



EPA Region 7 Communities Information Digest

February 19, 2016

Welcome to the latest EPA Region 7 Digest!

EPA Region 7's Communities Information Digest provides communities with the latest news about funding and technical assistance opportunities, webinars, conferences, and other activities related to human health and the environment.

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Headlines

National

***EPA's FY 2017 Budget Request Increases Support for Communities to Deliver Core Environmental and Health Protections**

The Obama Administration's Fiscal Year 2017 budget for the EPA lays out a strategy for progress in addressing environmental problems and ensuring the agency and its partners in environmental protection are positioned to meet the challenges of the future. EPA FY 2017 budget request of \$8.267 billion provides resources vital to that overarching vision.

***EPA Awards Grants to 38 Student Teams for Innovative Sustainable Projects**

EPA announced 38 People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) grants to university student teams for proposed projects to develop new, sustainable products and strategies. Each team will receive up to \$15,000 for their proposals.

[*EPA Releases Online Mapping Tool to Help Protect Drinking Water Sources](#)

EPA released the Drinking Water Mapping Application to Protect Source Waters (DWMAPS). This tool allows users to learn about their watershed, water supplier, and lets users see if sources of their drinking water are polluted or possible sources of pollution.

[*USDA to Allow WIC Funds to be used for Lead Testing for Flint-Area WIC Recipients](#)

USDA will temporarily allow Michigan to use WIC funds to conduct lead testing for WIC participants. An estimated 3,800 WIC participants could potentially be tested as a result.

[*Energy Department Announces \\$21 Million to Lower Solar Energy Deployment Barriers](#)

The Department is making \$13 million available to help states take advantage of falling solar prices and maximize the benefits of solar electricity through energy and economic strategic planning. This new program will offer technical and analytical support in the development and implementation of solar energy deployment plans.

[*EPA Title VI Proposed Rule: Public Comment Period Extended](#)

This proposed rule improves the EPA's ability to ensure recipients of federal financial assistance comply with their affirmative obligation under the Civil Rights Act of 1965 and other nondiscrimination statutes, and allows EPA flexibility to carry out nondiscrimination compliance work. The public comment period has been extended by thirty days.

[EPA Seeking Public Comment on Proposed Changes to Public Notices for Permit Actions](#)

EPA is proposing to revise its public notice regulations for the New Source Review, Title V and Outer Continental Shelf permit programs of the Clean Air Act. The proposal would remove the mandatory requirement to provide public notice of a draft permit through publication in a newspaper and instead allow for electronic noticing.

[*Featured tool: EPA's Smart School Siting Tool](#)

School locations and community development are inextricably linked, but many communities consider school siting separately from other land use and infrastructure planning. EPA released The Smart School Siting Tool to help communities make school siting decisions in a more coordinated and comprehensive way.

[*New Resource: NRDC Brief on How To: Stormwater Credit Trading Programs](#)

Stormwater credit trading programs introduce flexibility into cities' on-site stormwater retention rules and, if designed correctly, credit trading programs can create equal or better water quality outcomes than a simple on-site retention requirement. This paper describes potential opportunities and risks presented by such programs.

[*Research opportunity with EPA Stormwater & Wastewater Program](#)

A postgraduate research opportunity is available at the EPA Office of Water (OW). The participant will be part of the stormwater and wastewater team involved in providing

outreach, training, and technical assistance to states and communities, and will participate on the national wet weather program.

Region 7

***EPA Sustainability Grants Awarded to Three Student Teams in Region 7**

Student teams from the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and the University of Missouri are among the 38 university student teams to receive Phase I grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) program to pursue projects to develop new, sustainable products and strategies.

***EPA to Host Public Meeting to Discuss Proposed Remedy for Former Waterloo Industries Facility**

EPA Region 7 will host a public meeting to discuss the agency's proposed remedy for environmental contamination at the former Waterloo Industries facility. The meeting will be March 14, 5-7 p.m., Black Hawk County YMCA, 669 S. Hackett Road, in Waterloo, IA.

Learn more about R7's Summer Intern Program

Student internships at the Region 7 Regional Office and Science and Technology Center will be advertised on USAJobs.gov, Facebook, Twitter and Diversityjobs.com/LATPRO. Interested students should set up an account and look for the Pathways Summer Internship announcements on www.USAJobs.gov between February-early March

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Funding & Technical Assistance Opportunities

P2 Grant Requests for Proposals Coming Soon!

EPA's Pollution Prevention (P2) program is sharing advance notice for Pollution Prevention, Pollution Prevention Information Network, and Source Reduction Assistance grant programs.

River Rally Scholarship Applications February 19

ULI Global Awards for Excellence February 22

Promise Zones Initiative: Third Round Selection Process February 23

Cool and Connected: Federal Planning Assistance for Broadband and Sustainable Community Development February 24

FWS 2016 North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant February 26

USDA Conservation Reserve Program Applications due February 26

St. Louis County Department of Public Health Waste Management Program 2016 Waste Reduction Grant February 29

2016 National Preservation Award Nominations Open March 1

*ArtPlace National Creative Placemaking Fund March 2

*State Energy Evolution and Diffusion Studies II - State Energy Strategies (SEEDSII-SES) Concept papers due March 8

Local Government Excellence Awards March 9

Superfund Hazardous Substance Research and Training Program March 11

Healthy Watershed Consortium Grant March 14

National Priorities: Impacts of Water Conservation on Water Quality in Premise Plumbing and Water Distribution Systems March 17

ASLA 2016 Professional Awards March 18 (for Professional Development Opportunities for Secondary School Teachers' Programs)

USDA Wetlands Mitigation Banking Program March 18

USDA Farm Service Outreach March 18

USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Fellowships March 24 (for Research and Extension Experiential Learning for Undergraduate Fellowships)

DOE State Energy Program 2016 Competitive Awards March 31

Route 66 Grants April 1

*Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (ESTCP) Installation Energy Technology Demonstrations April 5

*Environmental Technology Certification Program (ESTCP) - Environmental Technology Demonstrations April 5

*2016 Administration for Native Americans Funding Opportunities April 6

Opportunities include:

Environmental Regulatory Enhancement

Sustainable Employment and Economic Development Strategies (SEEDS)

Native American Language Preservation and Maintenance

*EPA 2016 Environmental Education Local Grants Funding April 8

[*The Recycling Partnership's Grant Opportunity to Improve Access to Residential Curbside Recycling Systems](#) April 15

[NEA Challenge America Grant Program](#) April 16

[*Community Development Financial Institutions Fund \(CDFI\) Program](#) April 18

[Tribal Climate Change Photo Contest](#) April 30

[USDA Rural Energy for America Program \(REAP\)](#) May 2

[NIFA-International Wheat Yield Partnership Program](#) May 3

[ASLA 2016 Student Awards](#) May 13

[USDA Farm Service Outreach](#) May 22

[*FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant](#) June 15

[*FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant](#) June 15

[FWS National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program](#) June 29

Ongoing Opportunities

[Tribal Climate Change Funding Guide](#) – Regularly updated grants, programs and plans

[EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program](#)

[Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program](#) – Due dates vary by state

[HUD CDBG Disaster Recovery Assistance](#)

[USDA Rural Economic Development](#) – Call Rural Development State Office for due dates

[USDA Agricultural Conservation Easement Program](#) – Contact Local USDA Service Center

[Apply for a Fruit Tree Planting Foundation Orchard in Your Community](#)

[NOAA Climate Program 2016 Funding Opportunities](#)

[American Planning Association Community Planning Assistance Teams](#)

[Climate Solutions University Adaptation Plan Assistance](#)

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Meetings, Conferences, & Events

*[Mississippi Public Forum on the Clean Power Plan](#) February 23, Jackson, Mississippi

*[Midwest Section Air and Waste Management Association Annual Environmental Technical Conference](#) February 23-24, Overland Park, KS

[USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum](#) February 25-26, Arlington, VA

*[Public Outreach Meeting for EPA Title VI Proposed Rule](#) March 1, Washington D.C.

[USDA Midwest Regional Climate Hub Workshop, Climate Change and Midwest Agriculture: Impacts, Challenges, & Opportunities](#) March 1-2, Madison, WI

*[2016 MORA Membership Forum](#) March 2 10:00 a.m.-noon CST Jefferson City, MO

[Missouri Minority and Limited Resource Farmers' Conference](#) March 4, Sikeston, MO

[Great Plains LID Research and Innovation Symposium](#) March 7-9, Omaha, NE

To Contractors: [USGBC Central Plains General Contractors Forum](#) March 8, 7:30-9:00 a.m. CST, Kansas City, MO

*[Tribal Green Summit 2016](#) March 8, Snoqualmie Casino, WA

*[EPA STAR Organic Aerosol Progress Review Meeting](#) March 14-15 Durham, NC

*[Public Meeting to Discuss Proposed Remedy for Former Waterloo Industries Facility](#) March 14, Waterloo, IA

[U.S./Canada Cross-Border Power Summit](#) March 14-15, Boston, MA

[The Funders' Network 2016 Annual Conference](#) March 14-16, Philadelphia, PA

[Northeast Sustainable Communities Workshop](#) March 16, Newark, NJ

*[NEJAC Face-to-Face Public Meeting](#) March 16-17 Gulfport, MS

[Creative Placemaking Leadership Summit](#) March 18, Newark, NJ

[Forum on Historic Preservation Practice](#) March 18-19, Towson, MD

[*North Central Region Water Network 2016 Conference](#) March 21-23, Lincoln, NE

[USDA Northern Forests-Climate Hub and the Forest Climate Working Group Workshop](#) March 29-30, Chicago, IL

[ASWM's State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meeting: Managing Change – Wetland Protection and Restoration in an Era of Changing Water and Energy Demands](#) March 29-31, near Shepherdstown, WV

[Green Schools Conference & Expo](#) March 31-April 1, Pittsburgh, PA

[*APA 2016 National Planning Conference](#) April 2-5, Phoenix, Arizona

[Local Solutions Eastern Regional Climate Conference](#) April 4-5, Baltimore, MD

[National Healthy Schools Day](#) April 5

[National Safe Routes to School Conference](#) April 5-7, Columbus, OH

[*2016 National Watershed & Stormwater Conference](#) April 12, Sacramento, CA

[2016 Recreational Waters Conference](#) April 12-15, New Orleans, LA

[San Francisco Green Film Festival](#) April 14-20, San Francisco, CA

[66th Annual Environmental Engineering Conference](#) April 20, Lawrence, KS

[Earth Day!](#) April 22

[*Water Policy Conference](#) April 24 – 27, Denver, CO

[Transit Oriented Development & Urban Real Estate Conference](#) May 3-5, Los Angeles, CA

[*Balancing Nature and Commerce in Rural Communities and Landscapes](#) May 3-5 Shepherdstown, WV

[Utility Energy Service Contracts Advanced Training](#) May 16-17, Cincinnati, OH

[2016 National Tribal Forum on Air Quality](#) May 17-19, Niagara Falls, NY

[River Rally 2016](#) May 20-23, Mobile, AL

[10th International Symposium on Agriculture and the Environment](#) May 23-27, West Lafayette, Indiana

[7th World Fisheries Congress](#) May 24-27, Busan, Korea

[Grey to Green Cities](#) June 1-4, Toronto, ON

*[Sustainable Brands 2016](#) June 6-9, San Diego, CA

[CNU 24: The Transforming City](#) June 8-11, Detroit, MI

[2016 LOCUS National Leadership Summit](#) June 13-15, Boston, MA

[Climate Strategies Forum - East Coast](#) July 18-20, Arlington, VA

[Earth Educators' Rendezvous](#) July 18-22, University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI

*[Urban Waters 4th National Training Workshop](#) July 26-28, Arlington, VA

[North American Symposium on Climate Adaptation](#) August 16-18, New York City, NY

[National Nonpoint Source Monitoring Workshop](#) August 23-25, Salt Lake City, UT
Abstracts due March 4

[Pro Walk/Pro Bike/Pro Place](#) September 12-15, Vancouver, BC

[National Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference](#) September 28-30, Baltimore, MD

[Climate Strategies Forum - West Coast](#) October 19-20, San Diego, CA

[American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Exposition](#) October 29-November 2, Denver, CO
Abstracts due February 23

[CitiesAlive: 14th Annual Green Roof and Wall Conference](#) November 1-4
Proposals for Research, Policy or Design track due February 26

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Webinars and Conference Calls

[It's tough to be heard in the city: Adaptations of bird song in urban environments](#) February 22, 12-1:00 p.m. CST

This study investigates songs and behaviors of white-crowned sparrows in and around San Francisco to understand the mechanisms and consequences of song evolution in an urban environment.

*[U.S. EPA Update on Development of Recreational Criteria for Cyanotoxins](#)
February 22, 1-2:00 p.m. CST

This webinar will include a presentation on the basic science being considered in the development of the criteria, a first look at implementation considerations, and an opportunity to receive feedback from participants.

[*Evaluating Scenario Planning to Understand Climate Change](#) February 23, 1-2:00 p.m. CST

One way to deal with the uncertainty associated with shifting climate and varied human responses is to explore a range of possible futures via scenarios planning, based on input and participation from a diverse group comprised of the people most affected.

[Green Roofs: Biological-Engineered Stormwater Mitigation Systems](#) February 23, 25, March 1

This online training will be presented in five 2-hour sessions on Feb. 23 & 25, and March 1, 3 & 4, 2016. Each session will be recorded on video, so if you have to miss a live session, you'll have access to the recording on the following day and for 30 days.

[ENERGY STAR Ask the Expert](#) February 24, 11-12 p.m. CST

This is an open Q&A format. Come to "Ask the Expert" with your questions.

[Using Power Purchase Agreements for Solar Deployment at Universities](#) February 24, 2-3:00 p.m. CST

This webinar is intended for university financial planners and other stakeholders who are assessing the financial aspects of deploying solar. The speakers from NREL will provide an overview of how universities are using PPAs and key PPA components.

[Financing Opportunities for Implementing Green Infrastructure Projects to Manage Stormwater](#) February 24, 1-2:00 p.m. CST

This presentation will provide an overview of work done around the country that enables the utilization of public and private funding sources to implement GI.

[Community Partnerships - Examples from Downtown Durango](#) February 24 1-2:00 p.m. CST

In this webinar, the Executive Director of the Durango Business Improvement District will share insight into how key partnerships can be leveraged to make your community better.

[*Innovative Collaborations in the Hospitality Sector to Increase Food Recovery](#) February 25, 12-1:30 p.m. CST

This webinar features three speakers that work in the hospitality and/or restaurant space who will discuss collaborations and approaches promoting sustainable food management, food recovery for donation, and partnerships they have built in their communities.

[*NEJAC Public Teleconference Meeting](#) February 25, 2-4:00 p.m. CST

The discussion will focus on EPA's draft environmental justice primer framework for port facilities. This action-oriented educational and training tool is being designed as a resource for port facilities about the perspectives, priorities, and challenges often unique to overburdened, vulnerable communities.

[Adapting Urban Vacant Land to Mitigate Hazards](#) February 26, 12-1:00 p.m. CST

This webinar will provide an in-depth look at how to adapt vacant land in urban areas to mitigate potential hazards. Learn what makes for successful strategies in adapting green infrastructure and hazard mitigation in areas experiencing blight and high vacancy rates.

Smart Strategies to Transform Commercial Districts February 26, 1-2:30 p.m. CST

Join this webinar to learn the key elements needed to transform commercial districts and help communities take the reins of their economic futures.

Adapting Urban Vacant Land to Mitigate Hazards February 26 12-1:00 p.m. CST

The American Planning Association and the Association of State Floodplain present the third Planning Information Exchange webinar. This webinar series focuses on the role of hazard mitigation planning and its connections to recovery planning and preparedness.

***Integrating Grazing into Cropping Systems March 8, 2016 1-2:00 p.m. CST**

This webinar describes opportunities to integrate crop and livestock systems and how soil health responds to grazing of cover crops and perennial forages in agricultural operations.

***Climate Change Impacts on Nutrient Runoff and the Effectiveness of Best Management Practices Mar 9, 2016 12-1:00 p.m. CST**

Learn about collaborative modeling approaches to assess the impacts of climate change on critical source areas of watershed nutrient pollution, how best management practices will perform under alternative climate trends, and possible extension approaches.

***Landscapes for Butterfly Conservation Mar 23, 2016 1-2:00 p.m. CST**

Participants will learn best management practices for butterflies at site and landscape scales.

***The Importance of Traditional Ecological Knowledge in Adaptation Planning March 23 12-1:00 p.m. CST**

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (or TEK) is knowledge and experiences passed on by indigenous and local peoples over many years through personal local connections to the changing environment. This webinar will focus on the importance and role of TEK in adaptation planning at local, regional, and national level.

Useful to Usable Educational Resources Training Webinar May 6, 1-2:00 p.m. CST

This webinar discusses the tools and educational materials available to you so that you can maximize the U2U Decision Support Tool Suite.

On-Going and On-Demand Webinars

***EPA Releases New Online Training Module on “Understanding Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources”**

This training module is intended to increase water resource professionals' understanding of the causes of climate change, its potential impacts on water resources, and the challenges that water resource professionals face.

EPA Computer Training Helps Water and Wastewater Utilities Build Resilience

The training covers several topics including: identifying and funding potential hazard mitigation projects, developing and updating an Emergency Response Plan (ERP), coordinating mutual aid and assistance during emergencies, conducting damage assessments, and many more.

EPA Sensible Steps to Healthier School Environments 10-Part Webinar Series

Student Curriculum: Recipes for Healthy Kids, and a Healthy Environment

Each 45-minute lesson empowers kids to take steps in their everyday lives to improve the environment for their communities and reduce their environmental risk.

[LeanPath presents: Five Food Waste Myths to Debunk – Now!](#)

This webinar will explore five myths about food waste and the facts you need to debunk them in your kitchen.

[Community Air Monitoring Training](#)

Presentations from the Community Air Monitoring Training held July 9, 2015

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