communities, but that can be replicated in communities throughout the U.S. The Gila River Indian Community is one of three tribes to receive funding under the first round of grants in 2010; a total of 25 communities throughout the U.S. were chosen. An additional 25 communities, including 3 tribes, were selected in the second round of funding and will be announced in Spring 2011.

With a grant of over \$260,000, the Gila River Indian Community has embarked on a series of projects to reduce their GHG emissions and energy use, starting with hiring an Environmental Quality (EQ) Project

Associate within the community's Department of EQ. This Associate serves as coordinator for the tribe's new sustainability initiatives under the Climate Showcase Communities grant, including a pilot curb-side recycling program, Green Building program, industrial facility GHG emissions inventory, and alternative residential lighting sources. Residential lighting sources range from Compact Fluorescent lights (CFLs), Light-Emitting Diodes (LEDs), to Solar-powered (photo-voltaic paneled) or Passive Solar tube lighting (i.e. natural lighting from rooftops).

A team of staff from both the Department of EQ and the Department of Public Works has collaborated to prepare the upcoming recycling pilot program, which will include community outreach through presentations and informative material. At the conclusion of the pilot, the team will evaluate

the program and determine how to expand it to the remaining districts within the Gila River Community. Outreach is also a key

component of the community's CFL lighting and green building initiatives; which are aimed at replacing approximately 90 percent of conventional (i.e. incandescent) light bulbs in the community with CFLs, developing green building guidelines for the community, and constructing at least one LEED-certified home



## Climate Showcase Continued

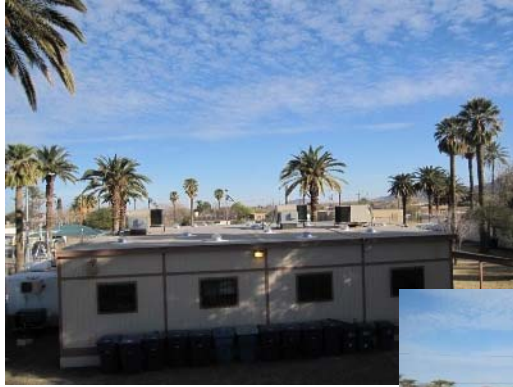
*Continued from page 6*

by the end of the program funding period. To build internal capacity, the EQ Project Associate will also receive training on LEED certification.

In addition, an inventory of industrial Facility GHG emissions will be conducted.

This inventory, along with an options paper of reduction strategies and their costs, will help inform the direction of future GHG reduction programs. And finally, the

Community Council has formally established the Gila River Indian Community Renewable Energy Team officially through Community Council Resolution in 2009, which is charged with investigating the potential for energy conservation projects in the community. Currently, the team is studying the feasibility of installing solar photovoltaic power systems



within community boundaries.

Natural resource protection is a core cultural value of the Akimel O'odham and Pee Posh peoples of the Gila River Indian Community, and with these efforts, the community will honor that value along with increasing the community's financial resources through energy savings. In the long term, the establishment of an EQ Project Associate will help build internal capacity, establish strong community partnerships, and

ensure that these sustainable practices are continued and replicated throughout the community.

For more information, please visit [www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate/local/showcase](http://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate/local/showcase).

## Gila River TIP Update

On January 19th, 2011, Gila River Indian Community's Tribal Implementation Plan (TIP) was finalized by the EPA. This TIP will be a blueprint for how to achieve improved air quality on the Community's lands and will serve as a model for other tribes. The plan provides a framework for protecting air quality on the Reservation, including ordinances, a permit program, civil and criminal enforcement, air monitoring, and an emissions inventory.

The January 19th signing ceremony featured Governor Rhodes of Gila River, Gila River Tribal Council members, the EPA Region 9 Regional Administrator, and the Gila River Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), as well as EPA staff



and invited guests.

Gila River's DEQ has spent the last 12 years developing and implementing the Plan to protect air quality on tribal lands. In addition, the Gila River Tribe developed a team of environmental professionals, the majority of whom are Native American, to administer and enforce this plan. EPA's action today makes the plan federally enforceable.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/gila-river.html>.

## Regulatory Updates

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPR) – National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants from Coal- and Oil-fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units and Standards of Performance for Electric Utility Steam Generating Units was signed March 16, 2011. For more information, please visit <http://yosemite.epa.gov/oepi/RuleGate.nsf/byRIN/2060-AP52?opendocument#2>.

NPR – Revision of New Source Performance Standards for New Residential Wood Heaters is scheduled to be signed in Summer 2011. Letters to offer consultation on this rule were sent to tribes on February 15, 2011.

NPR–Review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Carbon Monoxide–the public comment period is open from February 11, 2011, through April 12, 2011. For more information, please visit <http://yosemite.epa.gov/oepi/RuleGate.nsf/byRIN/2060-AI43?opendocument>.

For more information on these and additional upcoming EPA rules, go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or to the Rulemaking Gateway website <http://yosemite.epa.gov/oepi/RuleGate.nsf>.

### *Tribe Seeks Environmental First*



photo courtesy Tom Johnson/SU Environmental Programs Division

*Southern Ute Chairman Matthew J. Box poses for a photo with Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator Jim Martin Nov. 3 at EPA Region 8 headquarters in Denver. The Tribe is working toward regulating its own Title V air quality permitting program on the Reservation, and may become the first in Indian Country to do so. In a December 2009 letter, the EPA expressed its intent to approve the Tribe's Part 70 Operating Permit Program if certain changes were made to its Title V Reservation Air Code to strengthen it. Box was present to hand-deliver supplemental documents for approval.*



VOLUME 9  
ISSUE 1  
FEBRUARY 2011

U.S. EPA OAQPS  
C-304.03  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

Phone: 919-541-3650  
Fax: 919-541-0942  
E-mail: [chappell.regina@epa.gov](mailto:chappell.regina@epa.gov)

## TRIBAL AIR NEWS

Tribal Air News is produced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Outreach and Information Division, Community and Tribal Programs Group. The newsletter is produced quarterly and is distributed electronically. For more information about the newsletter or to contribute stories and pictures please contact: Regina Chappell at [chappell.regina@epa.gov](mailto:chappell.regina@epa.gov), or Angel McCormack at [mccormack.angel@epa.gov](mailto:mccormack.angel@epa.gov).

**We're on the  
Web!**

[www.epa.gov/oar/tribal](http://www.epa.gov/oar/tribal)



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**ITEP Training Sessions: [www4.nau.edu/itep/air/training\\_aq.asp](http://www4.nau.edu/itep/air/training_aq.asp)**

April 4–8	Air Pollution Technology	Las Vegas, NV
April 12–15	Indoor Air Quality in Alaska	Nome, AK
April 26–29	Management of Tribal Air Quality in Alaska	Anchorage, AK
May 3–6	New Source Review (NSR)	Milwaukee, WI
May 17–20	Emissions Inventory / TEISS	Las Vegas, NV
May 24–27	Climate Change in Alaska	Dillingham, AK
May 24–27	Air Monitoring Data Management	Phoenix, AZ