



EPA Region 7 Communities Information Digest

September 30, 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.

An * indicates a new item.

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September 30th is National PrepareAthon Day!



For more, see: https://community.fema.gov/take-action/activities?lang=en_US

First dates: When does the climate record say you can expect the season's first snow?



NOAA analyzes the potential date for your community's first snow with this interactive map! <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/beyond-data/first-dates>

Learn more about the **Built Environment Partners, KC** and stay up-to-date with calendar events! <http://www.bepkc.org/>

Headlines

National

***EJSCREEN User Impact Survey Submission Dates: September 27-November 8**

The Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) the EPA is excited to announce the launch of the EJSCREEN User Impact Survey! The information collected will be used to catalogue the diverse ways people are using EJSCREEN to support their analysis of environmental justice concerns in their personal and professional lives. Survey responses will also help EPA to identify opportunities to continue developing and improving this tool.

[*EPA Seeks Input on the Gap of Water Quality Standards Coverage in Indian Reservation Waters Comments Due by December 28](#)

On September 19, 2016, Administrator McCarthy signed an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM) requesting public comment on the establishment of federal baseline water quality standards (WQS) under the Clean Water Act (CWA) for Indian reservation waters that currently do not have EPA-approved WQS to protect water quality.

[*White House Urges Policy Changes to Create more Affordable Housing](#)

The White House released the Housing Affordability Toolkit that proposes a range of policy changes to make it easier to create more affordable housing and satisfy the demand. The Obama Administration aims to strengthen local communities by encouraging affordable housing and transit-oriented development, giving families access to walkable neighborhoods, increased access to job opportunities, and healthier communities.

[*EPA to Advance Tribal Sovereignty, Expand Environmental Observer Network](#)

EPA announced an interagency agreement on tribal treaty rights and other initiatives designed to advance tribal sovereignty and self-determination. EPA also announced the expansion of the Local Environmental Observers Network program, a concept tribal communities initiated and championed.

[*Involving Citizens in Impact Assessments](#)

Impact assessments are typically conducted as legal requirements to identify the economic, social and environmental effects of public policy. They usually involve public meetings led by government officials in government buildings. But, what if the role of the citizen wasn't limited to that of a spectator in these assessments? What if residents were given the opportunity to lead these discussions? Some planners are advocating just that. These labor intensive impact assessments can create a dialogue with often overlooked populations.

[*Sears to Improve Public Health Protections from Lead Pollution During Renovations](#)

The EPA and DOJ announced a settlement with Sears Home Improvement Products Inc. that resolves alleged violations of the federal Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Rule for work performed by Sears' contractors during home renovation projects across the country. Under the settlement, Sears will implement a comprehensive, corporate-wide program to ensure that the contractors it hires to perform work minimize lead dust from home renovation activities. Sears will also pay a \$400,000 civil penalty.

[*USDA Commits \\$56 Million for Local/Community Food Projects, Organic Research](#)

The funding announcement includes: Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program grants for projects that will support rural economies, increase market opportunities for farmers, and help close supply chain gaps in communities across the country; Organic Research and Extension Program grants for projects to help organic farmers and ranchers improve business operations; and Community Food Projects grants to projects that help make healthy, nutritious foods available to people from low-income neighborhoods.

[*EPA's CREAT Helps Communities Prepare for Climate Change](#)

As part of the Obama Administration's commitment to strengthen America's climate resilience, the EPA has released an updated online climate change risk assessment tool that assists users in designing adaptation plans based on the types of threats confronting their communities. EPA's Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool (CREAT), is specifically designed for use by water, wastewater and storm utilities.

[*New Resource: Green Infrastructure and Climate Change: Collaborating to Improve Community Resiliency](#)

In 2015, EPA's Office of Wastewater Management convened charrettes in four cities to demonstrate how green infrastructure could be applied to communities dealing with a range of challenges. This new publication summarizes those issues and the recommendations developed by each charrette.

[*New Resource: Planning Framework for a Climate-Resilient Economy](#)

The framework can help communities ask the right questions to recognize their economic vulnerabilities and identify ways to be more climate resilient, with a focus on helping the business community prepare for and adapt to projected changes and think creatively about ways to prosper in a changing climate.

Regional

[*Iowa State University Receives EPA Grant to Research Economic Measurements Linked to Water Quality Improvements](#)

Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, is one of just six U.S. universities to receive EPA research grant funding for a project to better quantify the economic values of improved water quality, which will help decision makers consider the benefits of investments in water quality improvement efforts. This research will also provide a critical link between water quality science and the monetary value of the services that healthy waterways provide.

[*EPA's SmartWay Honors Union Pacific Distribution Services as Green Leader in the Freight Industry](#)

Union Pacific Distribution Services, of Omaha, NE, is one of nine companies in the United States to receive U.S. Environmental Protection Agency SmartWay® Excellence Awards, honoring logistic companies and shippers in the retail and manufacturing sectors.

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Funding & Technical Assistance Opportunities

[National Adaptation Forum Call for Proposals](#) September 30

[*Call for National Climate Assessment 4 Nominations](#) September 30

[Safe Places to Play, US Soccer Foundation Grants](#) Letter of Interest: September 30, Application Deadline: October 7

[EPA Fifth Annual Campus RainWorks Challenge Prize Competition](#) September 30

[EPA National Wetland Condition Assessment Campus Research Challenge](#) September 30

[Training and Technical Assistance to Improve Water Quality and Enable Small Public Water Systems to Provide Safe Drinking Water](#) September 30

[Strong Infrastructure Contest](#) September 30

[Build Healthy, Resilient Coastal Communities](#) **October 5**

*[RFP: Guide for Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety at Alternative Intersections and Interchanges](#) **October 6**

[Application for Smart Growth America Technical Assistance](#) **October 6**

*[2016 Coca-Cola Public Space Recycling Bin Grant Program](#) **October 7**

[FTA and Smart Growth America free TOD Technical Assistance](#) **October 7**

[PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program](#) **October 7**

[Levitt AMP \[Your City\] Grant Awards](#) **October 10**

[Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals Request for Nominations](#) **October 11**

[Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities technical assistance](#) **October 12**

[HUD Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program](#) **October 12**

*[NREL Solar Photovoltaic Screening Applications for Universities](#) **October 15**

[Asthma Empowerment Collaborations to Reduce Childhood Asthma Disparities](#)
Letters of Intent: October 16, Applications due: November 16

[EPA Small Business Innovation Research \(SBIR\)](#) **October 20**

[DOE First Steps Toward Developing Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency on Tribal Lands Program](#) **October 20**

[National Science Foundation's Environmental Sustainability Program](#) **October 20**

[EPA's Smart City Air Challenge](#) **October 28**

[National Native Health Research Training Initiative](#) **October 30**

*[Technical Assistance to Tribal Communities Addressing Brownfields](#) **October 31**

*[ASFPM 2017 National Conference Call for Presenters](#) **October 31**

*[Grants for K-12 Schools, The Nature Conservancy](#) **October 31**

*[US School Gardens Grant, Whole Kids Foundation](#) **October 31**

[Performance Partnership Pilots for Disconnected Youth](#) **October 31**

*[2016 School Bus Replacement and Retrofit Rebates](#) **November 1**

[Knight Cities Challenge](#) **November 3**

[Culture of Health Prize, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) **November 3**

*[1000 Friends of Iowa Best Development Awards call for nominations](#) **November 15**

[Agriculture and Natural Resources Science for Climate Variability and Change Challenge Area](#) **November 17**

*[Center for Community Progress Technical Assistance Scholarship Program Request for Applications](#) **November 17**

[EPA FY 2017 Exchange Network Grant Solicitation Notice](#) **November 18**

*[Call for Abstracts: 2017 National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program](#) **December 1**

[FY 2017 USDA Farm to School Grant](#) **December 8**

*[AIA Sustainable Design Assessment Team](#) **December 9**

[NOAA Educational Partnership Program Undergraduate Scholarship](#) **January 31**

[NOAA Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship](#) **January 31**

Ongoing Opportunities

[River Network National Rain Barrel Program](#) **Through June 2017**

[POWER \(Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization\) Grants](#) **Applications accepted on a rolling basis**

[Tribal Climate Change Funding Guide](#) **Regularly updated grants and programs**

[EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program](#)

[USDA Agricultural Conservation Easement Program](#) **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

[EPA Region 6 Annual Stormwater Conference](#) **October 2-6, Oklahoma City, OK**

[Growing Sustainable Communities Annual Conference](#) **October 4-5, Dubuque, IA**

[*Climate and Pests National Forum](#) October 4-6, Washington, D.C.

[Rail~volution Conference](#) October 9-12, San Francisco, CA

[*National Environmental Justice Advisory Council \(NEJAC\) Public Face-to-Face and Meeting and Teleconference Option](#) October 12-13, Arlington, VA

[How to Create Successful Markets](#) October 14-15, New York City, NY

[National Association of Development Organizations' Annual Training Conference](#) October 15-18, San Antonio, TX

[*National Shared Mobility Summit](#) October 17-19, Chicago, IL

[AARP Livable Communities National Conference](#) October 17-19, Chicago, IL

[*2016 Natural Areas Conference](#) October 18-21, Davis, CA

[Managing Water Resources: System Losses, Auditing, Conservation, and Drought Preparedness](#) October 19, Emporia, KS

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

[Toxic Release Inventory Conference](#) October 19-21, Washington, D.C.

[National Training Conference on the Toxics Release Inventory and Environmental Conditions in Communities](#) October 19-21, Washington, D.C.

[Behavior, Energy and Climate Change Conference](#) October 20-22, Baltimore, MD

[*Climate & Agriculture Workshop](#) October 24-25, St Louis, MO

[*National Resources and Training Summit to Revitalize Vulnerable Communities](#) October 25-26, Arlington, VA

[*Region 9 Annual Tribal/EPA Conference](#) October 25–27, San Francisco, CA

[Rally 2016: The National Land Conservation Conference](#) October 28-30, Minneapolis, MN

[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, D.C.

[Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas](#) November 14-15, Manhattan, KS

[Green Lands Blue Waters Conference](#) November 29-30, Columbia, MO

[AGU Chapman Conference on Extreme Climate Event Impacts on Aquatic Biogeochemical Cycles and Fluxes](#) January 22-27, 2017, San Juan, Puerto Rico

[New Partners for Smart Growth Conference](#) February 2-4, 2017, St. Louis, MO

[2017 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference](#) February 5-8, 2017, Lincoln, NE

[Climate Leadership Conference](#) March 1-3, 2017, Chicago, IL

*[National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program](#) March 8-10, 2017, Washington, D.C.

[11th Annual Iowa Water Conference](#) March 22-23, 2017, Ames, IA

*[Children's Environmental Health Network Translational Research Conference: New Challenges](#) April 5-7, 2017, Arlington, VA

*[ASFPM National Conference](#) April 30-May 5, 2017, Kansas City, MO

[2017 National Brownfields Training Conference](#) December 5-7, 2017, Pittsburg, PA

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Webinars and Conference Calls

*[US Small Business Funding Opportunities \(SBIR/STTR\) for Environmental Technologies at NIEHS SRP, EPA, NSF, and USDA](#) October 3, 12-2:00 p.m. CST

This webinar is designed to help small businesses and academic researchers understand the agencies that fund environmental technologies, and the goals of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs.

[Responding To Drought and Water Challenges - National Kickoff Meeting](#) October 4, 12-2:00 p.m. CST

This webinar will engage Forest Service employees and partners in planning for and adapting to the impacts of drought and water challenges in the face of a changing climate.

[EPA Webinar for Environmental Justice Communities and Tribes on How to Engage in the Title V Petitions Process Rulemaking](#) October 4, 12-1:00 p.m. CST

The EPA is proposing changes to increase the transparency and understanding of the title V petition process.

*[Non-Power Purchase Agreement \(PPA\) Options to Financing Solar Deployment at Universities](#) October 4, 12-1:00 p.m. CST

The presenters will provide an overview of financing models and funding mechanisms for solar deployment, focusing on non-PPA financing models. This webinar is for university financial planners and stakeholders assessing the financial aspects of deploying solar.

*[EPA Technical Assistance to Tribal Communities Addressing Brownfields Outreach Webinar](#) October 5, 2-3:30 p.m. CST

This outreach webinar will address the RFP for Technical Assistance to Tribal Communities Addressing Brownfields.

[Protecting Endangered Species with Continuous Water Quality Data](#) October 6, 1-2:00 p.m. CST pm

Discover how scientists analyze and visualize biogeochemicals cycling in local rivers. Learn how automated red flags help them stay within acceptable deviation of historical daily averages, and how modern technologies can help you achieve water quality goals.

[*Placemaking is Economic Development](#) **October 7 12-1:30 p.m. CST**

In this webinar, experts will explain how strategic placemaking and broad stakeholder participation is improving the quality and amount of redevelopment in Michigan's urban centers, and how these strategies can be implemented in other cities.

[*Composting 101 and Five Strategies for Success in Nebraska](#) **October 12, 11:30-12:30 p.m. CST**

Composting has great potential to stimulate rural economies, protect our food supply, conserve water, invest in healthy soils and reduce waste. Nebraska is already well-positioned to reap these myriad of benefits. Hear about exciting projects taking root throughout the state, and explore the opportunities and challenges in creating a program.

[*From Home to School and Back Again: Creating Safe and Healthy Environments for Children](#) **October 13, 12-1:30 p.m. CST**

This webinar will also highlight the U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) and how it continues to demonstrate success in reaching disadvantaged communities.

[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*.

[*Freshwater HABs Response Efforts](#) **October 20, 10 a.m.-noon CST**

This webinar will provide an overview of control and management techniques for cyanobacteria and their toxins in freshwater systems, including innovative techniques aimed at preventing eutrophication and HABs.

[*New Tool Kit: Reforming Laws and Policies to Enhance Food Recovery at the State and Local Level](#) **October 20, 12-1:30 p.m. CST**

Join this webinar to learn what is included in this toolkit, and how you can use it in your state or local food waste policy planning. Presenters will explain the content and how best to use the toolkit, with a focus on a few of the sections, and will answer questions from webinar participants about these and other examples.

[*Meet the Funders: Leveraging Brownfields Assessment/Cleanup Funds with Economic Development Resources](#) **October 25, 12-1:30 p.m. CST**

This webinar will highlight a number of economic development resources available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Economic Development Administration, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to leverage your brownfield dollars and fund community revitalization.

[*Learning Together: Lessons Learned from Collaborative Place-Based Initiatives](#) **November 10, 12-1:30 p.m. CST**

Overview of the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice Framework for Collaboration to showcase the importance of effective federal collaboration.

[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.

[*Improving Wastewater Infrastructure in Vulnerable Communities](#) **December 8, 12-1:30 p.m. CST**

This webinar will highlight challenges and solutions to providing wastewater infrastructure in some of the most vulnerable communities in America.

On-Going and On-Demand Webinars

[*Communicating Climate Change Scenarios With Decision Makers](#)

Research hydrologist Dr. Holly Hartmann discusses issues and approaches for communicating with decision-makers regarding climate change in water management and planning.

[Leveraging Resources for Brownfields Revitalization Webinar](#)

This previously recorded webinar discusses available tools to assist communities in leveraging resources to address community revitalization goals and challenges. It includes a presentation on Dubuque, Iowa's efforts to leverage its own resources to attract other federal, state, public and private sources of funding and technical assistance.

[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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