



EPA Region 7 Communities Information Digest

May 13, 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

[*Obama Administration to Help Communities Revitalize Downtowns through Broadband Service](#)

USDA and EPA announced the selection of communities in five states that will participate in the Cool & Connected planning assistance program, an innovative initiative to help people use broadband service for downtown revitalization and economic development.

[*EPA Celebrates Programs, Tools to Prevent Asthma Attacks](#)

May is Asthma Awareness Month, when the EPA spotlights ways people can take simple steps to help prevent asthma attacks. EPA also honors local asthma management programs for their leadership in improving the lives of people living with asthma, especially those in underserved communities.

[*EPA Provides \\$30 Million to Create Research Centers at Three Universities](#)

Carnegie Mellon, Harvard and Yale will study how to reduce air quality impacts on public health. Funding will be used to investigate regional differences in air pollution and effects of global climate change, technology, and societal choices on local air quality and health

[*USDA Awards \\$39.3 Million in Loans and Grants to Support Economic Development in Rural Areas](#)

The funding, provided through USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program, the Intermediary Relending Program and the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program will help small, rural businesses and communities in 26 states.

[*EPA Awards 18 Grants for Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training](#)

EPA announced the selection of 18 grantees for approximately \$3.5 million in Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) grants. Each grantee will receive funds to operate environmental job training programs that advance environmental justice by providing opportunities for residents living in areas impacted by contaminated lands.

[*EPA Provides \\$30 Million to Create Research Centers at Three Universities](#)

Carnegie Mellon, Harvard and Yale will study how to reduce air quality impacts on public health. Funding will be used to investigate regional differences in air pollution and effects of global climate change, technology, and societal choices on local air quality and health

[*USDA Announces \\$15.6 Million in Grants to Strengthen Rural Communities](#)

Grants were made through the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Foundational program to increase prosperity in rural America through research, education, and extension programs focused on promoting rural community development, economic growth, and sustainability.

[*New Resource: 2015 Climate Change Highlights of Progress Report](#)

The "2015 Highlights of Progress: Responses to Climate Change by the EPA National Water Program" provides a summary of the major climate change-related accomplishments of EPA's national and regional water programs during 2015.

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

Help the White House identify these Champions of Change who are working within vulnerable communities to help ensure that those most at-risk of the negative impacts of climate change have opportunities to adapt and thrive in a changing future.

Applications due June 10, 2016.

[*DOI Seeks Your Comments: Draft 2016-2020 Environmental Justice Strategic Plan](#)

The Department of the Interior released its draft 2016-2020 Environmental Justice Strategic Plan for public review and comment, which updates its environmental justice strategic plan to increase interagency cooperation and participation opportunities for minority, low-income, American Indian and Alaska Native Communities, and Tribal governments. **Comments are due by May 27.**

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Funding & Technical Assistance Opportunities

[*Buses and Bus Facilities \(Bus\) Program](#) **May 13**

[DOT Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program](#) **May 13**

[FTA Low or No Emission Program](#) **May 13**

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

[*PRO Neighborhoods Grants](#) **May 16**

[Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators](#) **May 16**

[EPA Pollution Prevention Information Network \(PPIN\) Grants Program](#) **May 17**

[DOE Cities Leading through Energy Analysis and Planning \(Cities-LEAP\)](#) **May 17**

[Green Infrastructure Awards Program](#) **May 17**

[Excellence in Communications: Public Awareness of Flooding and/or Flood Prevention and/or Emergency Preparedness, and Improving Water Quality](#) **May 17**

[*Land and Water Conservation Fund Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program](#) **May 20**

[USDA Team Nutrition Training Grants](#) **May 20**

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

[BIA Tribal Climate Resilience Project Climate Funding Opportunity](#) **May 23**

[*Play Everywhere Challenge](#) **May 31**

[*Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge](#) **May 31**

[*Economic Development Administration appointment to the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship \(NACIE\)](#) **June 1**

[Missouri Department of Conservation TRIM grants for community tree care](#) **June 3**

[EPA Source Reduction Assistance Program \(SRAP\)](#) **June 6**

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

[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

*[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

*[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

*[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

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

*[NEA Our Town Grants](#) August 1

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

*[Enabling Extreme Real-Time Grid Integration of Solar Energy \(ENERGISE\)](#) June 17-concept paper due then application due August 26

[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

[NOAA Climate Stewards Free Regional Climate Education Workshop](#) May 13-14
Detroit, MI

[Utility Energy Service Contracts Advanced Training](#) May 16-17, Cincinnati, OH

[2016 National Tribal Forum on Air Quality](#) May 17-19, Niagara Falls, NY

*[Iowa Watershed Approach: English River Watershed Management Authority Meeting](#) May 19, 6:00 p.m., Williamsburg, IA

[American Institute of Architects Convention 2016](#) May 19-21, Philadelphia, PA

[River Rally 2016](#) May 20-23, Mobile, AL

[10th International Symposium on Agriculture and the Environment](#) May 23-27,
West Lafayette, IN

*[Clean Water: Bridging to New Partnerships](#) May 24, Annapolis, Maryland

[EPA - Missouri Drought Response and Water Loss Workshop for Water Utilities Workshop](#) May 24, Monett, MO

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

[Zero Waste Business Conference: Tuning in to Zero Waste](#) June 1-4, Austin, TX

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

[How to Create Successful Markets](#) June 3-4, New York, NY

*[Waste Expo](#) June 6-9, Las Vegas, NV

[Sustainable Brands 2016](#) June 6-9, San Diego, CA

[One Water Summit](#) June 8-10, Atlanta, GA

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

*[Alan T. Busby Farm Field Day 2016](#) June 9, Jefferson City, MO

[Creating a Climate for Change Conference](#) June 9, Florence, SC

[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

[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

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

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

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

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

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

[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

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

[Abstract submissions](#) due May 13

[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

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

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

[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
[Abstract submissions](#) due May 20

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

[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

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

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Webinars and Conference Calls

[*Climate Friendly Purchasing Toolkit: Diesel Fuel & ICT Module](#) May 17, 11:30 a.m.-
1:00 p.m.

The the Climate Friendly Purchasing toolkit helps public institutions and others target their purchasing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The toolkit provides guidance for public institutions, academia or other entities on specific purchasing strategies that help to reduce an organization's carbon footprint.

[*Verifying the ENERGY STAR Certification Application](#) May 17, 12-1:00 p.m. CST

This webinar, based on the ENERGY STAR Guide for Licensed Professionals, covers the role of the licensed professional, as well as requirements for verifying commercial building applications for ENERGY STAR certification.

[*Register for the 2016 ENERGY STAR National Building Competition: BOOTCAMP!](#)
May 17, 1-1:30 p.m. CST

Take 30 minutes to learn about the 2016 BOOTCAMP which begins September 1st! Learn how in just 90 days, you can engage and activate building occupants while slimming your energy and water “wastelines” with new tailored resources from EPA’s ENERGY STAR program.

[*Integrated Pest Management in Schools: Ants - #1 Pest in Schools](#) **May 17, 1-2:30 p.m. CST**

Why are ants the #1 pest in schools across the country? They don't come to schools for the education. They do show up for the free meals. Implementing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices in your school will solve most of your ant problems. If they cannot gain entry or do not find food, they will march to another location. However, fire and carpenter ants are particularly troublesome because they present unique hazards to human health or structures.

[*Portfolio Manager "Ask the Expert"](#) **May 18, 11:00 a.m.-noon CST**

This is a live webinar that gives all users an opportunity to ask their questions directly to EPA experts in an open forum.

[Cornell's Climate Smart Farming Program: Research, Tools, and Extension Support for Farmers in NY and the Northeast](#) **May 18, 1-2:00 p.m. CST**

Learn how climate change is affecting agriculture in the Northeast, and how Cornell University is developing new resources through its Climate Smart Farming program to help farmers increase resiliency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

[*How to Apply for the ENERGY STAR](#) **May 19, 12-1:00 p.m. CST**

Join us to 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.

[*Informational Webinar for ENERGISE FOA](#) **May 19, 1-3:00 p.m. CST**

This webinar will cover the Department of Energy’s Grid Modernization and SunShot Initiatives, this Enabling Extreme Real-Time Grid Integration of Solar Energy (ENERGISE) Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA).

[CRTs: What Can Be Done?? Meet Some of the End Markets: Part 2](#) **May 19, 1-3:00 p.m. CST**

Tune in to learn more about some CRT recycling possibilities, what issues companies face, and the potential for various technologies to address the CRT problem.

[*Enabling the Water Resources Utility of the Future](#) **May 19, 1-2:30 p.m. CST**

This webinar is part of a series focused on innovative ways in which utilities are becoming their own Utility of the Future.

[*Webinar: Forging Neighborhoods for All Generations](#) **May 20, 12-1:30 p.m. CST**

As the vast majority of older adults want to age in place, they are creating a demand for communities that are friendly to all ages. Planners and local governments should give attention to multigenerational planning and the work underway in cities developing more age-friendly communities - from New York to Honolulu - who are taking creative steps to build their adaptive capacity, optimize opportunities and cultivate synergies for community change.

[*Planning and Budgeting for the Evaluation of Energy Efficiency Programs](#) **May 23, 1–2:15 p.m. CST**

In this webinar the Department of Energy panel of experts will discuss how states are establishing infrastructures, plans and budgets for their evaluations of efficiency programs funded by utility customers.

[*Portfolio Manager "Ask the Expert"](#) **May 24, 11:00 a.m.-noon CST**

This is a live webinar that gives all users an opportunity to ask their questions directly to EPA experts in an open forum.

[*Portfolio Manager 101](#) **May 24, 12-1:00 p.m. 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.

[*Missing Middle Housing: Responding to the Demand for Walkable Living](#) **May 25, 1-2:00 p.m. CST**

There is greater need now more than ever for creative approaches to providing housing choices in our communities. Missing Middle Housing-such as duplexes, fourplexes, bungalow courts and courtyard apartments-plays an important part in the conversation. By addressing barriers to these types of housing, communities can open doors to diverse, affordable housing options.

[*Portfolio Manager 201](#) **May 25, 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.

[*EPA Grants Award Process Webinar](#) **May 25, 1-2:00 p.m. CST**

This webinar is intended for those interested in applying for EPA grants or are currently managing an EPA grant. If you wish to attend, go to the link a few minutes before the webinar starts.

[*DOE Tribal Business Structures for Financing Projects](#) **May 25, 12-2:00 p.m. CST**

There are six different structures available to tribes to diversify their economic portfolios by creating business structures for their energy businesses. Learn about each of these business structures, their advantages, and disadvantages, and how to select the best structure to fit your tribe's goals and existing codes and laws.

[*Newest Research on the Value of Habitat for Pest Management](#) **May 25, 1-2:00 p.m. CST**

Learn about the value of on-farm habitat for enhancing conservation biological control and the current scientific research that supports this natural pest control.

[*Portfolio Manager 301](#) **May 26, 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.

[*How EPA's Waste Reduction Model \(WARM\) Quantifies the GHG impacts of Organics Management](#) **June 2, 3-4:00 p.m. CST**

Join this webinar to: Learn how anaerobic digestion was modeled, understand how WARM models organics and the differences between the organics categories such as food waste, yard trimmings, and mixed organics, quantify the GHG emissions and energy impacts of source reducing, donating, and composting food, and discuss questions on the modeling of organics management pathways within WARM.

[*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. A case study will be used to demonstrate the role of due diligence and other tools such as spatial and tabular analysis in the evaluation process.

[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.

[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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