



EPA Region 7 Communities Information Digest

June 9, 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 Awards Environmental Education Grants in 26 States**

EPA announced the completion of grant awards under the 2015 Environmental Education (EE) Grants Program. Projects include tribal middle school education in Washington, watershed literacy in Montana, urban agriculture in Oklahoma, teacher training in Louisiana, green infrastructure in Ohio, and EE in community colleges in New England.

***EPA Releases Final Technical Guidance for Assessing Environmental Justice in Regulatory Analysis**

EPA issued final technical guidance to help analysts evaluate potential environmental justice (EJ) concerns associated with EPA regulatory actions. The Technical Guidance for Assessing Environmental Justice in Regulatory Analysis (EJ Technical Guidance) directs analysts to assess whether environmental justice concerns exist prior to the rulemaking and whether such concerns are exacerbated or mitigated for each regulatory option under consideration.

[*USDA Announces \\$16.8 Million in Grants to Encourage Healthy Food Purchases for SNAP Participants](#)

USDA awarded \$16.8 million in competitive grants to help Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants increase their purchases of fruits and vegetables. The funding comes from the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) program, authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill.

[*Case Studies on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Low-Income Communities Now Available from EPA](#)

EPA's State and Local Climate and Energy Program is developing a series of case studies and program profiles. These case studies and profiles will help officials in state and local energy, environmental, housing, and social services agencies, non-profits, and utilities understand promising practices and successful models that they can use to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by bringing energy efficiency and renewable energy (EE/RE) to low-income communities.

[*USDA, Partners to Invest in 21st Century Conservation Service](#)

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the U.S. Forest Service and partners have invested over \$11 million to support work and training opportunities for more than 1,500 youth and veterans on national forests and grasslands in fiscal year 2016.

[*Water Infrastructure and Finance Innovation Act Public Comment Period is Open](#)

EPA published the Water Infrastructure and Finance Innovation Act (WIFIA) Information Collection Request and draft application materials for public comment. The purpose of the WIFIA program is to provide federal credit assistance in the form of direct loans and loan guarantees to eligible clean water and drinking water projects. **Comments due July 22.**

Region 7 News

[*EPA Reaches Settlement with Acme Foundry, Coffeyville, KS for Industrial Stormwater Violations](#)

EPA Region 7 reached an administrative settlement with Acme Foundry, Inc., of Coffeyville, KS, to resolve industrial stormwater violations under the Clean Water Act. Under the settlement, Acme Foundry must comply with its industrial stormwater permit, pay a penalty of \$28,975, and implement a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP).

[*USDA Awards Funding to Support Plant Health and Resilience Research](#)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) awarded more than \$14.5 million in grants to support research on plant health, production, and resilience. Recipients include universities from Region 7, Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS, and Wichita State University in Wichita, KS.

[*EPA Awards Fellowship to Missouri S&T Environmental Engineering Student](#)

Katherine Bartels, a Missouri University of Science and Technology (MS&T) environmental engineering student in Rolla, MO, was awarded an EPA Greater Research Opportunities (GRO) Fellowship. Ms. Bartels is one of 34 undergraduate students at 28 colleges and universities across the nation to receive fellowships.

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Funding & Technical Assistance Opportunities

[Nominate a White House Champion of Change for Climate Equity](#) June 10

*[Children's Environmental Health Protection Excellence Award](#) June 15

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

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

[National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost-Share Grant](#) June 17

[Enabling Extreme Real-Time Grid Integration of Solar Energy \(ENERGISE\)](#) June 17

[Tribal ecoAmbassadors Grant Program](#) June 17

[Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants Program](#) June 18

[CDC Building Resilience Against Climate Effects: Enhancing Community Resilience by Implementing Health Adaptations Program](#) June 20

*[Climate Leadership Awards](#) June 22

*[EPA National Wetland Program Development Grants](#) June 23

*[Solar Implementation Assistance](#) June 24

[Native American Agricultural Fast Track Fund \(NAAFTF\)](#) June 24

[EDA Innovation Strategies Program Federal Funding Opportunity \(FFO\)](#) June 24

[HUD Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants Program](#) June 28

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

*[KC Water Quality Small Grant Opportunity](#) June 30

[Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program](#) June 30

[USDA Strategic Economic and Community Development \(SECD\)](#) June 30

[ATSDR Community Health Projects Related to Contamination at Brownfield/Land Reuse Sites](#) July 5

[Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Food Security Challenge Area](#) July 7

[BIA Energy and Mineral Development Program](#) July 8

[EPA 2016 Targeted Air Shed Grant Program](#) July 11

*[Historic Preservation Fund Grants to Underrepresented Communities](#) July 15

*[HUD Community Compass Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Program](#) July 19

[Department of the Interior National Climate Change & Wildlife Science Center Program](#) July 19

*[Partners for Places Fall 2016 Grant Cycle](#) July 25

*[USDA Rural Development Socially-Disadvantaged Groups Grant](#) August 1

[NEA Our Town Grants](#) August 1

*[Long-term Exposure to Air Pollution and Development of Cardiovascular Disease Research Grant](#) August 2

[Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Food Safety Challenge Area](#) August 3

*[Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Water for Agriculture Challenge Area](#) August 4

*[Vehicle Technologies Multi-Topic Funding Opportunity](#) August 29

*[Mid-America Regional Council Solid Waste Management District grant](#) August 31

*[EPA National Wetland Condition Assessment Campus Research Challenge](#) September 30

[Asthma Empowerment Collaborations to Reduce Childhood Asthma Disparities](#) October 16

Ongoing Opportunities

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

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

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

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

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

[Climate Solutions University Adaptation Plan Assistance](#)

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Meetings, Conferences, & Events

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

[National Regional Transportation Conference](#) June 13-15, Chattanooga, TN

[NOAA Climate Stewards Free Regional Climate Education Workshop](#) June 13-16, Salt Lake City, UT

[Great Plains Grazing Field Research Symposium](#) June 14, Stillwater, OK

[North American Yes in My Back Yard Gathering](#) June 17-19, Boulder, CO

[Association of State Floodplain Managers National Conference](#) June 19-24, Grand Rapids, MI

[NOAA Climate Stewards Free Regional Climate Education Workshop](#) June 21-22, New Orleans, LA

*[CDFA Oklahoma/Kansas Financing Roundtable Conference](#) June 22, Oklahoma City, OK

*[Reduce and Recover: Save Food for People](#) June 28-29, Cambridge, MA

*[IRIS Public Science Meeting](#) June 29-30, Arlington, VA

[NOAA Climate Stewards Free Regional Climate Education Workshop](#) June 30-July 2, Boulder, CO

[Missouri Brownfields Conference](#) July 11, Osage Beach, MO

[Climate-Smart Conservation with Scenario Planning](#) July 11-15, Shepherdstown, WV

[Local Leaders Council Policy Forum 2016](#) July 18-19, Washington, DC

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

*[G-WOW "Hear the Water's Voice"](#) July 18-21, Ashland, WI

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

[Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association Conference](#) July 21, Kearney, NE

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

[NOAA Climate Stewards Free Regional Climate Education Workshop](#) August 3-4, Charleston, SC

[Kansas Environmental Conference](#) August 9-11, Hutchinson, KS

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

*[2016 International Open Streets Summit](#) August 18-21, Portland, OR

*[US Fish and Wildlife Service: Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment](#) August 23-25, Shepherdstown, WV

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

[2016 Missouri Recycling Association \(MORA\) Recycling Conference](#) September 12-14, St. Louis, MO

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

*[Institute for Tribal Environmental Partners \(ITEP\) Training: Climate Change Adaptation Planning](#) September 13-15, Nebraska City, NE

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

[18th Annual Stormwater Conference](#) October 2-6, Oklahoma City, OK

[Green Business Engagement National Network Summit](#) October 19-20, St. Louis, MO

[Toxic Release Inventory \(TRI\) Conference](#) October 19-21, Washington, DC

[National Training Conference on the Toxics Release Inventory and Environmental Conditions in Communities](#) October 19-21, Washington, DC

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

[CitiesAlive: 14th Annual Green Roof and Wall Conference](#) November 1-4, Washington DC

[New Partners for Smart Growth Conference](#) February 2-4, 2017, St. Louis, MO
[Proposal submissions](#) Due June 30, 2016

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Webinars and Conference Calls

[Risk Management: The Key to Sustainable Brownfield Redevelopment](#) **June 10, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. CST**

This session will present concepts for understanding and mitigating risks posed by constraints to redevelopment and long-term sustainability of the redevelopment.

[*Webinar: Why Walking and Walkability?](#) **June 16, 1-2:00 p.m. CST**

This webinar will lay out actions and strategies that enable everyone to contribute to making our communities more walkable and increasing walking as a practice.

[*What It's Worth: Strengthening the Financial Future of Families, Communities and the Nation](#) **June 14, 2-3:00 p.m. CST**

Speakers will discuss promising practices for building financial well-being, such as integrating services across sectors and ideas for policies and financial products designed to expand economic opportunity for lower-income Americans.

[*Climate Change and Water for Agriculture Education for Extension Professionals Webinar Series](#) **June 15, 1-2:00 p.m. CST**

Participants will be empowered to use the relationships and knowledge gained to improve programming in the water resource program area, particularly impacting the ability of the network to generate measurable economic, environmental, and social impacts in the short and long-term, with a focus on watershed planning and climate change and adaptation.

[*Safe Routes to School National Partnership Making Strides: A Look at Our 2016 State Report Cards](#) **June 15, 1-2:00 p.m. CST**

Join this webinar to learn about the National Partnership's new report, *Making Strides: 2016 State Report Cards on Support for Walking, Bicycling, and Active Kids and Communities*.

[*Air Quality Monitoring and Community Science](#) **June 15, 2-3:00 p.m. CST**

In this webinar, EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) will share research, demonstrate tools, and seek input from partners. Representatives of state environment and health agencies, tribes, local governments, communities, and others interested in learning about EPA tools and resources available to help inform decision-making are welcome to attend.

[*EPA Tools and Resources Webinar: Air Quality Monitoring and Community Science](#) **June 15, 2-3:00 p.m. CST**

Air quality managers have access to new low cost compact air sensor monitors that can be used to measure air quality in areas where air pollution is a concern. The technology is providing new ways to identify and measure air pollutants in a community that can assist the public and health officials in taking action to protect public health.

[*Introduction to the Water and Wastewater Competency Model](#) **June 17, 11-12:30 p.m. CST**

The Water and Wastewater Competency Model is a collaboration between U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, EPA, AWWA, WEF,

RCAP and NRWA. The model serves as a resource to inform discussions among industry leaders, educators, economic developers, and public workforce investment professionals.

***ENERGY STAR and Green Building Rating Systems June 21, 12-1:00 p.m. CST**

During this session, attendees will learn how to use EPA tools and resources to help meet requirements for green building rating systems such as the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), the Green Globes system, and others.

***Trends in the Recycling and Waste Handling Equipment Industry June 21, 12:30-1:45 p.m. CST**

This webinar will discuss market conditions pertaining to the waste and recycling equipment industry and new technologies that will improve productivity and sustainability with waste and recycling operations.

***Learn What's New for the 2017 Climate Leadership Awards June 21, 1-2:30 p.m. CST**

In this informative webinar, organizers will discuss what's new for the Climate Leadership Awards process and how your organization can be a competitive applicant for this prestigious recognition program. EPA and its NGO partners will provide information related to eligibility, evaluation criteria, and application content for each of the award categories, as well as answer questions.

***Residential Solar Financing 101 June 22, 12-1:00 p.m. CST**

This webcast will provide state and municipal officials with information about current solar financing options. You will learn about common residential solar financing choices, solar financing consumer protection issues, publicly supported solar finance programs from around the country, and broad solar financing trends.

***Brownfields Project Marketplace Application June 22-23, 12-5:00 p.m. CST**

The Online Brownfields Project Marketplace will include brief presentations by communities detailing important information on their brownfield sites. Presentations will be followed by open discussions among community officials and technical assistance partners with the purpose of providing suggestions for the communities' redevelopment plans and financing sources.

***Environmental Justice Technical Guidance: Presentation and Discussion June 23, 12-1:00 p.m. CST**

This webinar will present an overview of the content of the EJ Technical Guidance, including information on the best practices, recommendations, and questions that are included to guide the EJ analyses that are conducted for national regulations. The EJ Technical Guidance is available [here](#).

***Pollinator Habitat & Food Security: What's All the Buzz About? June 23, 12-1:30 p.m. CST**

In this webinar, celebrating National Pollinator Week, get inspired by the White House's federal strategy to restore or enhance 7 million acres of land for pollinators over the next 5 years, tune in to federal facilities with pollinator habitat, and learn about the Pollinator Partnership's pollinator-friendly, eco-regional planting guides.

[The APR Design® Guide for Plastics Recyclability: A Guided Tour through this Comprehensive Product Design Reference Tool](#) **June 28, 12-1:00 p.m. CST**

This webinar will provide a step by step guide through the extensive resources provided on the Association of Plastics Recyclers website.

[*Portfolio Manager 101](#) **June 28, 12-1:00 p.m. CST**

Learn about the core functionality of EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager tool. Attendees will learn how to: navigate Portfolio Manager; add a property and enter details about it; enter energy and water consumption data; and generate template performance reports to assess progress.

[*Portfolio Manager 201](#) **June 29, 12-1:00 p.m. CST**

Continue to learn about EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager tool, with a deeper dive into more advanced functionalities such as: editing property data; correcting and updating property use details; using the data quality checker; and sharing property data.

[*Portfolio Manager 301](#) **June 30, 12-1:00 p.m. CST**

With a good background on the basic functionality of EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager tool, learn about some advanced features including: using spreadsheet upload templates to update property data; setting goals and targets to plan energy improvements for properties; creating custom reports; and using the Sustainable Buildings Checklist.

[*Environmental Justice Technical Guidance: Presentation and Discussion](#) **July 11, 2-3:00 p.m. CST**

This webinar will present an overview of the content of the EJ Technical Guidance, including information on the best practices, recommendations, and questions that are included to guide the EJ analyses that are conducted for national regulations. The EJ Technical Guidance is available [here](#).

[Plastics Recycling Works: Facts and Figures to Support a Thriving Industry](#) **August 9, 12-1:00 p.m. CST**

This webinar will provide an overview of the environmental benefits of recycling, market trends, brand owner sustainability goals, and future areas of growth in the plastics recycling industry.

[Recycling Rigid Plastics Beyond Bottles: Resources to Support MRFs and Municipalities](#) **September 6, 12-1:00 p.m. CST**

This webinar will provide an overview of the resources, developed by the Association of Plastics Recyclers for MRFs and Municipalities to support the expansion of plastics collected.

[2015 PET Container Recycling Rate Report Overview](#) **October 18, 12-1:00 p.m. CST**

This webinar will serve as an Executive Summary, featuring data and analyses from the *Report on Postconsumer PET Container Recycling Activity in 2015*.

[2015 National Postconsumer Plastics Bottle Recycling Rate Report Overview](#) **November 15, 12-1:00 p.m. CST**

This webinar will serve as an Executive Summary, featuring data and analyses from the 2015 National Postconsumer Plastics Bottle Recycling Rate Report.

On-Going and On-Demand Webinars

[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.

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