



EPA Region 7 Communities Information Digest

January 8, 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.

Jump to:

[Headlines](#)

[Funding and Technical Assistance Opportunities](#)

[Meetings, Conferences, Training, & Events](#)

[Webinars and Conference Calls](#)

To subscribe or unsubscribe, or to suggest new content, please email:

R7_POIS_Communities_Mailbox@epa.gov

Find us @

www.facebook.com/eparegion7

www.twitter.com/EPAregion7

www.scribd.com/eparegion7

Headlines

National

***[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.

***[United States Files Complaint Against Volkswagen, Audi and Porsche for Alleged Clean Air Act Violations](#)**

The complaint alleges that nearly 600,000 diesel engine vehicles had illegal defeat devices installed that impair their emission control systems and cause emissions to exceed EPA's standards, resulting in harmful air pollution.

***[EPA Releases the First Preliminary Risk Assessment for Insecticides Potentially Harmful to Bees](#)**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a preliminary pollinator risk assessment for the neonicotinoid insecticide, imidacloprid, which shows a threat to some

pollinators. EPA's assessment, prepared in collaboration with California's Department of Pesticide Regulation, indicates that imidacloprid potentially poses risk to hives when the pesticide comes in contact with certain crops that attract pollinators.

[*State and Local Guide to U.S. EPA Climate and Energy Program Resources](#)

EPA released the updated guide designed for state and local government staff that describes EPA programs and resources that can help them develop or expand their own energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives or meet regulatory requirements.

[*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

[*EPA Announces West Lake Landfill Isolation Barrier Decision](#)

EPA Region 7 announced its decision to proceed with the installation of a physical isolation barrier for the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site in Bridgeton, Mo. The decision also calls for the installation of additional engineering controls to prevent potential impacts that could result if a subsurface smoldering event were to come into contact with the radioactive materials contained in the West Lake Landfill.

[*USDA Announces Additional Support for Iowa Producers to Improve Nutrient Management and Water Quality Efforts](#)

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced a host of new efforts to help Iowa's farmers and livestock producers conserve water and soil resources and improve nutrient management practices on the state's 30 million acres of farmland.

[*Public Health Advisory Warning: Blue-Green Algae Blooms for Hiawatha City Lake, Brown County, and Plainville Township Lake, Rooks County, KS](#)

Some blue-green algae produce toxins that pose a health risk to people and animals. Health effects could occur when surface scums or water containing high levels of blue-green algal toxins are swallowed, through contact with the skin or when airborne droplets containing toxins are inhaled.

[↑Back to Top](#)

Funding & Technical Assistance Opportunities

[EPA Five Star Restoration Training Grant](#) **January 8**

[Climate Adaptation Leadership Award Application for Natural Resources](#) **January 8**

[NOAA Ecological Effects of Sea Level Rise Program](#) **January 8**

[Citizen's Institute on Rural Design: Assistance for Rural Communities](#) **January 12**

[The National Forest Foundation Matching Awards Program \(MAP\)](#) January 14

[Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant](#) January 14

[Forest Service Community Forest Program](#) January 15

[Fresh, Local & Equitable: Food as a Creative Platform for Neighborhood Revitalization](#) January 15

[Spring 2016 Leadership STAR Community Program](#) January 15

[Transit-Oriented Development technical assistance initiative](#) January 19

[Center for Community Progress: Technical Assistance Scholarship Program](#) January 21

[WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant](#) January 20

[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

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

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

[USDA Farm Service Outreach](#) March 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

[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](#)

[↑Back to Top](#)

Meetings, Conferences, & Events

*[Great Plains Growers Conference](#) **January 7-9, St. Joseph, MO**

[The Food-Energy-Water Nexus National Conference and Global Forum on Science, Policy and the Environment](#) **January 19-21, Crystal City, VA**

*[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**

*[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**

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

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

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

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

[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

[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**

[↑Back to Top](#)

Webinars and Conference Calls

[*Clean Power Plan Informational Webcast: Trading 101](#) January 11, 1-2:30 p.m. CST

In this webcast, EPA will provide a basic overview of trading, an explanation of common terms (including budgets, set-asides, etc.), a general description of how mass-based and rate-based trading works, and a discussion of tools and resources.

[*USDA's new Strategic Economic and Community Development \(SECD\) Program Webinar](#) January 12, 1-2:00 p.m. CST

The SECD program allows USDA to reserve up to 10 percent of funding appropriated to specific programs until June 30 of each fiscal year to fund projects that support the implementation of strategic economic and community development plans across multi-jurisdictional areas. This webinar will provide an overview of the SECD program, how to

apply for funding, and will include an in-depth question and answer session at the end. This webinar is free of charge and a recording will be made available to registrants afterward.

[The New NRCS Division of Soil Health: Approach and Benefits](#) **January 12, 1-2:00 p.m. CST**

Participants will be provided an overview of the new USDA NRCS Division of Soil Health and how it will function to leverage partnerships, ensure science-based conservation planning, evaluate economic outcomes, and quantify soil health benefits.

[NADO Webinar on USDA's Strategic Economic and Community Development Program: How Rural Communities Can Apply](#) **January 12, 1-2:00 p.m. CST*

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development will host a webinar on USDA's Strategic Economic and Community Development (SECD) program and how to apply, including a Q&A session.

[Third Round Urban Promise Zones Competition Informational Webcast](#) **January 13, 10-11:00 a.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.

[ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager "Ask The Expert"](#) **January 13, 11-11:30 a.m. CST*

This 30 minute, standing webinar every Wednesday afternoon is an open Q&A session

[How to Apply for the ENERGY STAR](#) **January 13, 12-1:00 p.m. CST*

Learn about applying for ENERGY STAR Certification in Portfolio Manager. Understand the value of the ENERGY STAR certification, see the step-by-step process of applying, and gain tips to help your property get from application to award.

[Turning Vacant Lots into Green Spaces: Baltimore's Experience \(and Replicable Tools\)](#) **January 13, 1-2:00 p.m. CST**

Join this session to learn about Baltimore's Green Pattern Book. This tool outlines eight green project patterns, and provides site-selection criteria and installation/maintenance guidance for each.

[NIEHS/EPA Children's Centers Webinar Series: Childhood Obesity](#) **January 13, 12-1:30 p.m. CST*

This webinar is part of a series cosponsored by the EPA Office of Children's Health Protection and the National Center for Environmental Research, which features presentations and interactive discussions on recent findings and new developments in children's environmental health research.

[CFDA Webinar: Financing Green Energy on Brownfields](#) **January 14, 1-2:30 p.m. CST*

The Council of Development Finance Agencies (CFDA) will discuss the potential behind using brownfields as sites for renewable energy generation, the financing tools available for these projects, and the potential benefits for impacted communities and energy developers.

[Livable Communities for All Ages](#) **January 14, 1-2 p.m. CST**

This webinar will walk participants through two AARP resources: the Livability Index and the Livable Economy: People, Places and Prosperity Report.

[*Clean Power Plan Informational Webcast: Energy Efficiency and EM&V](#) **January 14, 1:00-2:30 p.m. CST**

In this webcast, EPA will discuss how energy efficiency can be used as a compliance measure in the Clean Power Plan, and what the rule says about evaluation, measurement, and verification (EM&V), followed by a Q&A session with EPA staff.

[Preparing for Food Security in an Age of Limited Natural Resources: A Focus on Water](#) **January 14, 2:30-4:00 p.m. CST**

Denver Water and Denver Urban Gardens will discuss their study of the potential allowance of reclaimed water irrigation of crops for human consumption, thus removing barriers for urban agriculture, small, and specialty crop producers.

[Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving \(CPS\) Pre-Application Assistance Calls](#) **January 14, 3-4:30 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.

[Beyond the Light Touch: Next Steps for Improving Energy Efficiency in Multi-Family Affordable Housing](#) **January 19, 12-1:30 p.m. CST**

This 90-minute webcast will explore the specific challenges and opportunities faced by programs that aim to improve energy efficiency in multifamily affordable housing, with an emphasis on achieving multiple benefits through deeper retrofits.

[*Climate change adaptation—From concept to standard practice](#) **Jan 20, 2016 1-2:00 p.m. CST**

The U.S. Forest Service is working with other federal agencies and stakeholders to develop climate change vulnerability assessments and adaptation strategies for national forests and adjacent lands in the western United States.

[Enabling the Water Resources Utility of the Future](#) **January 21, 2-3:30 p.m. CST**

EPA, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, and the Water Environment Federation will hold a webinar focused on ways in which utilities are becoming their own Utility of the Future through resource recovery.

[*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.

[*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.

[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.

[*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

↑ [Back to Top](#)

*This digest is being provided by EPA Region 7 for informational purposes only.
This digest contains links to information, agencies, sites, and organizations outside of the
EPA website.
EPA is not responsible for third party links. EPA does not endorse third party organizations or
agencies.*