



EPA Region 7 Communities Information Digest

January 22, 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

***Federal Agencies Partner to Launch the Transform Tox Testing Challenge to Improve Chemical Screening**

The EPA and the National Institutes of Health's National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, and NIH's National Toxicology Program within the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences announced a new challenge that will award up to \$1 million to improve the relevance and predictivity of data generated from automated chemical screening technology used for toxicity testing.

***Free Environmental Education Materials!**

Do you need environmental education materials for your classroom? EPA's National Service Center for Environmental Publications offers materials grouped by grade range—all are free of charge. Publications include activity books, lesson plans, posters, and more.

[*EPA Survey Shows \\$271 Billion Needed for Nation's Wastewater Infrastructure](#)

The EPA released a survey showing that \$271 billion is needed to maintain and improve the nation's wastewater infrastructure, including the pipes that carry wastewater to treatment plants, the technology that treats the water, and methods for managing stormwater runoff.

[*EPA Announces 2014 Toxics Release Inventory Report](#)

EPA released the 2014 Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) National Analysis Report, which gives the most current TRI information for your community and the nation. The TRI National Analysis interprets this information and examines trends in releases, waste management practices, and pollution prevention activities.

[*DOE Announces \\$220 Million in Grid Modernization Funding](#)

The U.S. Department of Energy announced the release of DOE's comprehensive new Grid Modernization Multi-Year Program Plan, a blueprint for modernizing the grid. This builds on its Grid Modernization Initiative—an ongoing effort that reflects the Obama Administration's commitment to improving the resiliency, reliability, and security of the nation's electricity delivery system.

[*HUD Announces Funding to Assist Homeless, Native American Veterans](#)

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced \$5.9 million in grants to 26 tribes to offer permanent housing and supportive services to homeless and at-risk Native American veterans.

[*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 (e-notice). EPA will accept comments for 60 days beginning when this proposal is published in the Federal Register.

[*USDA Seeks Public Comment on 2016-2020 Environmental Justice Strategic Plan](#)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) invites public comment on the draft update of the Department's Environmental Justice Strategic Plan. The four-year plan establishes goals to increase outreach and participation by historically underserved communities for the years 2016-2020 and outlines the ways each USDA agency plans to accomplish them. **Comments are due by February 14.**

[*EPA Announces 2014 Toxics Release Inventory Report](#)

In 2014, 84% of the 25 billion pounds of toxic chemical waste managed at the nation's industrial facilities was not released into the environment due to the use of preferred waste management practices like recycling, energy recovery and treatment, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) annual Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) report. The remaining 16% was released to the air, water or placed in some type of land disposal.

[January is National Radon Action Month](#)

Test your home for radon, an invisible radioactive gas that causes lung cancer. Testing is the only way to know whether your home contains high radon levels.

[Notice of Proposed Rulemaking \(NPRM\) from EPA's Office of Civil Rights](#)

The proposed rule, entitled "Nondiscrimination in Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Assistance from the Environmental Protection Agency" will improve the EPA's ability to ensure that recipients of federal financial assistance comply with their affirmative obligation under the Civil Rights Act of 1965 and other nondiscrimination statutes not to discriminate, while also ensuring that the EPA has sufficient flexibility and discretion to carry out its nondiscrimination compliance work. **Public comments are due by February 12.**

Region 7

[* Johnston, Iowa, to Receive WaterCARE Assistance from EPA to Invest in Drinking Water, Wastewater Infrastructure Planning](#)

The city of Johnston, Iowa, has been selected as one of 10 communities across the country to receive financial and technical guidance for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure planning from EPA's new Water Community Assistance for Resiliency and Excellence (WaterCARE) program.

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Funding & Technical Assistance Opportunities

[* P2 Grants Requests for Proposals Coming Soon!](#)

EPA's P2 program is sharing advance notice for Pollution Prevention (P2); Pollution Prevention Information Network (PPIN) and Source Reduction Assistance (SRA) grant programs. Requests for proposals will be posted on Grants.gov late February-early March.

[Host Sites Needed for Summer Internship Program](#) **January 22**

[USDA Farm Service Outreach](#) **January 22**

[2016 Sustainable Cities Design Academy Applications Due](#) **January 28**

[Partners for Places Spring 2016 Grant program](#) **January 29**

[2016 Safer Choice Partner of the Year Awards](#) **January 29**

[President's Environmental Youth Award Nominations Due](#) **January 31**

[Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund](#) **January 31**

[Congress for the New Urbanism \(CNU\) Charter Awards Applications](#) **January 31**

[USDA Rural Energy for America Program \(REAP\) Program](#) **February 1**

[Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program](#) **February 3**

[Department of Transportation Smart City Challenge](#) **February 4**

[NOAA Environmental Literacy Grants](#) **February 8**

[HUD Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants](#) **February 9**

[Program to Identify and Address Climate Science Needs for Improved Climate Change Adaptation- Tribal Climate Science Liaisons](#) February 12

[EPA Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Grants](#) February 12

[ULI Global Awards for Excellence](#) February 22

[Promise Zones Initiative: Third Round Selection Process](#) February 23

*[Federal Planning Assistance for Broadband and Sustainable Community Development](#) February 24

[USDA Announces Funding for Restoring Conservation Lands](#) February 26

[Superfund Hazardous Substance Research and Training Program](#) March 11

*[Healthy Watershed Consortium Grant](#) March 14

[USDA Farm Service Outreach](#) March 18

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

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

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

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

[USDA Farm Service Outreach](#) May 22

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

[Climate-Related Funding Opportunities from the Florida Climate Institute](#)

[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

[Landscape Conservation Science & Management Symposium](#) January 26-27, Grand Rapids, MI

[Climate Adaptation Conference: Transforming Awareness into Action](#) January 28, Minneapolis, MN

[Active Living Research Conference](#) January 31-February 3, Clearwater Beach, FL

*[Annual Speed Greening Event](#) February 3, 4-6:00 p.m. CST, Kansas City, MO

*[Tribal Exchange Network Conference](#) February 9-10, Albuquerque, NM

[2016 Tamarisk Coalition Conference: The Road to Riparian Restoration: Innovations for working on public, private, and tribal lands in the arid West](#) February 9-11, Grand Junction, CO

[New Partners for Smart Growth Conference](#) February 11-13, Portland, OR

*[Utility Energy Service Contracts \(UESC\) Advanced Training](#) February 17-18, San Francisco, CA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*[ASWM's Annual 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

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

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

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

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

[Earth Day!](#) April 22

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

[*Utility Energy Service Contracts \(UESC\) 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**

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

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

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

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

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

[2016 North American Symposium on Climate Adaptation](#) **August 16-18, New York City, NY**

[Pro Walk/Pro Bike/Pro Place](#) **September 12-15, Vancouver, BC**
Proposals due: January 29

[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

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Webinars and Conference Calls

[Portfolio Manager 101](#) **January 26, 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.

[Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving \(CPS\) Pre-Application Assistance Calls](#) **January 26, 6-7:30 p.m. CST**

Interested persons may access the pre-application assistance calls by dialing 1-866-299-3188 and entering the access code 202-564-0152 when prompted.

[Portfolio Manager 201](#) **January 27, 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.

[*Urban Environments: Conservation Practices in Developed Areas](#) **January 27, 2016
1-2:00 p.m. CST**

Participants will be provided with an overview of the challenges, opportunities and special considerations when implementing conservation practices in highly developed areas.

[Portfolio Manager 301](#) **January 28, 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.

[Clean Power Plan Informational Webcast: Renewable Energy](#) **January 28, 1-2:30 p.m. CST**

In this webcast, EPA will explain how renewable energy was used in the Best System of Emission Reduction, and how states can use renewable energy to reduce emissions as part of a state plan.

[Third Round Urban Promise Zones Competition Informational Webcast](#) **February 1, 1:30-2:30 p.m. CST**

HUD will host a webcast to provide information and an overview of the Third Round Urban Application Guide to communities applying for an urban designation.

[*Effectively Engaging Producers in Conservation Conversations](#) **Feb 16, 1-2:00 p.m. CST**

Participate to learn what social scientists are discovering about how farmers are thinking about conservation practices and practical strategies for engaging them.

[*A Triple-Bottom Line Solution](#) **February 17, 12:30-1:30 p.m. CST**

Learn about the positive impact reuse can have on your state, community, organization, or business Triple Bottom Line!

[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 thereafter. Register by Feb. 1 to take advantage of discounts.

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

In this webinar you will hear from a variety of points of view including the National Restaurant Association, a Denver based catering company, a non for profit providing business technical assistance, and an S Corporation with the mission to feed the hungry.

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

In cooperation with the American Planning Association, the Association of State Floodplain presents the third Planning Information Exchange (PIE) webinar. PIE is a free eight-part quarterly webinar series focusing on tools, best practices, and strategies on the role of hazard mitigation planning and its connections with recovery planning and preparedness.

[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's

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: 5 Food Waste Myths to Debunk – Now!](#)

This webinar will explore 5 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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