



# EPA Region 7 Communities Information Digest

February 5, 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](#)

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## Headlines

### ***National***

#### **\*HUD Awards \$1 Billion through National Disaster Resilience Competition**

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Rockefeller Foundation announced the winners of the National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC), which provides funding for resilient housing and infrastructure projects to states and communities impacted by major disasters between 2011 and 2013.

#### **\*EPA Scientific Report Shows U.S. Coastal Waters a Mix of Good and Fair Health**

The 2010 National Coastal Condition Assessment shows that more than half of the nation's coastal and Great Lakes nearshore waters are rated good for biological and sediment quality, while about one-third are rated good for water quality. In almost all coastal waters, contaminants in fish tissue pose a threat to sensitive predator fish, birds, and wildlife.

**[\\*Obama Administration to Partner with 27 Communities to Boost Neighborhood Revitalization through Local Food Enterprises](#)**

Six federal agencies joined together to announce the selection of 27 communities that will participate in Local Foods, Local Places, a federal initiative that helps communities increase economic opportunities for local farmers and related businesses, create vibrant places and promote childhood wellness by improving access to healthy local food.

**[\\*USDA Renews Agricultural Air Quality Task Force](#)**

The task force promotes USDA research, identifies cost-effective ways the agriculture industry can improve air quality, and helps coordinate activities and resources among USDA agencies and federal partners like the EPA.

**[\\*Forest Service Releases Report on the Effects of Drought for Forests and Rangelands](#)**

The report provides a national assessment of peer-reviewed scientific research on the impacts of drought on U.S. forests and rangelands.

**[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.

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

The proposed rule, "Nondiscrimination in Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Assistance from the Environmental Protection Agency" will improve 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 EPA has sufficient flexibility and discretion to carry out its nondiscrimination compliance work. **Comments are due by February 12.**

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

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. **Comments are due by February 14.**

**[\\*New Tool: Managing and Transforming Waste Streams Tool](#)**

Explore 100 policies and programs communities can implement to reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills and promote waste prevention and materials reuse across waste generation sectors. Access city and county ordinance, contract, and franchise agreement language and program websites.

***Region 7***

**[\\*Learn more about R7's Summer Intern Program](#)**

R7 anticipates several paid Pathways student internship opportunities at the Regional Office and Science and Technology Center. These opportunities will be advertised on USAJobs.gov as well as Facebook, Twitter and Diversityjobs.com/LATPRO. Encourage

interested students to set up an account and look for the Pathways Summer Internship announcements on [www.USAJobs.gov](http://www.USAJobs.gov) starting February-early March 2016.

**[\\*Ozark County Homegrown Food Project in Gainesville, Mo., to Receive Federal Technical Assistance](#)**

Ozark County Homegrown Food Project in Gainesville, Missouri, has been selected to participate in the federal initiative Local Foods, Local Places.

**[\\*Iowa Receives Flood Reduction and Water Quality Grant](#)**

The State of Iowa was awarded nearly \$97 million from HUD's National Disaster Resilience Competition to help accelerate flood reduction and water quality efforts in key watersheds over the next five years. Through this new federal funding, Iowa will continue collaborative efforts to reduce flooding and install voluntary new water quality practices.

**[\\*EPA Investigation Finds Loveland Products Violated Permit Discharge Limits to Brawner Creek from Facility in Fairbury, Neb.](#)**

EPA Region 7 has reached a proposed administrative settlement with Loveland Products, Inc., to resolve unauthorized discharges and industrial stormwater violations under the Clean Water Act (CWA) at its facility in Fairbury, Neb. Under the settlement, Loveland will pay a civil penalty of \$145,000.

**[\\*EPA Inspection Reveals Hazardous Waste Violations at Diamond-Vogel Paint Company in Burlington, Iowa](#)**

An EPA Region 7 compliance evaluation inspection of Diamond-Vogel Paint Company in Burlington, Iowa, revealed violations of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) related to the storage and handling of hazardous waste. In a settlement filed by EPA, the company will pay a \$21,700 civil penalty to the United States.

**[\\*EPA Inspection Reveals Violations of Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule by Home Renovation Company of Joplin, Mo.](#)**

EPA Region 7 conducted a recordkeeping inspection in response to a tip and complaint regarding Home Pro in Joplin, Mo., that revealed violations of the Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) Rule. As part of a settlement with EPA filed, the company has agreed to pay a \$5,978 penalty to the United States.

**[\\*EPA Urges Caution with Flood Renovation Activities Involving Lead Paint](#)**

As communities across Missouri recover from recent flooding, EPA Region 7 recommends children and pregnant women avoid work that could disturb lead-based paint, and urges persons working on construction surfaces that may contain lead-based paint to take precautions to prevent the spread of lead-contaminated dust, which is the most significant source of lead exposure for children.

↑ [Back to Top](#)

## 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.

[NOAA Environmental Literacy Grants](#) February 8

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

\*[USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Fellowships](#) February 11 (for [Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships Programs](#))

[BIA Climate Change Adaption: Tribal Liaison Program](#) February 12

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

\*[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 Funding for Restoring Conservation Lands](#) 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

\*[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**

[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**

[\\*ASLA 2016 Student Awards](#) **May 13**

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

[\\*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

[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**

[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 Advanced Training](#) February 17-18, San Francisco, CA

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

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

\*[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

[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

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

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

\*[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

[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 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

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

[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

[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

[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

↑ [Back to Top](#)

## Webinars and Conference Calls

\*[Greening Vacant Lots](#) February 9, 2016 12-1:30 p.m. CST

In this webcast, speakers from the Cleveland Botanical Garden, the Buffalo Sewer Authority, and the City of Baltimore will highlight vacant lot greening programs and specific landscape treatments that they have used in their communities.

\*[ENERGY STAR Ask the Expert](#) February 10, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. CST

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

\*[NIEHS/EPA Children's Centers Webinar Series: Avoiding Prenatal Exposures](#) February 10, 12-1:30p.m. CST

This webinar is part of the NIEHS/EPA Children's Centers Webinar Series: Protecting Children's Health for a Lifetime. The webinar is co-sponsored by the National Center for Environmental Research and the Office of Children's Health Protection.

\*[The Role of Small-Scale Manufacturing: Creating Strong Local Economies and Great Neighborhoods](#) February 10, 1-2:00 p.m. CST

This webinar will discuss how small-scale manufacturing businesses serve a key role in neighborhoods.

**[\\*How to Apply for the ENERGY STAR February 11, 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.

**[\\*Making it Count: Understanding the Value of Energy Efficiency Financing Programs February 11, 11-12:00 p.m. CST](#)**

First in a two-part series examining the value of energy efficiency financing programs funded by utility customers, this webinar will present an overview of the recent SEE Action report, *Making it Count: Understanding the Value of Energy Efficiency Financing Programs Funded by Utility Customers* by its authors.

**[Portfolio Manager 101 February 16, 12-1:00 PM CST](#)**

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.

**[Effectively Engaging Producers in Conservation Conversations February 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.

**[\\*ENERGY STAR Ask the Expert February 17, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. CST](#)**

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

**[\\*Portfolio Manager 201 February 17, 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: editing property data; correcting and updating property use details; using the data quality checker; and sharing property data.

**[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!

**[\\*Making it Count: Energy Efficiency Financing Case Studies February 18, 11-12:00 p.m. CST](#)**

The second in a two-part series, this webinar highlights examples from the recent SEE Action report, *Making it Count: Understanding the Value of Energy Efficiency Financing Programs Funded by Utility Customers*.

**[\\*Portfolio Manager 301 February 18, 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.

**[\\*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 the songs and behaviors of white-crowned sparrows in and around San Francisco to better understand the mechanisms and consequences of song evolution in an urban environment.

**[\\*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.

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

This webinar will provide an in-depth look at how to adapt vacant land in urban areas to mitigate potential hazards. Three experienced professionals will discuss how their communities translated mitigation goals in two very different but similar environments, Detroit and Baltimore. 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.

**[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.

**[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.

***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: 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](#)**

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