

**REGION IX**  
**RTOC WORKGROUP REPORTS**  
**April – June 2008**

**Tribal Science Council Workgroup:**

**Region 9 RTOC Meeting (April 13, 2010)**  
**Tribal Science Council Workgroup Report**

**2010 Suggested R9 Tribal Science Priorities:**

- Gather pertinent Tribal lifeways / risk assessments and disseminate to R9 Tribes – incorporate into planning
- Increase USEPA fish consumption default value by supporting fish consumption assessments & incorporating into EPA policies
- Identify R9 Tribes' science priorities to propose as national science priorities
- Consider overlap topics with air workgroup and EPA air division (climate change)
- Tribal lifeline
- Certification for tribal environmental professionals
- Pursue more collaboration with universities or professional societies

**Information sharing:**

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Tribal Science Forum** will be during June 6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> 2010 in Traverse City, Michigan. Registration and information website: <http://www.epa.gov/osp/tribes/natforum10.htm>
- **Science in Indian Country Website** <http://www.epa.gov/osp/tribes/tribes.htm>
- 1<sup>st</sup> volume of *TSC Newsletter* was issued in March 2010. The electronic version can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/osp/tribes/newsletter.htm>
- **Nation Science Foundation** have various fund opportunities for science program <http://www.nsf.gov/funding/>
- **Tribal Proper Functioning Condition Training.** First training is scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> at the La Jolla and Pala Reservations. Northern California tribes will organize another workshop similar tentatively in July/August time period.

**Water Quality Standards Workgroup:**  
**Water Quality Standards Workgroup Report**  
**Region 9 Tribal Operations Committee**  
**April 13 – 15, 2010**

**Request for Title Change.**

The Water Quality Standards Workgroup wishes to change its title to the Clean Water Act Workgroup. EPA and Tribal workgroup members all agree that the title change is necessary to address the wide array of Tribal/EPA water protection issues that reach beyond water quality standards arena. The official title change request will be presented at the Regional Tribal Operations Committee meeting on April 15, 2010.

**CWA Workgroup - Top Priorities for 2011**

The CWA workgroup was ask to identify both national and regional water quality protection priorities for FY2011. The overall theme of the priorities identified securing adequate funding for Tribal water protection programs. The workgroup narrowed its priority topics to two categories.

- 1) National Priority - Secure Funding for Tribal Programs
  - Increase the percent of CWA 106 funds for tribes from 12% to 20%
  - Promote targeted 106 funding for Tribes
  - Lift the CWA 319 NPS cap
  - Increase Wetland funds for Tribes
  - Fund mentoring activities to assist tribes develop & implement water quality programs.
- 2) Regional Priority – Evaluate Water Quality Protection in R9
  - Where can we make improvements (NPDES, 401 certification, 106 guidance)
  - What's working, what's not

Under the National Priority “Securing Funding for Tribal Programs” the CWA workgroup will identify a course of action that supports increased funding to tribal water protection programs. This coarse action will identify two pathways: 1. identify program areas were senior EPA Headquarter staff has the discretion to reallocate monies to support Tribal programs that are not adequately funded 2. identify and recommend language changes to EPA water program guidance, appropriations and/or statutory language that hinder Tribes from achieving funding parity with states.

Under the Regional Priority “Evaluate Water Quality Protection in R9” the CWA workgroup will identify the regulatory gaps where tribal waters are not being protected under the CWA permitting processes. The workgroup will request feedback from Region 9 Tribes in areas were improvements need to be made in the NPDES, 401 certification, and other EPA regulatory procedures. Furthermore, the workgroup will identify EPA initiatives and programs that may

result in increase water quality protection in Region 9 through: 1. promulgation of Core WQS, 2. encourage cooperative agreements for watershed protection on a regional or watershed basis, and, 3. request EPA assistance thru Direct Implementation of Tribal Cooperative Agreement (DITCAs).

### **Core Water Quality Standards**

EPA's Office of Science & Technology is once again beginning to initiate discussion with EPA Tribal Water Organizations and the National Tribal Caucus regarding the implementation of "Core Water Quality Standards" in Indian Country.

Informal discussions focus on a developing a guidance framework for tribes that wish to participate. Under this guidance frame work EPA will work with Tribes to promulgate and implement core Federal water quality standards for their tribal waters. The water quality standards will be developed in consultation with Tribal governments, in a manner that would reflect Tribal priorities and site-specific water quality conditions. For tribes that do not wish to participate, EPA will continue to encourage and assist these tribes in assuming regulatory and program management responsibilities for their reservation waters.

### **Solid Waste Workgroup:**

### **Consultation Workgroup:**

### **Budget and Strategic Planning Workgroup:**

### **Air Workgroup:**

## **RTOC Air Workgroup Conference Call Summary**

April 2010

The RTOC Air Workgroup held one conference call during this quarter. The following is a summary of that discussion. The workgroup is also sent information out to Tribal representatives throughout the quarter.

### **Attendees:**

Liz Bogdanski, Morongo  
Tia Chullakorn, Stewarts Point  
Jason Mandly, Morongo  
Becky Ross, San Manuel  
Syndi Smallwood, Pechanga

### **1. EPA Updates:**

EPA Air Division staff was unable to attend the call, however they sent the power point presentation that they will present at the RTOC meeting. Highlights discussed during this conference call are as follows:

- R9 received 36 applications for FY2011 Air funding 103/105. Notifications will be given on awards by the end of April;
- New ozone standard timeline was discussed, it was noted that several R9 Tribes commented, however others were not aware of the standard revision. Syndi let the group know that there will be conference calls on the ozone issue and they will be hosted by EPA and then turned over to NTAA. Information on the calls will go out as soon as they are set-up;
- 66 air toxic rules have been completed the final 4 will be done by the end of 2010;
- Climate Showcase Communities grants will out in late Spring of this year.

2. Priorities:

The workgroup was asked to trim down their priorities to the top 3; however the group decided this is not possible since air issues are of extreme importance in R9. After discussion on the subject 2 of the priorities were removed and another added. The priorities are as follows with no determination as to one being more important than another:

- Update Tribes on air standard revisions and changes;
- Update Tribes on air issues (regional and national);
- Update Tribes on air organizations (ITEP, NTAA, TAM's);
- Provide input to EPA on air issues/decisions that will affect Tribes;
- Climate change;
- Indoor Air.

3. Budget Presentation:

The Transition/Budget Presentation will be called the "Tribal Environmental Priorities and 2012 Budget Request" We will be finishing the presentation on Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> at the EPA office.

4. ITEP Updates:

- ITEP and NTAA will co-host the National Tribal Forum on July 13-15, 2010 at the Isleta Pueblo in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Check their website for hotel information and registration access.
- Please check the ITEP website for information on the projects they are working and information <http://www4.nau.edu/itep> . Remember ITEP is the technical side for air assistance.

3. TAM's Updates:

- TAM's will be hosting a 10 year reunion gathering September 14-16, 2010. Please check the ITEP website for information and updates on TAM's <http://www4.nau.edu/tams> .

4. NTAA Updates:

- NTAA and ITEP will co-host the National Tribal Forum on July 13-15, 2010 please see details under ITEP Updates and/or go to the new NTAA website <http://www.ntaatribalair.org> . Remember that NTAA is the policy side for air issues.

5. WRAP:

- The Western Regional Air Partnership has been reconstituted with state funding. There is still no funding available from EPA for Regional Planning Organizations. The WRAP has a new Charter and new Board which consists of 5 States, 5 Tribes, 5 Feds, and 2 Local Agencies. You can get more information on the WRAP at <http://www.wrapair2.org>

**Quality Assurance Workgroup:**

**Drinking Water / Waste Water Workgroup:**

**Prepared by:** Linda Reeves, EPA Lead; Tom Keegan, Tribal Lead; Marta Burg, RTOC Legal Advisor

**Date Prepared:** April 7, 2010

**GOAL:** The Drinking Water / Wastewater Workgroup's goal is to improve tribal access to drinking water and wastewater sanitation through regional and national efforts, and interagency and collaborative efforts to address both physical infrastructure needs and support asset protection activities, including protecting and increasing funding.

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding

The Access Subgroup recommended that the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds be used to provide access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation in Indian Country. EPA implemented this recommendation and it is expected that the ARRA funds will accelerate progress to achieve the access goal.

- See attached status report of EPA Region 9 tribal drinking water and wastewater projects. One drinking water project and four wastewater projects are complete, and several are under construction.

- EPA's 2010 budget continues the ARRA funding levels, tripling the FY 08 CWTSA, doubling the FY 08 DWTSA, and increasing the tribe set-asides from 1.5% to 2%.  
Contact: Sara Ziff (415) 972-3536, Erskine Benjamin (415) 972-3561

2. Participate in the National Infrastructure Task Force and Access Subgroup to achieve the Goal to Increase Tribal Access to Safe Water by 50% by 2015

Status: Earlier this year, the Infrastructure Task Force (ITF) signed a response endorsing the Access Implementation Plan. The ITF response acknowledges that the access goal cannot be achieved with existing funding levels, but noted that much progress can be made by the Access Implementation Workgroups. EPA Region 9 is coordinating with regional partner agencies. A tour of Navajo is planned for April 2010.

Contact: Marta Burg (323) 258-1009; Linda Reeves

3. Continue to lead the Regional Interagency Drinking Water / Wastewater Workgroup

Status: Next meeting tentatively scheduled for Monday 7/26 during the week of the RTOC in Mooretown Rancheria.

Contact: Linda Reeves, Tom Keegan (707) 857-1810 x117, Marta Burg

4. Implement Tribal Water Collaborative Projects

Status: see attached status report

Contact: Linda Reeves

5. Develop a tribal small system drinking water monitoring assistance program – Develop programs to lower tribal sampling and analysis costs through bulk discounts at labs and achieve greater compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

- ITCA Monitoring Assistance Program

Status: ITCA has partnered with the Yavapai Apache Tribe to pilot a Monitoring Assistance Program.

Contact: Patrick McMullen ITCA (602) 258-4822, Kevin Ryan (415) 972-3806

- California Rural Water Association (CA RWA) Preferred Provider Program

Status: CA RWA created a preferred provider program for its members which offers numerous discounted services, including laboratory analytical services at an average 20% discount (see [calruralwater.org](http://calruralwater.org)). Currently 12 tribes in California are CA RWA members, eligible to receive these discounts.

Contact: Dustin Hardwick CA Rural Water Association (800) 833-0322

6. Coordinate with IHS and BIA

Status: Marta Burg drafted a paper on O&M Funding Authorities for use during IHS consultation meetings. The paper was shared with Reno Franklin of the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians who heads an IHS/Tribal Consultation Board.

Contact: Marta Burg, Linda Reeves

7. Support tribal asset protection projects

Status: Asset protection is an eligible GAP task. EPA is reviewing the \$2.7M of FY 10 GAP asset protection tasks submitted by 29 tribes. Since FY 07, GAP has provided a total of \$630K to 30 tribes.

Contact: Erica Yelensky (415) 972-3021

8. Change California regulations to ensure that tribal wastewater operators can use their experience working at tribal facilities to obtain California wastewater operator certification

Status: The Office of Operator Certification (OOC) is in the process of amending the Operator Certification Regulations, Sections 3670-3719.19, Chapter 26, Title 23, of the California Code of Regulations.

Proposed Timeline

April 2010 - public notice

July 2010 - comment period ends

October 2010 - program approval

January 2011 - regulations take effect

Announcements regarding the regulation amendments will be posted on the OOC website [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/operator\\_certification/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/operator_certification/index.shtml) and email notifications sent to OOC mailing list. To receive OOC announcements, please subscribe to "Wastewater Operator Certification" email list at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\\_subscriptions/swrcb\\_subscribe.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml).

Contact: Tom Keegan, Linda Reeves

9. Continue outreach and education on tribal water infrastructure and asset protection needs and solutions, through NTOC, National Congress of American Indians and other national tribal organizations

Status: Workgroup members have been actively participating in discussions with representatives of the NTOC, NCAI, NTEC and NTWC to ensure a consistent message is being presented regarding tribal drinking water and wastewater related needs. NTOC met with the Obama Transition Team, focusing on the Strategic Plan, Transition document, and the ARRA, and contributed to the national 2011 budget presentations to support the goals for all tribes and to ensure that accurate information regarding tribal needs has been communicated to the new administration.

Contacts: For NCAI and NTEC coordination, contact Clay Bravo at (928) 769-2255, Ken Norton (530) 625-1004, and Marta Burg; for NTOC coordination, contact Clay Bravo; for National Tribal Water Council coordination, contact Ken Norton and see

<http://nationaltribalwatercouncil.org/>.

10. Access State funding for tribal drinking water and wastewater – Barriers to tribal access to state funding will be evaluated, including access to California bond funds and SRF funds.

Contact: Marta Burg

11. Workgroup Transparency

Visit the Workgroup website (blog):

<http://rtocwaterworkgroup.blogspot.com/>

Username: RTOCwaterworkgroup  
Password: waterworkgroup  
Contact: Linda Reeves



## **Status of Tribal Water Collaborative Projects and Needs - April 2010**

### **Projects Ongoing**

#### Big Valley Drinking Water and Wastewater

Need: Numerous trailers lack access to drinking water.

Status: IHS provided \$120,000 of ARRA funds for a feasibility study to address the need. IHS is developing Scope of Work for feasibility study. Contact: Sarah Ryan, Big Valley; Dave Mazorra, IHS (916-930-3960, x345)

#### Hopi Drinking Water Supply for First and Second Mesa

Need: EPA is providing DWTSA funds for a new water source to address arsenic needs in First and Second Mesa. Arsenic treatment options are not feasible due to the presence of vanadium in the water supply which interferes with many of the arsenic treatment. The entire project will cost \$15-20M, requiring a phased approach with the participation of many agencies.

Status: EPA will award Phase 1 funds by 6/30/10.

Contact: Jason Crownholm, IHS (928-537-0578); Bessie Lee, EPA (415-972-3776)

#### Navajo Feasibility Study for Homes Lacking Access

Need: A feasibility study is needed to evaluate alternatives to serve homes lacking access.

Status: EPA funded a Navajo Water Hauling Feasibility Study and Pilot Program through the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources (DWR). CDC has offered to provide assistance in developing a Water Safety Plan to support the water hauling program. DWR, with input from the Navajo Interagency Water Needs Working Group, is preparing a White Paper on alternative to serve homes lacking access.

Contact: Yolanda Barney, Navajo; Linda Reeves, EPA

#### Navajo Wastewater Program

Need: Navajo is developing a wastewater program and seeks funding and sample ordinances to assist in drafting wastewater regulations and minimum design standards.

Status: Aspects of developing a wastewater program are eligible for EPA 106, GAP and Source Water Protection funds. Navajo included wastewater related activities in its application for FY10 Source Protection funds. Sample tribal ordinances are available at: <http://www.narf.org/nill/triballaw/index.htm>.

Contact: Yolanda Barney, Navajo

#### Tohono O'odham Modular Bathrooms

Need: Funds are needed to connect over 200 homes that cannot be connected to existing public water systems because they lack indoor plumbing. With funding, the Tohono O'odham Tribal Utility Authority can construct modular bathrooms for these homes using tribal labor.

Status: On 10/22/09, the Tohono O'odham Housing and Environmental Departments, TOUA, IHS, HUD, USDA and EPA met to discuss this need. USDA can fund the modular bathroom after the projects are complete. The tribe and EPA are pursuing possible

funding sources to cover the initial cost of the modular bathrooms, which can then be reimbursed by USDA.

Contact: Linda Reeves, EPA

### **Projects on Hold**

#### Los Coyotes Well Needed for Planned Community

Need: Water source needed for planned tribal housing area in the lower water system.

Status: on hold

Contact: Sandra Stoneburner, Los Coyotes

#### Resource Clearinghouse

Need: Tribes can help each other by sharing surplus equipment/infrastructure/resources through a clearinghouse which will include the categories the retired equipment can be used for, recognizing that federal design specifications may limit use of clearinghouse equipment. A tribal website could list the needs and resources to share, similar to the CalWARN emergency response resources.

Status: on hold

Contact: no lead

#### Septic Tank Access Risers

Need: Access risers are need for all existing septic tanks.

Contact: no lead

### **Projects Completed**

No new projects were completed this quarter. See summaries of 8 completed collaborative projects on workgroup website:

<http://rtocwaterworkgroup.blogspot.com/>

Username: RTOCwaterworkgroup

Password: waterworkgroup

### **National Infrastructure Taskforce:**

### **Enforcement and Compliance Assistance Workgroup:**

### **Conference Planning Workgroup:**

### **Emergency Response and Emergency Planning Workgroup:**

### **Charter Workgroup:**

## **Representation Workgroup:**

## **Pesticides Workgroup:**

### Pesticide Workgroup Conference Call Summary April 7, 2010

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Participants: Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo; Lorinda Sam, Tohono O'odham Nation; Africa Dorame-Avalos, ITCA; Jason Bill, South Fork Band Council; Carmenlita Chief-Benallie, ITCA; Marcy Katzin, R9 EPA; Pam Cooper, R9 EPA; Cornelius Antone, Tohono O'odham Nation; Neil Abbot, Ak-Chin and Fabiola Estrada, R9 EPA.

#### **Budget Presentation**

The information on the current Pesticide Programs budget was reviewed and based on discussions with Region Pesticide Programs, the amount of funds received are adequate. To date, requests by tribes have not exceeded the funding obligated each year. The only request is to provide an increase (3-5%) on funding that matches the increased cost of living and inflation.

A goal of Region 9 Pesticide Programs is to expand pesticide coverage. Overtime, increased coverage may increase the requests by tribes; thereby increase the demands in funds.

**Action Item:** Africa Dorame-Avalos, Carmenlita Chief-Benallie and Marcy Katzin will assist with getting pictures to be used in the budget presentation.

#### **Pesticide Priorities**

Top Three:

- 1) Regional Certification and Training Plan
- 2) Education and Training (IPM, WPS, etc)
- 3) Expand Pesticide Coverage (Support non-Ag Tribes to assess their pesticide impact, provide guidance to EPA, projects that tribes can seek funding on.)

Trailing behind:

- 4) Pesticide Special Projects – RFP (may not be able by the end of this fiscal year)
- 5) Make FIFRA delegable to tribes.

#### **Certification and Training(C&T)**

There is movement in EPA Region 8, Region 9 and Headquarters to have a C&T in place to protect tribes and allow the legal use of restricted use pesticides (RUPs) on tribal lands.

Region 9 and Region 8 has held conference calls with their cooperative agreement tribes in the region to discuss a C&T plan.

There is no set statutory deadline for EPA Headquarters to have a draft plan out to tribes. However, EPA Headquarters goal is to have a draft C&T plan in the federal register by September 30, 2010. It is important to get information out to tribes as soon as possible. A couple of concerns to consider:

- Do or do not tribes, in Region 9, want to have RUP's used on their tribal lands or limit their applications to specific areas? Example: approved for weed control along roads but not near schools.

If tribes wish to have regional calls on this issue, EPA Region 9 can invite Headquarters to attend.

It was noted that the Certification and Training letter tribes just received is regarding consultation on the changing regulations for states and tribes related to the C&T and Worker Protection. This will describe the options that will be available for certifying applicators in Indian Country but does not address the various methods.

The Headquarters plan is to develop one of the specific options to work in Indian Country.

**Action Item:** Work on a brief that has information for tribes to assist them with making informed comments on the planned National Certification and Training Plan.

#### Breakout Session

Time and Date of Session: Wednesday, April 14, 2010, 1:30 pm – 2:45 pm.

Draft Agenda Items:

- 1) Budget Presentation – Last revisions if needed
- 2) Brainstorm of projects for Pesticide Special Projects RFP
- 3) C&T Plan – develop brief with information to assist tribes.

#### Other

Thursday, April 8, 2010 - first conference call to discuss the agenda for the Tribal Meeting in May (in Phoenix).

- Time: 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
- Call in number: 415-947-8520
- Password: 6503#

## **CY 2010 and 2011 RTOC SOLID WASTE PRIORITY**

**Prepared by:** Nancy Sockabasin, US EPA Region 9  
John Mosley, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

**Date Prepared:** March 2010 (original)

**EPA Division/ Office:** Waste Management Division

**Name of Priority:** Solid Waste

**Tribal Caucus Lead:** John Mosley, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

**EPA Lead:** Nancy Sockabasin, EPA Tribal Solid Waste Team

**Goal:** Ensure the safe and effective management of solid waste and promote sustainable and culturally appropriate solutions to address solid waste challenges.

**Objective 1:** Increase the number of tribes covered by integrated waste management plans (IWMPs) through grants, EPA-sponsored training, and targeted technical assistance. Work with tribes to develop at least 4 new IWMPs – 2 in FY10 and 2 in FY11.

**Objective 2:** Increase the number of dumps that are closed or cleaned up on tribal lands. This work will be done through grants, increased partnerships with other federal agencies such as BIA and IHS, increased cooperation between the Region 9 Tribal Solid Waste Team and the Region 9 Tribal Programs Office, and increased cooperation and funding opportunities with Region 9 states.

**Sub-objective A:** Close at least 55 illegal dumpsites – 20 in FY10 and 35 in FY11.

**Sub-objective B:** Provide leadership on the national dump closure workgroup, which will address issues related to Part 258 regulations and soil sampling.

**Objective 3:** Collaborating with the RTOC Sustainable Infrastructure workgroup, promote sustainable waste collection, recycling, and composting programs for tribes throughout Region 9.

**Sub-objective A:** Work with tribal and state contacts to increase recycling rates on tribal lands in Arizona and Nevada.

**Sub-objective B:** Provide information and outreach to tribes on a variety of topics. This includes a 'print and fill' brochure on abandoned vehicle removal and recycling; additional web resources for green casinos and other topics; and at least 2 web success stories. Success story topics could include: tire removal, green casinos, greening your event, recycling programs, transfer site management, and managing a dumpsite after a cleanup.

**Sub-objective C:** Maintain communication between US EPA, tribes, federal and state agencies, and other interested organizations. This includes convening events such as the Interagency and RTOC solid waste workgroup meetings.

**Sub-objective D:** Create and/or organize solid waste presentations for the Annual Tribal/EPA Conference and other events/meetings. Topics could include green building and composting.

**Sub-objective E:** Conduct at least 2 Green Casino Workshops for tribes.

**Reporting Dates:** Quarterly at each RTOC

**Assistance Needed from EPA and Tribes:** Participation in workgroup activities, meetings, conference calls; contribution to written documents; collaboration with local, regional, and national partners.

**For Further Information, Please Contact:**

Nancy Sockabasin, EPA Tribal Solid Waste Team, (415) 972-3772

John Mosley, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, (775) 574-0101 x13

## **CY 2010 RTOC SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITY**

**Prepared by:** Michelle Baker, US EPA Region 9  
David Edmunds, Pinoleville Pomo Nation

**Date Prepared:** February 2010 (original);  
**EPA Division/ Office:** Waste Management Division  
**Name of Priority:** Solid Waste

**Tribal Caucus Lead:** David Edmunds, Pinoleville Pomo Nation  
**EPA Lead:** Michelle Baker, EPA Tribal Solid Waste Team

**Goal:** Improve tribal access to sustainable infrastructure programs such as green building, alternative energy and weatherization through interagency and collaborative efforts to address physical infrastructure needs and support for ongoing activities.

*The RTOC Sustainable Development Workgroup is gathering information on projects that are planned or already underway on tribal lands in Region 9. We are also gathering information on barriers that exist for sustainable development and what work needs to be done to remove those*

*barriers. We plan to use this information to inform our regional strategy and develop resources to better assist tribes who are, or want to build housing and infrastructure on their lands.*

**Objective 1:** Maintain communication between US EPA, Tribes, and other federal agencies.

**Sub-objective A:** Develop a Green Building Strategy that outlines US EPA Region 9's role for promoting sustainable infrastructure development on tribal lands.

Status: In February 2009, a Green Building Strategy was completed. This Strategy was drafted by US EPA and guided by input from RTOC representatives. The Strategy outlines EPA's role in assisting tribes as they pursue sustainable infrastructure development. This is a living document and will be reviewed throughout each year to ensure it reflects the development goals of tribes and appropriately outlines the role of US EPA and the RTOC Sustainable Infrastructure workgroup.

**Sub-objective B:** Continue to lead the RTOC Sustainable Infrastructure workgroup.

Status: A workgroup meeting was held in January 2008 to discuss tribal interest in green building and, as a follow up to strong tribal interest, a presentation was delivered in April 2008 focused on incorporating green building techniques into home renovations. As a result of the growing momentum, EPA and tribes began work on a Regional Tribal Green Building Strategy, organized the first-ever Tribal Summit at one of the country's largest green building conferences, and successfully recruited the EPA Leadership Development Program participants to select the topic as their multi-year project.

At the April 2009 RTOC meeting we held the first Sustainable Infrastructure Workgroup session. The Department of Energy (DoE) presented information on how to apply for the Recover Act Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funds. The purpose of our meeting was to provide tribes with an opportunity to learn more about the criteria and parameters of these grant funds directly from the DoE. In addition, tribes were able to brainstorm ideas of how to utilize these funds most meaningfully.

At the July 2009 RTOC meeting we held the second Sustainable Infrastructure workgroup session that focused on the EPA Leadership Development Program (LDP) project. The Team presented their research findings on barriers to sustainable infrastructure development and received feedback from tribes as to whether or not these barriers were accurate and also if they had missed any.

At the February 2010 RTOC meeting the third workgroup session was an open discussion to review the activities of the workgroup's first year and to refocus direction to ensure it is addressing the interests of tribes. During this meeting representatives focused on two issues: green built homes and renewable energy projects. Reps reiterated that HUD homes are not built well, and that tribes need to take a lead in improving their cultural fit and environmental and social sustainability. One issue limiting tribes is that

HUD builds according to local building codes, which most tribes do not have. Realizing this, the workgroup will research green building code standards. Templates will be posted on EPA's website when they become available.

With respect to renewable energy, reps agreed that links with universities and non-profits can be productive, and that the group should create a clearinghouse for information on successful collaborations and new opportunities for tribes to collaborate outside the federal/tribal relationship. There was also agreement that more information is needed on renewable energy support available from NREL and DoE.

**Sub-objective C:** Provide information and outreach to tribes on a variety of topics. This includes providing template green building codes; additional web resources for funding green building components and/or projects; and energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Status: EPA is working with contractors to research diverse funding opportunities for tribes in Region 9. This will include federal and state resources, and non-profit organizations if applicable.

**Sub-objective D:** Create and/or organize Sustainable Infrastructure presentations for the Annual Tribal/EPA Conference and other Tribal/EPA meetings. Topics could include green building and energy.

Status: The Tribal Solid Waste Team organized 3 presentations for the Annual Tribal/EPA Conference in 2008. Sessions included:

- Green Building: Reducing Energy Use, Traditional Principles and Modern Implementation
- Tribal Perspectives on Green Building
- Alternative Energy Options