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

*EPA Announces Funding for Water Reuse and Conservation Research*
EPA announced funding to five institutions to research human and ecological health impacts associated with water reuse and conservation practices.

*EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes: Guidance for Discussing Tribal Treaty Rights*
The purpose of this Guidance is to enhance EPA’s consultations under the EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes in situations where tribal treaty rights may be affected by a proposed EPA action.

*EPA announces winners of Phase I of the Nutrient Recycling Challenge*
The 34 selected submissions were also invited to the Nutrient Recycling Challenge DC Summit, in Washington, DC on March 30-31, 2016. The summit will provide a forum for innovators to meet experts and other innovators, as well as learn about resources to develop their ideas into real-life technologies.
**USDA Seeks Applications for Loans and Grants to Help Rural Businesses**
USDA is seeking applications for loans and grants to help support the start-up or expansion of rural businesses. For information on how to apply, contact your Rural Development state office or page 14415 of the March 17 Federal Register.

**EPA Report: Diesel Engine Grant Program Nets Major Air, Public Health Benefits**
Since its start in 2008, the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) program has significantly improved air quality for communities across the country by retrofitting and replacing older diesel engines.

This report from the USDA and Colorado State University will help communities and businesses evaluate the economic benefits of investing in local food systems.

**New Tool: USDA "Plant a Window Box for Pollinators" Using New People’s Garden Initiative Website**
The new tool allows people to determine which plants will provide pollinator forage based on their zip code. The interactive People’s Garden website also includes the popular live USDA "bee cam" which broadcasts honeybee activity on the roof of USDA’s headquarters building in Washington, D.C.

**Region 7**

**EPA Teams Collected Nearly 3,000 Tons of Residential Debris and Hazardous Materials from December Flooding in St. Louis**
EPA Region 7 and its contractors collected almost 3,000 tons of residential debris and hazardous materials during a nearly two-month-long mission to help residents of Missouri’s Franklin, Jefferson, St. Charles and St. Louis counties recover from severe flooding caused by heavy rains in late December 2015.

**Pella Corporation Named 2016 Energy Star Partner of the Year for Outstanding Achievements in Energy Efficiency, Des Moines Public Schools, Principal Real Estate Investors of Des Moines, and Metro Lighting of Brentwood, Mo., Also Energy Star Honorees**
Since its inception in 1992, Energy Star and its partners, including the 149 Partners of the Year awardees, have helped prevent a total of more than 2.4 billion metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions. In 2014 alone, Energy Star and its partners provided more than $11 billion in societal benefits due to reducing damages from climate change.

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**Funding & Technical Assistance Opportunities**

**Route 66 Grants** April 1
Coalition for Recreational Trails 2016 Achievement Awards  April 4

Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (ESTCP) Installation Energy Technology Demonstrations  April 5

Environmental Technology Certification Program (ESTCP) - Environmental Technology Demonstrations  April 5

2016 Administration for Native Americans Funding Opportunities  April 6

Opportunities include:
- Environmental Regulatory Enhancement
- Sustainable Employment and Economic Development Strategies (SEEDS)
- Native American Language Preservation and Maintenance

EPA Environmental Education (EE) Local Grants  April 8

WaterSMART: Drought Resiliency Project Grants  April 11

*Community Innovation Labs Letters of Inquiry  April 11

HOPE VI Main Street Grant Program  April 12

Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) grant program  April 14

NEJAC Request for Nominations  April 15

The Recycling Partnership’s Grant Opportunity to Improve Access to Residential Curbside Recycling Systems  April 15

NEA Challenge America Grant Program  April 16

Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI) Program  April 18

Integrating Human Health and Well-Being with Ecosystem Services  April 21

Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program  April 26

*EPA Wetland Program Development Grants  April 29

*Land and Water Conservation Fund State and Local Assistance Program  April 29

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 Conservation Innovation Grants May 10

*USDA Local Food Promotion Program May 12

ASLA 2016 Student Awards May 13

USDA Team Nutrition Training Grants May 20

USDA Farm Service Outreach May 22

*BIA Tribal Climate Resilience Project Climate Funding Opportunity May 23

FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant June 15

FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant June 15

FWS National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program June 29

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

APA 2016 National Planning Conference April 2-5, Phoenix, Arizona

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

*Water Week  April 10-16, Washington D.C.

2016 National Watershed & Stormwater Conference  April 12, Sacramento, CA

2016 Recreational Waters Conference  April 12-15, New Orleans, LA

San Francisco Green Film Festival  April 14-20, San Francisco, CA

Active Transportation & Safety Summit  April 11-15, Wichita, KS


*National Climate Game Jam Water! Competition  April 15-24

66th Annual Environmental Engineering Conference  April 20, Lawrence, KS

Earth Day!  April 22

*NOAA Climate Stewards Free Regional Climate Education Workshop  April 22-23, Long Beach, CA

Water Policy Conference  April 24 – 27, Denver, CO

*Finding Justice in the Low-Carbon Transition  April 28, Lawrence, KS

Transit Oriented Development & Urban Real Estate Conference  May 3-5, Los Angeles, CA

Balancing Nature and Commerce in Rural Communities and Landscapes  May 3-5, Shepherdstown, WV

US Algal Toxin Conference 2016  May 9-11, Akron, OH

Water Quality Standards Academy  May 16-20, Washington DC

Placemaking: Making it Happen  May 11-13

*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
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
Zero Waste Business Conference: Tuning in to Zero Waste June 1-4, Austin, TX
Grey to Green Cities June 1-4, Toronto, ON
Sustainable Brands 2016 June 6-9, San Diego, CA
One Water Summit June 8-10, Atlanta, Georgia
CNU 24: The Transforming City June 8-11, Detroit, MI
2016 LOCUS National Leadership Summit June 13-15, Boston, MA
*NOAA Climate Stewards Free Regional Climate Education Workshop June 13-16 Salt Lake City, UT
*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 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
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

*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

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## Webinars and Conference Calls

*Lessons in Green and Sustainable Remediation* April 1, 11 a.m.-noon CST
This webinar from the Redevelopment Institute will explain the basic concepts of GSR and how it can be applied to reduce the environmental footprint of remediation projects while also benefiting the surrounding community and its economy.

*The smartest places on Earth: Why rustbelts are the emerging hotspots of global innovation* April 6, 8:30-10:00 a.m. CST
This webinar will discuss emerging hotspots and how cities such as Akron, Albany, Raleigh-Durham, Minneapolis-St.Paul, and Portland in the United States, and Eindhoven, Malmo, Dresden, and Oulu in Europe are seizing the initiative and recovering their economic strength.

*Resilience by Design* April 7, 12:15-1:15 p.m. CST
The webinar will bring context to the importance of resilience across business and municipal communities, and describe why all leaders must move beyond the business-as-usual approach.

*Diving in to Sea Level Change: It’s ‘App’ropriate* April 11, 6:30-8:00 p.m. CST
This webinar will introduce the ‘Sea Level Rise: Polar Explorer’ tool, an interactive map based ‘app’. The app offers an interactive guided tour through the many layers of science that impact sea level rise.

*Sharing the Balance of Stewardship: the Blackfoot Drought Response Plan* April 14, 1-2:00 p.m. CST
This webinar will illustrate how the Blackfoot Drought Response Plan works and how it has evolved recently in response to persistent drought, changing watershed priorities, and a new tribal water compact.

**Being Prepared for Climate Change: A Workbook for Developing Risk-Based Adaptation Plans** April 18, 11 a.m.-12:00 p.m. CST
The workbook provides guidance for conducting risk-based climate change vulnerability assessments and developing adaptation action plans. It is an ideal tool for place based organizations that manage environmental resources. This talk will give an overview of the workbook steps and insight into why and how to use it. This discussion will be focused on EPA Region 7 states and tribes.

*Celebrating Innovations that Support the Growth of Plastics Recycling* April 19, 12-1:00 p.m. CST
This webinar will provide information about each of the 2016 Association of Plastics Recyclers Plastics Recycling Showcase Innovations:

**CDFA Brownfields Financing Webinar: Reaching Your Redevelopment Goals With Revolving Loan Funds** April 21, 1–2:30 p.m. CST
Learn the key features of a successful Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund and the commonalities and challenges associated with implementing this underutilized financing resource.

**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.

*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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