

NEWS

The Tribal Newsletter
is published free monthly
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LETTER

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



Vol. 25 No.2
February 2016

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/TRIBAL.NSF/Newsletter/Issues>

Conferences and Workshops

February

- 3** **Grants Award Process Webinar for EPA Applicants and Recipients.** 11 a.m. – Noon Pacific or 10 – 11 a.m. Alaska time. The webinar will cover finding and applying for grants, and the basics of managing an award. No registration needed. Link to Webinar:
<http://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-grants-award-process-webinars>
- 8 – 12** **Alaska Forum on the Environment,** Anchorage, AK <http://www.akforum.org>
- 11 – 13** **15th Annual New Partners for Small Growth Conference,** Portland, OR
<https://newpartners.org>
- 22 – 26** **ITEP 40-Hour HAZWOPER,** Las Vegas, NV. Applications for this training are due **February 5.** Contact **Roberta Tohannie** at roberta.tohannie@nau.edu

March

- 8 – 10** **Fourth Tribal Green Summit,** Snoqualmie Casino, WA. Contact **Cindy Spiry** at cindy@snoqualmietribe.us or **Kami Snowden** at ksnowden@tswan.org
- 22 – 23** **TWIG: Tribal Wetland Working Group Spring 2016 Workshop,** hosted by the Tulalip Tribes in Tulalip, WA. The theme for this workshop is “Setting the Table – Restoring Cultural Opportunities”. Contact scottodaniel@ctuir.org or dboyer@tulaliptribes.nsn.gov
- 29 – 31** **EPA Region 10 Harmful Algal Blooms Workshop,** Seattle, WA. A tribes-only meeting will be held **March 31.** Please confirm attendance with: **Rochelle Labiosa** at 206-553-1172 or email labiosa.rochelle@epa.gov

April

- 19 – 21** **ITEP Climate Change Adaptation Training,** Anchorage, AK
<http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/docs/training/cc/Ancmt-CCAdaptAK-1604.pdf>
- 27 – 28** **EPA 319/106 Training,** Mill Hotel and Casino, North Bend, OR Contact **Bryan Duggan** at 541-756-0904 or bryanduggan@coquilletribe.org

May

- 17 – 19** **National Tribal Forum on Air Quality,** Niagara Falls, NY. Hosted by the Seneca Nation of Indians and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.
http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr_ntf
- 17 – 20** **Geomorphic Road Assessment and Inventory Package: Road Inventory Procedure and GIS Model Training,** Boise ID. To register, contact Tom Black at 208-373-4363 or tblack@fs.fed.us. More info at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/GRAIP>

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Conferences and Workshops

June

- 6 – 10** **International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology 2016**, Houston, TX. Sponsored by the American Academy of Sciences.
<http://www.AASci.org/conference/env/2016/index.html>
- TBD** **Tribal Climate Boot Camp**, University of Idaho's McCall Field Campus, ID. Go to
<http://bit.ly/1Nz8NkF>

August

- 15 – 18** **SAVE THE DATE! ITEP'S Tribal Lands and Environment Forum**, Mohegan Sun Resort, CT. http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr_tlef
- 23 – 25** **22nd National Nonpoint Source Monitoring Workshop**, Salt Lake City, UT. Go to <https://water-meetings.tetrattech.com/NPSTest/index.htm>

For more information on EPA Tribal trainings, webinars, grants and opportunities for Tribal consultation, visit <http://www2.epa.gov/tribal>

Climate Change Webinars, Conferences and Trainings

For a calendar of climate change and water-related trainings, conferences, and webinars, visit <http://water.epa.gov/scitech/climatechange/Calendar-of-Events.cfm>

EPA Office of Water, Clean Water Act Tribal Training

For a consolidated, centralized listing of training courses offered by EPA that will help Indian tribes develop and implement water quality programs consistent with the Clean Water Act, go to <http://water.epa.gov/learn/training/tribaltraining>

EPA National Enforcement Training Institute or NETI

Go to EPA's online training resource site for access to NETI course registration, training products, online classrooms, and e-mail updates. Several recorded webinars are available. <http://go.usa.gov/SZZj>

Tribal Energy Calendar of Events

This calendar lists upcoming events in Indian Country sponsored by DOE and a variety of government agencies, associations, and organizations. Go to: <http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/events.cfm>

Regional Tribal Operations Committee Needs Your Help Updating Our Charter!

The Regional Tribal Operations Committee is currently in the process of reviewing and updating its Charter. As part of our amendment process, we seek comment from Tribes in Region 10 on the revised Charter. Our current draft clarifies RTOC member attendance requirements and ensures that the RTOC grant can be operated by a proposed RTOC Funding Consortium. Please visit the RTOC website at <http://rtocregion10.org/operations-guidance-charter> to see the draft revised Charter. Please send any comments by **February 22** to the RTOC Policy Analyst **Rick Eichstaedt** at ricke@cforjustice.org.

Top News

2015 RTOC Election Results

The EPA is pleased to announce that **Bryan Duggan** and **Samuel Penney** have joined the Region 10 Tribal Operations Committee! Mr. Duggan works for the Coquille Indian Tribe as their Water and Environmental Specialist, and is the new RTOC Member from Oregon. Mr. Penney is a member of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee, and is the new RTOC Member from Idaho. The EPA has now completed the 2015 RTOC elections, which includes elections for the National Tribal Operations Committee. Here are the final election results:

NTOC Alaska Position 2: **Billy Maines**, Curyung Tribal Council

NTOC Eastern Washington, Eastern Oregon and Idaho: **Lee Juan Tyler**, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation

RTOC Alaska Position 3: **Tracy Lewis**, Native Village of Kongiganak

RTOC Western Washington: **Shallee Baker**, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

RTOC Oregon: **Bryan Duggan**, Coquille Indian Tribe

RTOC Idaho: **Samuel Penney**, Nez Perce Tribe

For more information about the RTOC, please visit www.rtocregion10.org or contact RTOC Communications Specialist **Christy Finn** at 253-328-4026.

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EPA Proposes Rule on Treatment of Indian Tribes in a Similar Manner as States for Impaired Waters and TMDLs

The EPA is proposing a rule for public comment to provide more opportunities for tribes to fully engage in the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Impaired Water Listing and Total Maximum Daily Load Program. (See 81 FR 2791, January 19, 2016). The proposed rule is accessible on the *Federal Register* website at <http://go.usa.gov/cPFgm> or go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for the Docket ID No. **EPA-HQ-OW-2014-0622**.

In section 518(e) of the Clean Water Act, Congress authorized EPA to treat eligible federally recognized Indian tribes in a similar manner as states for purposes of administering section 303 and certain other provisions of the CWA, and directed the agency to promulgate regulations effectuating this authorization. In the 1990s, EPA issued regulations establishing a process for federally recognized tribes to obtain treatment in a similar manner as states for several provisions of the CWA; 50 tribes, for example, have since obtained TAS authority to issue water quality standards under CWA section 303(c).

However, EPA has not yet promulgated regulations expressly establishing a process for such tribes to obtain TAS authority to administer the water quality restoration provisions of CWA section 303(d), including issuing lists of impaired waters and developing total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) under CWA section 303(d). EPA is now proposing to establish such a process. Go to <http://go.usa.gov/cPFYd>

A tribes-only webinar on the proposed rule is scheduled for **February 11**:

Tribes-only Consultation and Coordination Webinar: Proposed Rule on Treatment of Indian Tribes in a Similar Manner as States for Purposes of Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act

Thursday, February 11, from 10 – 11 a.m. Pacific or 9 – 10 a.m. Alaska time

To register for the webinar, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1RLmn94>

Climate Change

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President Obama Highlights Climate Action in State of the Union

In his State of the Union address on January 12, President Obama reinforced how far we've come over the last seven years on climate action. Go to <http://bit.ly/1Shr75d>

Today, there is overwhelming consensus – from the U.S. military, America's business leaders, the majority of the American people, nearly the entire worldwide scientific community, and 200 nations around the globe – on the need to act on climate now.

Not only is climate action an imperative, but it also helps reignite our spirit of innovation and provides an unprecedented economic opportunity. For example, a new report shows 20% growth in U.S. solar jobs in the past year alone. And since 2010, solar employment increased 123% – at a rate 12 times faster than the rest of the economy. Go to <http://www.thesolarfoundation.org/national>

Climate Change Adaptation Planning Training

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium are collaborating to offer a Climate Change Adaptation Planning training **April 19-21**, in Anchorage, AK. ITEP will be providing a limited number of travel scholarships to help with participant travel costs.

Participants will learn:

- A general process for developing a climate change adaptation plan
- To identify climate change impacts and vulnerabilities in their communities
- Adaptation strategies
- Tools and resources that may be used for adaptation planning
- Possible partners

Please e-mail or fax completed applications to **Oxcenia O'Domin** at orodomin@anthc.org
Fax: 1-888-500-1205. If you have any questions, please contact Oxcenia at 907-729-3492.

Climate Links

Tribal-Focused Environmental Risk and Sustainability Tool (Tribal-FERST)

<http://go.usa.gov/cPSTe>

Easy Access to Climate Data, Products, and Services

<https://www.climate.gov/maps-data/data-snapshots/start>

Our Planet, Our Home – EPA Blog

<https://blog.epa.gov/blog/category/ourplanetourhome>

EPA Climate Science Digest / News Briefs

Climate Science/Observations/Impacts

One Quarter of Alaska Permafrost Could Melt by 2100, Says USGS

<http://go.usa.gov/cPFXR>

Bad News: Scientists Say We Could Be Underestimating Arctic Methane Emissions

<http://wapo.st/1PB1Q76>

Arctic Study Underscores How Little is Known about Methane Emissions

<http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2015/12/24/stories/1060029991>

Melting Sea Ice Increases Arctic Precipitation, Complicates Climate Predictions

<http://phys.org/news/2015-12-sea-ice-arctic-precipitation-complicates.html>

Agriculture/Food Supply/Ecosystems

How Climate Change Will Affect What You Eat

<http://bbc.in/1SlqAKO>

The Invisible Threat: Rising Temperatures Mean Insects can Carry Viruses to Wider Areas

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/national/2015/11/27/disease>

Global Food System Faces Threat from Climate Change

<http://bit.ly/1nNoVal>

Water/Coastal Resources

Climate Change Rapidly Warming World's Lakes

<http://phys.org/news/2015-12-climate-rapidly-world-lakes.html>

Finding Refuge for Salmon, Cold Water Preferred

<http://nyti.ms/1ShtcOw>

Ocean Acidification: 'Evil Twin' of Global Warming Threatens Monterey Bay

<http://bayareane.ws/1QqoMTn>

Society

Seafood Poisoning Could Increase as Waters Warm

http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060028839/climate_digest

Medical Community Warns Climate Change is an Imminent Public Health Threat

<http://bit.ly/1QzFt0l>

Rain Patterns Raising Flood Risk

<http://argusne.ws/1Up3OFG>

Analysis and Commentary

Clearing Up Dust's Effect on Climate

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-35024610>

Upcoming King Tide Offers a Preview of Sea Level Rise

<http://kuow.org/post/upcoming-king-tide-offers-preview-sea-level-rise>

Arctic Ice is Melting. Rainy Days Ahead?

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Science/2015/1221/Arctic-ice-is-melting.-Rainy-days-ahead-video>

Expecting the Unexpected: Abrupt Climate Change Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EmlkppjplqU>

This newsletter contains information from multiple sources, including tribes, newspapers, and other sources. Any information or opinions in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the United States or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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Training

40-Hour HAZWOPER Offered in February

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals is offering a 40-hour HAZWOPER training **February 22–26** in Las Vegas, NV, in collaboration with the EPA Environmental Response Team.

This 5-day course instructs participants to recognize, evaluate, and remediate an uncontrolled hazardous waste site. The course provides basic information needed to meet the 40 Hour training requirements of 29 CFR 1910.120 (e)(3)(i) Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response or HAZWOPER. Participants will become more knowledgeable in hazardous waste operations, health and safety, and team functions.

Applications for this training are due **February 5**. To receive an application for the training, please contact Roberta Tohannie at roberta.tohannie@nau.edu

ITEP Air Program Training

ITEP’s American Indian Air Quality Training Program provides training and educational outreach for tribal environmental staff all over the United States, including Alaska. Upcoming air trainings include:

2016 AIAQTP Course Schedule (January - June 2016)

| Course Title | Dates | Location | Course Level |
|--|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Air Quality Computations | Feb 9-12 | Phoenix, AZ | 1 |
| Air Pollution Technology | Mar 14-18 | Flagstaff, AZ | 2 |
| Fundamentals of Air Monitoring (new) | April 5-7 | TAMS Center, Las Vegas, NV | 2 |
| GIS for Air Quality | April 26-28 | TAMS Center, Las Vegas, NV | 3 |
| Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Diagnostic Tools for Alaska | April 26-28 | Palmer, AK | 2 |
| Project Planning, QAPPs, and Grants for Alaska | TBD | Alaska | 2 |
| National Tribal Forum on Air Quality | May 17-19 | Niagara Falls, NY | n/a |
| Air Pollution and Ecosystems | Jun 7-10 | Flagstaff, AZ | 2 |

NOTE: This schedule is subject to change. For up-to-date information, course descriptions, and applications please visit http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_air

For more information please contact Lydia Scheer, Program Coordinator at 928-523-6887 or Lydia.Scheer@nau.edu

Funding

BIA Climate Change Adaptation

DUE DATE: February 12 at 2 p.m. Pacific or 1 p.m. Alaska Time

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES: Tribal nonprofits, nongovernmental organizations, tribally controlled colleges or universities

The U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs is accepting proposals from eligible entities impacted by climate change to enter into a cooperative agreement for the identification and hiring of tribal climate change liaisons to address tribal climate change science needs. This opportunity is designed to benefit communities across Indian Country and Alaska Native villages. For more information, go to:

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=280480>

Healthy Watershed Consortium Grants Program

Due Date

March 14

The EPA has awarded the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities \$3.75 million over six years to manage the Healthy Watershed Consortium Grant Program. The program seeks to protect and sustain healthy watersheds so that they will continue to provide ecological services such as clean water, habitat for fish and wildlife, recreation, and protection from natural hazards.

The Endowment will manage an annual grant sub-award process to fund projects that develop healthy watersheds programs and support local projects. The Endowment has released its first RFP soliciting proposals for the Healthy Watershed Consortium Grants Program. This is the new delivery mechanism for grant funding under EPA's Healthy Watershed Program.

Eligible Applicants

Not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organizations, for-profit companies, tribes, intertribal consortia, Interstates, state, and local government agencies including water utilities and wastewater facilities, and colleges and universities are eligible for funding.

Unincorporated individuals and federal agencies are **not eligible**.

Public/private partnerships are particularly desirable.

Funding Amount

Up to \$1.5 million is available for this grant round. There are three different categories of proposals with differing dollar amounts. Go to

<http://www.usendowment.org/partnerships/hwcgrantprogram.html>

U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities contact: **Peter Stangel** at 404-915-2763 or peter@usendowment.org

EPA contact: **Chris Solloway**, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds at solloway.chris@epa.gov

Tribal Consultation

The following tribal consultation opportunities may be of interest to Region 10 Tribes. A full list of consultation opportunities is available at <http://tcots.epa.gov/oita/tconsultation.nsf/TC?OpenView>

Hazard Ranking System – Subsurface Intrusion Rule

LINK: <http://go.usa.gov/cPMRe>

WEBINAR: **February 18** from **11 a.m. – 12 noon** Pacific or **10 – 11 a.m.** Alaska time.

WEBINAR LINK: <http://epawebconferencing.acms.com/hrs-ssi-tribalconsult>

WEBINAR AUDIO ONLY: 1-866-299-3188, code 703-603-8852

CONTACT: **Terry Jeng** • jeng.terry@epa.gov • 703-603-8852
or **Jessica Snyder** • snyder.jessica@epa.gov • 202-564-1478

Alaskan Seafood Processing Effluent

LINK: <http://go.usa.gov/cPMEw>

CONTACT: **Meghan Hessenauer** • hessenauer.meghan@epa.gov • 202-566-1040
or **Lindsay Guzzo** • guzzo.lindsay@epa.gov • 206-553-0268

Treatment of Indian Tribes in a Similar Manner as States for Purposes of CWA Section 303(d)

END DATE: **March 21**

LINK: <http://go.usa.gov/cPFYd>

WEBINAR: Tribes-only webinar to be held **February 11** from **10 – 11 a.m.** Pacific or **9 – 10 a.m.** Alaska time.

TO REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR, please visit:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1322717258003760641>

CONTACT: **Sarah Furtak** • 202-566-1167 • furtak.sarah@epa.gov

Resources

National Service Center for Environmental Publications

You can search, retrieve, download, print and order EPA technical, scientific and educational materials from this site – all free of charge! The site also has order forms grouped by grade range to make it easier for teachers to order EPA environmental materials for their classroom. <http://www.epa.gov/nscep>



News

N E W S

\$32 Million in EPA Funds Help Northwest and Alaska Tribes Protect Health, Water, Air, and Natural Resources

The funding helps tribes develop environmental protection programs and make informed decisions about issues that impact the health of their people and the quality of their environment. Since its inception, the EPA's GAP program has played a critical role in achieving environmental progress and facilitating government-to-government relationships between tribes and the EPA.

David Allnutt, Director of the EPA Region 10 Office of Ecosystems, Tribal and Public Affairs said, "The Indian Environmental General Assistance Program empowers tribes to build the capacity to support successful environmental programs that protect public health and their lands. The GAP program is vitally important in this region because about half of the federally recognized tribes in the nation are in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest."

Tribes and tribal consortia in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest use the funding for a wide variety of projects including the development of sustainable solid waste management programs, practices to prevent open dumping, documenting climate change, emergency response planning, watershed protection, understanding air quality issues, and to address other environmental challenges. Tribes also use GAP funding for staff development, creating environmental plans, seeking technical assistance, and community outreach and education – the building blocks of successful environmental programs.

More information about the noteworthy results achieved with GAP funding in six tribal communities is available online at: <http://go.usa.gov/cQpbP>

In Region 10, 237 tribes and 21 tribal consortia received GAP grants for the current fiscal year. There are 566 federally-recognized tribes in the nation, 229 located in Alaska, 4 in Idaho, 9 in Oregon, and 29 in Washington.

The GAP program was created by Congress in 1992 to provide grants for federally recognized tribes to plan, develop, and establish core environmental protection programs. For more information on the GAP program visit <http://www.epa.gov/tribal/region-10-tribal-program>

Funding Solid Waste Activities under GAP

The FY 2016 omnibus funding bill contains language authorizing the EPA to fund solid waste and recovered materials collection, transportation, backhaul, and disposal services through FY 2020. Specifically, the FY 2016 Omnibus states: "For the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2020, notwithstanding other applicable provisions of law, the funds appropriated for the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program shall be available to federally recognized tribes for solid waste and recovered materials collection, transportation, backhaul, and disposal services."

This reflects our combined efforts to explore long-term solutions for sustainable tribal solid waste management activities while providing tribes that had previously used GAP resources for such services to transition to other funding sources.

The EPA's American Indian Environmental Office will be working with our Land & Emergency Management Office (formerly called Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response) over the coming weeks to clarify what impact this language has on GAP funding decisions; additional information will be available soon.

Tribal Wetlands Assessment: Enhancing State and Tribal Programs Initiative

The EPA is extending an invitation to all Federally Recognized Tribes in Region 10 to participate in an assessment of their respective Tribal Wetlands and Aquatic Resource Programs. The goal of the project is to help define the current condition of tribal aquatic resource programs in order to enhance EPA's delivery of technical and financial support for state and tribal wetland programs.

Many tribes in the Lower 48 already participate in the ESTP initiative and have been successfully applying the technical and financial assistance provided to develop tribal wetland and aquatic resource programs in order to effectively monitor, regulate, and preserve critical aquatic resources. The ESTP initiative was initially fielded in Region 10 by the tribes of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington and the success of the program in those states has led to its expansion into Alaska.

Tribes electing to participate in the ESTP Initiative will be sent an assessment questionnaire to complete regarding the condition of their tribe's wetland management program.

That will enable the EPA to create a baseline assessment of existing aquatic resource program activities and be posed to most effectively meet the needs of tribes in development of their wetland or aquatic resource management program.

The assessment is based on EPA's Wetland Program Core Elements Framework or CEF and consists of four main program categories: Monitoring and Assessment, Regulatory Activities, Voluntary Restoration and Protection, and Water Quality Standards for Wetlands.

The ESTP and CEF were designed as a road map for state and tribal wetland programs that are in the developing stages of their program. But they can be useful to all states and tribes, including those that are refining more mature wetland programs. The assessment consists of about 200 questions from the CEF menu of activities regarding the current status of the tribal wetland management program.

EPA staff will hold meetings, teleconferences, and site visits whenever possible to help tribal representatives with the completion of the questionnaire and to field any questions that the tribe may have about the ESTP initiative. Information about the ESTP initiative is also available at <http://www.epa.gov/wetlands/what-enhancing-state-and-tribal-programs-effort>, and interested parties may address their inquiries to AOOARU.R10@epa.gov.

Please contact us at AOOARU.R10@epa.gov for meeting information or to receive your copy of the Tribal Wetland/Aquatic Resource Program Baseline Assessment. Be sure to place "ESTP" in the subject line to ensure proper routing of your email. You can also contact the appropriate EPA staff member for your state:

Annie Whitley
(Washington, Oregon and Idaho)
Biologist, Aquatic Resources Unit
206-553-0058 • whitley.annie@epa.gov

Matt Ferguson
(Alaska)
Aquatic Resources Unit
907-271-1205 • ferguson.matthew@epa.gov



National Tribal Air Association Calls on all Tribes to Contribute to a Better Understanding of the Needs for Indoor Air Quality in Indian Country

Since its founding in 2002, the National Tribal Air Association has been a leading voice for Tribal air quality issues, programs, and policies. With nearly 100 principal member Tribes, the NTAA's mission is to advance air quality management and policies and programs, consistent with the needs, interests, and unique legal status of American Indian Tribes and Alaskan Natives.

Currently, the NTAA is working to provide Tribes and the Federal Government with the first of its kind national snapshot of Indoor Air Quality needs for Tribal Housing in Indian Country with a national needs assessment.

For the first time, NTAA's IAQ Needs Assessment will provide reliable data on the status of housing in Indian Country to better understand the impacts from health threats like mold and radon. NTAA will be compiling the results of this needs assessment into a final report to be released at the 2016 National Tribal Forum on Air Quality to be held in New York in May, 2016. NTAA will then utilize the results to help Tribal and Federal governmental leaders understand the extent of IAQ needs in Tribal communities to help focus and direct funds to address IAQ. With a better understanding and better facts on the table, Tribal communities will benefit from healthier homes.

All Federally-Recognized Tribes are invited to submit an IAQ Needs Assessment to NTAA by February 28th. For more information on the NTAA, please visit <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/ntaa/Home>. Or access the NTAA Indoor Air Quality Needs Assessment at <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/ntaa/Resources/IAQNeedsAssessment>



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

ALASKA NEWS

Alaska Policy and Climate Adaptation Webinar Series

Water Policy Consulting, LLC, ACCAP, and tribal environmental and climate change professionals throughout the country are offering the Winter 2016 Policy & Climate Adaptation Mitigation and Planning for Alaska Natives webinars series.

The series will demonstrate how Native Villages and other communities in Alaska can apply state, federal and tribal policies to address climate change impacts on water and subsistence resources through water resource management and protection, land and water rights, sovereignty and other resiliency and mitigation strategies.

Upcoming webinars include:

February 17 Water Policy & Climate Change for Alaska Natives

March 8 Human Rights & Climate Change

April 13 Environmental Code Development for Alaska Natives

To register, go to <http://bit.ly/1S9MAuR>

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National Tribal Air Association Seeks Alaska Rep Nominations

The National Tribal Air Association is a leading voice for Tribal air quality issues, programs, and policies and has nearly 100 principal member Tribes. NTAA's mission is to advance air quality management and policies and programs, consistent with the needs, interests, and unique legal status of American Indian Tribes and Alaskan Natives.

Alaska has two seats on the NTAA Executive Committee, a primary and an alternate. Rose Kalistook served as the primary NTAA Alaska representative for many years and left for another opportunity in December. Sue Flensburg is the alternate Alaska NTAA representative and will serve as acting primary representative until a new candidate is elected.

The primary NTAA Alaska representative position is now open for nominations, due **February 26**. The nominee with most votes will become the primary NTAA representative for Alaska. If the alternate representative seat is vacated, the person receiving the second highest number of votes will be selected as Alaska's alternate representative. The alternate representative assists the primary representative fulfill their obligations and typically participates in scheduled conference calls.

Information on NTAA Representative Responsibilities:

This NTAA Executive Committee representative provides leadership for Alaska Tribes on air quality issues at the state and national levels. Responsibilities include:

- Planning and facilitating the quarterly Alaska Tribal Air Workgroup calls (two hours) in collaboration with EPA and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.
- Attending in-person meetings of the NTAA Executive Committee two to three times each year at locations determined by the Committee. Meetings are usually two to three days in length and travel costs (but not staff time) are reimbursable by the NTAA.
- Attending the annual meeting of the Executive Committee and Principal Member Tribes at the National Tribal Forum on Air Quality and representing Alaska Tribal interests on panel sessions (usually in May – this year in Niagara Falls, New York). These travel expenses are also reimbursable.
- Participating in conference calls, typically two to three 2-hour calls each month.
- Providing comments on NTAA policy briefs and other projects.
- Educating and conveying information on Alaska Tribal air needs to EPA and other key agencies.
- Gathering information on air quality success stories in Alaska and challenges faced by Alaska Tribes for inclusion in the annual Status of Tribal Air Report.

How to Nominate:

You can nominate yourself or another person. If nominating someone else, we encourage you to seek permission of the nominee before submitting the nomination. Nominees must be a member, employee, or representative of an Alaska Tribe or Tribal Consortia, and ideally will have some experience in air quality work. To submit a nomination, email the nominee's Name, Title, Tribe/Tribal Consortia, Phone Number, Email, and Background on why this person would be a good candidate and/or why you are interested in the position (in 300 words or less) to **Andy Bessler** at andy.bessler@nau.edu by **February 26**.

If you have any questions, contact **Sue Flensburg** at 907-842-6241 • sflensburg@bbna.com or **Andy Bessler** • 928-523-0526 • andy.bessler@nau.edu

For more information on NTAA: <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/ntaa/Home>

Youth Organizing Summit

In October, Alaska Youth for Environmental Action hosted its annual Youth Organizing Summit with 23 rural and urban youth from around the state. This year was one of the most diverse groups of students at any AYEA has ever seen. Some students were already polished advocates, while others were just starting to think about the power of youth in bringing about climate change solutions. Teens came from Unalaska, Teller, Venetie, Chevak, Sitka, Craig, Fairbanks, Palmer, Anchorage, Naknek, and Homer.

Over the course of the summit, the group developed not only a new sense of community, but also a youth-led plan for a new path forward for our state. Over the next year, AYEA teens will lead a campaign to urge our state to create a plan to reduce carbon emissions 30% by 2030. This reduction in carbon emissions would be the least necessary to avert the most disastrous effects of climate change.

When asked why they care about climate change, the teens mentioned a range of reasons including salmon runs, snowy winters, and invasive species. But it's the answer from Esau, a student from Shishmaref, that stood out as one of the most urgent reasons to take action:

"Over the past 14 years we have lost roughly 70 feet of land from storm surges and floods. Last month, there was a storm surge that made us lose most of the dump road and now the school bus can't drive on it. We need to stop climate change to save Shishmaref."

Alaskan youth are feeling the effects of climate change. And now they're starting the search for Alaskan-grown solutions to this global problem. Alaska is ground zero for climate change, but teens like Esau will help our state become ground zero for climate solutions.

If you want to learn more about the 2015 Youth Organizer Summit, please visit our website at www.ayea.org. If you know a teen that wants to become involved and supported by a statewide network of young activists, please email Allison at allison@akcenter.org



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
IDAHO, OREGON, WASHINGTON NEWS

Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership: Science to Policy Summit Report

The Estuary Partnership's Science to Policy Summit on toxics in the Columbia Basin had two amazing panels and rich audience participation.

The final summit report is complete. It outlines discussions from both panels and future actions needed, including what the Estuary Partnership can do to advance toxics reduction.

Read the full report at <http://bit.ly/1Upsuhl>

Low Impact Development in Western Oregon: A Practical Guide for Watershed Health

To help cities and towns manage stormwater runoff, Oregon Environmental Council worked with experts to produce a Low Impact Development or LID Guidance Template tailored for Western Oregon. This guide will be followed by a series of workshops to help communities implement the guide. For more information about the LID guide, please contact Maria Cahill at greengirl@greengirlpdx.com

When & Where

February 17

Tillamook LID Guidance Template Training
10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Tillamook County Library

March 1

Rogue Valley LID Guidance Template Training
10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Rogue Valley Sewer Services

March 9

Albany LID Guidance Template Training
10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Albany City Hall

March 17

Coos Bay LID Guidance Template Training
10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Coos Bay Fire Station

Cost

\$40 to attend the full event (Includes coffee and lunch)
Free to attend the first 45 minutes (Does not include food)

What You'll learn

- How to reduce stormwater runoff through innovative LID techniques
- The value of LID in reducing long-term community costs and meeting regulatory requirements
- The content of the new LID guidance template and how to use it as an optional permitting path for new, re-development and retrofit projects
- Key items to consider when choosing which best management practices to implement first
- The process for adapting the LID guidance template into a stormwater management manual

Portable Air Monitors Available for Use

The EPA's Region 10 air program would like to remind tribal air staff that the EPA's tribal air team has several portable monitors available for use. The program is designed to provide portable monitoring equipment for the initial investigation of a complaint or concern raised relating to air quality on tribal lands in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon.

The equipment can only be utilized by tribal air staff trained in the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), operation of the monitors, and data collection methods. The tribal air team will work with interested tribal air staff to determine when, where, and which air monitoring device would best meet a particular situation's needs. Tribal air staff who want to receive training on use of the monitors should contact Steve Scott.

The following devices are currently available:

- MultiRAE Lite/Pro:** Handheld gas monitors which are configured to detect and measure hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ammonia (NH₃), and carbon monoxide (CO) in parts per million. The MultiRAE Lite measures volatile organic compounds in ppm and the MultiRAE Pro measures VOCs in parts per billion



Handheld gas monitors



Handheld particulate monitor

- Quest EVM-3:** A handheld particulate monitor which gives real-time readings of PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ in µg/m³ as well as measuring CO and CO₂ in ppm. The monitors have onboard memory so measurements can be downloaded and stored for later use on a computer. The EVM-3 is suited for ambient monitoring where dust or wood smoke are a concern and can be used as a companion to the MultiRAE monitors when CO₂ should be measured along with other gases.

- Colorimetric Tubes:** Used in conjunction with a hand-pump, the single-use colorimetric gas detection tubes change color in direct correlation to the concentration of gas present, allowing instant measurement of specific toxic and combustible substances.
- Ambient Weather WM-4:** An easy to use handheld weather station measuring temperature, humidity, wind speed, and wind direction, along with several other weather parameters



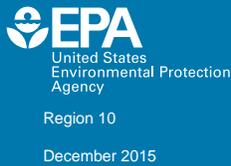
Colorimetric tubes



Handheld weather station

PLEASE NOTE: The information gathered by this program is investigatory and not regulatory. Additionally, this equipment is not to be used for confined space evaluations or to meet any other health and safety requirement.

For questions, please contact **Steve Scott** • 206-553-0692 • scott.steve@epa.gov



Recycling makes a difference in Akiak, Alaska



Indian Environmental General Assistance Program

Success Story

Akiak, AK



Akiak, AK – population 389, is a traditional subsistence-based Yup'ik Eskimo community located on the Yukon/Kuskokwim delta. Concerns over leachate from the landfill affecting water quality and subsistence in the Kuskokwim River, motivated Akiak Native Community's Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP) to create an environmental committee and start a community recycling program to reduce the amount of trash that goes to the landfill. To encourage participation in recycling, every household received a recycling bin.

Empty bin used to transport items to landfill



The city of Akiak and the tribe agreed through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to collaborate on landfill management, resulting in a solid waste management plan.

Additional MOU's were developed to remove old electric distribution lines and make landfill improvements. In 2013 Akiak Native Community's GAP program filled an empty storage container with old drums, computers, ballasts, fire extinguishers and other items and shipped them out of the village to Seattle for disposal. They also completed an abandoned vehicle inventory, and then organized and prepared them for backhaul. The tribe's GAP-funded environmental staff provide community outreach and education on recycling and environmental concerns.



Preparing junk vehicles for backhaul

Akiak's IGAP Coordinator Lena Foss believes that the quantity of trash going into the landfill has decreased as a result of the recycling program.

She says they have a cleaner village, and you can see the difference as you walk down the streets.



Recyclables ready for shipment

All photos courtesy of Lena Foss

Partners & Support

Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling

Recycling bottles and cans and technical assistance

<http://www.alparalaska.com/wp>

Northland Services

Shipping hazardous wastes and junk vehicles

<http://www.northlandservices.com>

City of Akiak

Collaboration for landfill improvement

<http://go.usa.gov/cKJ8S>

RuralCap

Yukon/Kuskokwim Coastal Assistance Solid Waste

Grant For Landfill Improvement and Grants

Management Technical Assistance

<https://ruralcap.com>

Sturgeon Electric

Replacing electric distribution lines

<http://sturgeonelectric.com>

Total Reclaim

Processing recyclables in Seattle

<http://www.totalreclaim.com>

WestRock Recycling

Recycling electric distribution lines

<http://www.rocktenn.com/products/recycling>

Zender Environmental

Backhaul technical assistance

<http://www.zendergroup.org/index.htm>

Community Profile: Akiak

Population: 389

Culture: Akiak is a Yup'ik Eskimo village with a reliance on subsistence and fishing activities.

Location: Akiak is located on the west bank of the Kuskokwim River, 42 air miles northeast of Bethel.

Transportation: Akiak has a state-owned airport with a gravel runway in good condition. The strip provides chartered or private air access year-round. Several air carriers offer passenger flight service. Snow machines, ATVs, and skiffs are used extensively for local transportation to nearby villages. There are no docking facilities.

Source: State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development Community Database

EPA Region 10's Commitment to Federally Recognized Tribes

EPA Region 10 is committed to helping tribes strengthen their abilities to manage environmental programs in Indian country, and to ensure that tribes have a voice in decisions that affect their land, air and water. Region 10 serves 271 federally recognized tribes in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

The goal of the EPA IGAP grant program is to assist tribes and intertribal consortia in developing the capacity to manage their own environmental protection programs, and to develop and implement solid and hazardous waste programs in accordance with individual tribal needs and applicable federal laws and regulations.

<http://www2.epa.gov/tribal/region-10-tribal-program>

<http://www.epa.gov/tribal/indian-environmental-general-assistance-program-gap>

For more information

Akiak Native Community IGAP Coordinator:

Lena Foss

Akiak Native Community ☎ 907-765-7830

EPA Grant: Indian General Assistance Program (GAP)

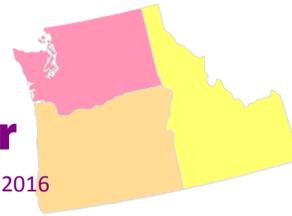
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Region 10 Tribal Newsletter

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United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

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Got News?

The Region 10 Tribal Newsletter invites you, our readers, to submit ideas and articles for consideration and to share your successes and challenges. Photographs are also welcome as separate files in jpeg or other graphic format. Please submit articles and pictures to:

Don Creek

EPA, 805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, Oregon 97205

503-326-5015

email creek.don@epa.gov

Helpful Links

R10 Tribal Programs:

<http://www2.epa.gov/tribal/region-10-tribal-program>



EPA on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/EPARegion10>



Follow us @

EPAnorthwest on Twitter!

<https://twitter.com/EPAnorthwest>

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REPORT SPILLS AND ACCIDENTS

NOTE THESE EMERGENCY NUMBERS TO CALL IN THE EVENT OF HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SPILLS OR ACCIDENTS.

ALASKA 800-478-9300

IDAHO 800-632-8000

OREGON 800-452-0311

WASHINGTON 800-258-5990

NATIONAL (EPA) 800-424-8802