

The Tribal Newsletter is issued free each month

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Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



United States Environmental Protection Agency

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<http://www.epa.gov/tribal/region-10-tribal-newsletter>

Top News

EPA Celebrates Children's Health Month!

October is Children's Health Month and this year's theme is "Healthy Communities, Healthy Children," which highlights our commitment to work with communities to ensure every child has a safe place to live, learn and play. EPA celebrates children's health month by providing information and resources you can use to protect and improve the health of your kids!

Children can be more affected by pollution than adults - they're smaller and their bodies are still developing. Children eat, breathe, and drink more relative to their body mass than adults do, increasing their exposure risk. Children crawl and play close to the ground often putting their hands, toys and other items into their mouths making them more likely to come into contact with dirt, dust, and toxins.

Below are activities to help protect children's health. Please consider doing some of these activities with your family and share these tips with others:

- **Eliminate asthma triggers.** If your child has asthma, figure out his or her triggers. Common triggers include pet dander, dust mites, mold and secondhand smoke. To learn more, go to <http://www.epa.gov/asthma>.
- **Got mold?** If you have mold in your home, wash it off of hard surfaces with detergent and water, and let it dry completely. To learn effective and safe mold cleaning techniques, go to www.epa.gov/mold.
- **Don't smoke around children.** If you smoke, do it outside, not in your home or car. Don't allow family or visitors to smoke around kids. To learn more, go to <http://go.usa.gov/xkQak>.
- **Find out when outdoor air pollution is high and limit children's outside activities.** Learn more about local air quality advisories at <http://www.airnow.gov>.
- **Install carbon monoxide detectors outside bedrooms.** CO is odorless, colorless, and toxic. It can kill before you are aware it's in your home. Learn more at <http://go.usa.gov/xKSZ9>.
- **Wash children's hands in clean water to reduce exposure to contaminants.** Wash their stuffed animals and toys often. Regularly clean floors, window, door ledges, and other surfaces to reduce possible exposures.
- **Reduce your child's potential for lead exposure in drinking water.** If you want to know if there's lead in your drinking water, have your water tested, and talk to your pediatrician to decide if your child should be tested for lead. Run water until it becomes cold, and use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. For more information on testing your water, call EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or visit our website at <http://go.usa.gov/xKSZT>.



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EPA Celebrates Children's Health Month!

- **Protect children from lead-based paint.** If your home was built before 1978, it may have lead-based paint. Lead from paint, including lead-contaminated dust, is one of the most common causes of lead poisoning. Read about simple steps to protect your family from lead hazards at <https://www.epa.gov/lead/protect-your-family-lead-your-home>.
- **Avoid Pesticide Use.** Use pesticides sparingly, or not at all. If you must use a pesticide, use it only where needed and follow instructions carefully. Keep all pesticides and harmful products in a cabinet out of a child's reach. Keep pests out of your home by getting rid of clutter, cleaning often, keeping food in sealed containers, and properly disposing of wastes. Learn more at <https://www.epa.gov/safepestcontrol>.
- **Limit exposures to mercury in your food and home.** Children and pregnant or nursing mothers should eat fish low in mercury and limit consumption of fish that typically have higher levels of mercury. Be careful handling household items that may contain mercury (like light bulbs and thermometers). For more information, go to <http://go.usa.gov/xKSZd>.
- **Choose safer plastics.** Some toys, bottles, cosmetics and other personal care products are made with plastics containing chemicals called phthalates or BPA which can be harmful. Look for "PVC-free" and "BPA-free" labels. To learn more go to <https://www.epa.gov/childcare/plastics>.
- **Reduce radon risk.** Radon is a cancer-causing, naturally-occurring radioactive gas that you can't see, smell, or taste. Test your home and have your child's school tested for radon. To learn more go to www.epa.gov/radon.
- **Exercise for health and to reduce air pollution.** Encourage your children to walk, bike, take the bus, or use public transportation to get to school.
- **Eat your veggies – safely!** Feed kids a variety of foods from a variety of sources to provide a diverse mix of nutrients and to reduce their exposure to a single pesticide. Wash fruits and vegetables under cold running water and peel them to get rid of dirt, bacteria, and pesticide residues. Go to <http://go.usa.gov/xKSZ6>.
- **Safe school environments play an important role in health and academic success.** Find resources for teachers, parents and school administrators on our website at <http://www.epa.gov/schools>.

Please see the **Calendar of Conferences & Events** section of this newsletter for details on this month's webinars focused on children's environmental health. To learn more about children's environmental health, go to <http://epa.gov/children>.

New EPA Newsletter on Fish and Shellfish

The EPA has a new online monthly Fish and Shellfish Program newsletter. The newsletter contains articles and information related to fish consumption advisories, federal agency activities, publications, awarded research, and future meetings and conferences.

For questions, or to be added to the newsletter listserv, please contact Sharon Frey by phone at 202-566-1480 or frey.sharon@epa.gov. To see the newsletter, go to <https://www.epa.gov/fish-tech/fish-and-shellfish-program-newsletter>.

EPA Region 10 FY18 GAP Notice of Funding Availability

Region 10's FY18 NOFA for Indian Environmental General Assistance Program grants will be released this month. The purpose of GAP is for tribes and tribal consortia to build capacity for developing and administering environmental protection programs.

The NOFA will be posted on the Region 10 tribal website and Region 10 staff will send letters announcing its availability to you and your leadership. The NOFA describes everything you need to know to prepare and submit your GAP grant application. Before you draft your initial proposal, please carefully read the full NOFA.

Initial proposals are due to your EPA GAP Project Officer no later than January 16. All final application packages must be submitted through Grants.gov by a date that will be negotiated between you and your EPA Project Officer (between March 3 and May 26).

Please check back on our Region 10 tribal webpage to view the full NOFA at <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/region-10-tribal-program>.

Updated GAP Solid Waste Activity Chart

EPA's American Indian Environmental Office developed a document that outlines GAP grant funded allowable and unallowable solid waste program implementation activities through fiscal year 2020. The document is intended as a resource for GAP project officers and grantees negotiating solid waste implementation work plan components and commitments. It is a non-exclusive list of examples that will be updated as new examples are identified. The chart is available on EPA's website at <http://go.usa.gov/xKSqw>.

National Response Center Tribal Notifications

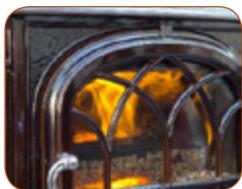
The National Response Center functions as the sole point of contact for reporting oil, chemical, radiological, biological, and etiological discharges into the environment anywhere in the U.S. and its territories. The NRC also takes maritime reports of suspicious activity, security breaches, and terrorist related activities for the U.S. Coast Guard and railroad incident reports for the U.S. Federal Railroad Administration.

The EPA is assisting with an outreach effort to encourage tribes to submit applications to the NRC in order to receive notifications when oil and hazardous materials incidents happen in Indian Country. Tribes are encouraged to apply to receive notifications directly from the federal NRC.

In order to be included in this process, you must complete an application agreement. To request the application document, email nrc@uscg.mil or fax 202-267-1322. If you have specific questions about the application, or to discuss the process further please feel free to contact the NRC at nrc@uscg.mil.

New EPA Office of Environmental Justice Webpage

The EPA's Office of Environmental Justice has created a new webpage to share information on the Agency's efforts to promote international human rights, rights of indigenous peoples and environmental justice. The new site includes a list of the blog posts written for EPA's EJ in Action Blog, featuring the work of the Agency and others on international human rights. The new page can be found at <http://go.usa.gov/xKSC2>.



Best Wood Burning Practices

With the arrival of autumn's cooler temperatures you may be stoking up a fire in your woodstove, fireplace or other wood-burning heater. To protect your health and safety when burning wood for heat, we've compiled important information to consider.

Health Effects of Wood Smoke

Properly installed, correctly used wood burning appliances should be smoke free. Short-term exposures to particles in wood smoke can aggravate lung disease, and may increase susceptibility to respiratory infections. Long-term exposures have been associated with reduced lung function and the development of chronic bronchitis.

Wood smoke can affect everyone, but children, teenagers, elders, and/or people with lung or heart disease are the most vulnerable. Children are more susceptible to smoke because their respiratory systems are still developing, they breathe more air (and pollution) per pound of body weight than adults, and they're more likely to be active outdoors. New or expectant mothers may also want to take precautions to protect the health of their babies, because some studies indicate they may be at increased risk.

Reduce Smoke Inside and Outside Your Home

An efficient fire requires good firewood, using the right wood in the right amount, and good fire building techniques. A cleaner, more efficient fire starts before the first match is lit.

- Season wood for at least 6 months (for an October fire, cut your wood in April or earlier).
- Wood burns best at a moisture content of less than 20 percent. Test wood with a moisture meter on a freshly split piece before you burn it.
- Burn only dry, split, well-seasoned wood. Properly seasoned wood is darker, weighs less, and sounds hollow when hit against another piece of wood.
- It's best to store wood in a location that's well-ventilated. If stored outdoors, (depending on your location) it may be best to keep it off the ground with the top covered and sides open.
- Consider buying an EPA-certified appliance.
- Buy and burn locally cut firewood to decrease the risk of transporting invasive pests.



Safe Wood-Burning Practices

Follow these guidelines for safe operation:

- Keep flammable items, like curtains, furniture, newspapers, books, and extra kindling and firewood away from your appliance.
- Only use newspaper, dry kindling and all-natural or organic fire starters. Never start a fire with gasoline, kerosene, or charcoal starter.
- Do not burn wet or green (unseasoned) wood.
- Check your wood stove or fireplace insert operating instructions before using artificial logs.
- If you use manufactured logs, choose those made from 100 percent compressed sawdust.
- Build hot fires. For most appliances, a smoldering fire is not safe or efficient.
- Keep the doors of your wood burning appliance closed unless loading or stoking the fire, as harmful chemicals (like carbon monoxide) can be released into your home.

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Safe Wood-Burning Practices

- Regularly remove ashes into a covered, metal container. Store the container outdoors on a nonflammable surface.
- Keep a fire extinguisher handy, and make sure you have a carbon monoxide detector.
- Check your local air quality forecast before you burn.

What Not to Burn

Do not burn the following materials, as they can release toxic or harmful chemicals when burned and may damage your appliance:

- Household trash, including cardboard, plastics, foam and the colored ink on magazines, boxes, and wrappers.
- Coated, painted, and pressure-treated wood.
- Ocean driftwood, plywood, particle board, or any wood with glue on or in it.
- Wet, rotted, diseased, or moldy wood.
- Plastic, asbestos, rubber, manure and/or animal remains.

For More Information...

To learn more about best burning practices and the health effects of wood smoke, visit EPA's Burn Wise website at <https://www.epa.gov/burnwise> and EPA's Burn Wise Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/EPABurnWise>.

Feedback Requested on EPA Approach for Considering TEK in Cleanup Process

DUE DATE: November 4.

In support of the EPA's commitment to strengthen our partnership with tribes, the EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management has developed a memorandum on an "Interim Approach for Considering Traditional Ecological Knowledge during the Cleanup Process."

The memo provides direction to OLEM program offices and EPA regions to improve the decision-making process as it relates to site assessment, characterization, and cleanup activities - to ensure the Agency is considering Traditional Ecological Knowledge when a tribe willingly provides this information to EPA.

In June, EPA received a request from the National Tribal Caucus to incorporate tribal environmental knowledge and tribal lifeway models into Agency cleanup standards. This request, along with input received during a National Tribal Operations Committee meeting helped shape the approach. The interim approach supplements existing practices and leverages the tribal consultation and coordination process, as well as identifies specific opportunities in our cleanup processes where TEK can be considered.

At this time, we are asking for tribes to weigh-in and share comments on the framework described in the memo. To obtain a copy of the memo please contact **Jessica Snyder**, OLEM's Tribal Coordinator by phone at 202-564-1478 or email snyder.jessica@epa.gov.

Please share any comments or feedback on the approach with Jessica Snyder or with your Regional Tribal Operations Committee representative by November 4. The list of RTOC representatives for Region 10 is available on EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/region-10-tribal-operations-committee-rtoc>.

Recent EPA Efforts to Advance Tribal Sovereignty and Expand Local Environmental Observer Network

The EPA recently developed an interagency agreement on tribal treaty rights and other initiatives designed to advance tribal sovereignty and self-determination. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy announced this and other initiatives to improve human health and the environment on Indian reservations in remarks at the White House Tribal Nations Conference held last month.

Under the Constitution, treaties are part of the supreme law of the land, with the same legal force and effect as federal statutes. That's why the EPA announced a Memorandum of Understanding on interagency coordination and collaboration to advance protection of tribal treaty and similar rights related to natural resources affected by Agency decisions. The MOU stems in part from EPA's recent "Guidance for Discussing Tribal Treaty Rights," an effort to encourage consideration of treaty rights in the Agency's consultation policy.

The memorandum will be available for signature by federal agencies on a rolling basis. In addition to the EPA, so far the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Department of Justice and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation have signed the MOU. To learn more about EPA's tribal treaty rights guidance, EPA's tribal consultation policy, and the MOU on interagency collaboration, go to <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/tribal-treaty-rights>.

EPA also announced the expansion of the Local Environmental Observers Network - a concept initiated and championed in Alaska and the Arctic region - to beyond its current reach into the lower 48 states. This expansion will develop a lower-48 LEO network hub at Northwest Indian College in Bellingham WA, and will create a model for the other 35 tribal colleges and universities to replicate it across the U.S.

The LEO is a network of local observers and topic experts who share on-the-ground knowledge about unusual animal, environmental and weather events. LEO uses valuable traditional and local knowledge to help observe and report changes in the local environment. Android and iPhone mobile apps give users a powerful reporting tool to use in the field. To learn more about the LEO network, go to <https://leonetwork.org/en/leo/about>.

Administrator McCarthy also reiterated EPA's commitment to help close the gap in water quality protections on Indian reservations. The administrator signed an advance notice of proposed rulemaking to invite comments on whether to extend water quality standards effective under the Clean Water Act to all tribes with reservations. Fewer than 50, out of more than 300 tribes with reservations, currently have such water quality standards. Administrator McCarthy also signed a rule that significantly streamlines the requirements for tribes to receive treatment as a state to administer Clean Water Act regulatory programs.

The administrator also recently signed a rule to establish procedures for eligible tribes to obtain the authority, under the Clean Water Act section 303(d) program, to identify impaired waters on their reservations, and to establish total maximum daily loads of contaminants that can be discharged into those waters. This will allow each tribe to meet their own water quality standards. To learn more about Clean Water Act Implementation in Indian Country, go to <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/clean-water-indian-country>.



**U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency
Alaska Operations Office**

EPA Officials Trip to the North Slope, Alaska in August

In the picture below Price Leavitt, an Inupiaq tribal member, is explaining the construction of his seal skin boat near his home. He then opened his traditional cellar where he stores whale meat, fish, and caribou, for the winter and throughout the year.



From left: Price Leavitt, Hanh Shaw, Michael Szerlog, Calvin Terada, Dennis McLerran, Sheryl Bilbrey, Dianne Soderlund, and Stan Meiburg.



Traditional ice cellar



Sea Ice

“Meeting Price and other residents was a truly valuable and eye-opening experience. It reminded me that everything we do—from research and testing to community education to enforcement—informs our climate change work in Alaska and throughout the country,” said Stan Meiburg, EPA Acting Deputy Administrator.

Several other agency representatives travelled with Stan Meiburg and Regional Administrator Dennis McLerran to the North Slope. While in Barrow, the EPA met with Thomas Olemaun, president of the Native Village of Barrow, and Harry Brower the mayor of North Slope Borough, as well as other residents who rely on subsistence practices that have been impacted by climate change.

Spending time on the North Slope continues to increase the agency’s understanding of how the changing climate conditions in the Arctic are impacting Alaska’s people and resources. NOAA’s Earth Systems Research Barrow Observatory gave the group insight on the latest climate change science and agency partnerships.

In addition to Barrow, the group stopped at Prudhoe Bay, to learn about Arctic oil and gas operations, safety and spill prevention activities, and challenges facing industry operations in the U.S. Arctic.

Alaska Spill Response Planning

In an effort to be better prepared in the event of an oil spill or hazardous materials release, the Alaska Regional Response Team and the Alaska State and Federal On-Scene Coordinators (emergency responders) are working with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, the EPA and U.S. Coast Guard to create a regional contingency plan and four area contingency plans, to become consistent with the National Contingency Plan and the National Response Framework.

The ARRT is an advisory board that provides federal, state, and local governments a way to respond to pollution incidents. The NCP is the federal government's blueprint for responding to oil spills and hazardous substance releases. The National Response Framework describes how the federal government organizes itself to respond to natural disasters, terrorist attacks, and other catastrophic events - including the importance of the whole community in assisting with response efforts.

Currently, state and federal agencies operate under two plan volumes. The first volume is the unified plan, which contains statewide guidance, policy and response procedures. The second volume is the applicable subarea contingency plan.

The proposed changes include developing an Alaska regional plan and four area plans. The four area plans will combine several of the current subareas under a nationally recognized planning structure. The information included in the current subarea format will be transferred to geographic annexes within the area plans. Management of the regional plans will be by the ARRT, while the area plans will be managed by the state and federal On-Scene Coordinators.

The ADEC has created a website to provide more information about the changes and the proposed timeline. To learn more, go to http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/PPR/plans/regional_plan.htm.

If you have input or concerns on this spill response planning proposal, you are encouraged to submit your comments via email by **November 15** to decsparplanning@alaska.gov.

EPA Seeks NTOC Alaska Position 1 Nominations

The National Tribal Operations Committee is a partnership between the EPA and elected tribal representatives. The mission of the NTOC is to serve as a forum for tribes to work with EPA senior leadership on policy and resource matters related to tribal capacity building, and environmental program development and implementation in Indian country.

The EPA is seeking nominations from federally recognized tribal governments in Alaska for a tribal representative to serve on the NTOC as the Alaska Position 1 Member. The deadline to provide nominees to EPA is October 19. For more information about this opportunity contact **John (JR) Herbst**, RTOC Coordinator at 206-553-2116 or herbst.john@epa.gov.



RTOC News



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2017 Tribal Leaders Summit

Come raise your environmental issues!

March 29 – 31, Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort, Suquamish, WA
For tribal council members and environmental staff.

The summit includes three days of discussions with tribal council members and staff from Region 10 (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington). The goal of the summit is to provide tribal council members and staff the opportunity to meet and share environmental concerns from their geographic areas with other tribes in Region 10 and EPA. Topics for discussion could include climate change, environmental justice, and fish consumption rates.

VISIT OUR RTOC R10 BOOTH at ATCEM 2016!

Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management will be held **October 24 – 28** at the Hilton in Anchorage, AK. Please stop by our booth for the latest and greatest information on Region 10.

R10 In-Person Meeting: EPA Office Seattle, WA
December 13 – 15

R10 Upcoming Conference Calls

Thursdays, **October 20** and **November 17**

12:00 p.m. Alaska • **1:00 p.m.** Pacific • **2:00 p.m.** Mountain Time

CONTACT **Christy Finn** • cs@rtocregion10.org if you wish to join our monthly teleconference call and/or have environmental topics to raise.

RTOC R10 Special Election for Oregon

Regional Tribal Operation Committee will hold a Special Election for a new Oregon primary. If you wish to apply, please email **JR Herbst** at Herbst.John@epa.gov.

NTOC/RTOC R10 2016 Elections

The following positions are open:

- NTOC: Alaska Position #1 (nominations due **October 19**)
- NTOC: Western Oregon and Western Washington
- RTOC R10: Eastern Washington

The EPA will send out nomination requests. Contact the Regional Tribal Operations Office for more information.

Save the Date! 2018 Tribal Leaders Summit

March 2018; Seattle, WA area

Christy Finn, RTOC R10 Communications Specialist • 253-328-4026 •

cs@rtocregion10.org • **Office Hours:** Monday – Friday • **8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.** Pacific Time

www.rtocregion10.org

EPA Tribal Consultation Opportunities

The following tribal consultation opportunities may be of interest to Region 10 tribes. A full list of consultation opportunities is available at <http://tcots.epa.gov>.

Office of Land and Emergency Management FY18–19 Priority Setting

END DATE: **November 1.**

The EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management is conducting an early engagement process with tribes on the *FY 2018-2019 National Program Manager Guidance*.

The Office of Land and Emergency Management provides policy, guidance and direction for the Agency's emergency response and waste programs. OLEM was formerly known as EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER). The National Program Manager Guidance sets forth the operational priorities and strategies the EPA and its state and tribal partners will undertake to protect human health and the environment, consistent with priorities in EPA's Annual Performance Plan and Budget and *EPA Strategic Plan*.

Through November, OLEM program offices will have scheduled opportunities for states, tribes, local governments and EPA lead regions to discuss priorities for the Agency's upcoming NPM Guidance cycle. The discussions will occur during regularly-scheduled meetings with our co-implementers and during additional venues, where needed.

To prepare for these discussions, you may wish to review the *FY2016-2017 OLEM NPM Guidance* and the *FY 2017 Addendum to the FY 2016-2017 Guidance* and OLEM's *FY 2016-2017 National Areas of Focus*, which will form the basis for our thinking as we consider future priorities. These documents are available online at <http://go.usa.gov/xkx5j>.

CONTACT: **Jessica Snyder** • 202-564-1478 • snyder.jessica@epa.gov

Tribal Consultation on the National Program Manager Guidance FY 2018-2019

END DATE: **June 30.**

The NPM Guidances provide direction to EPA Regions on where the EPA will focus its work with tribal and state governments to ensure implementation of and compliance with environmental laws and regulations. The NPM Guidances are not budget decision-making documents though they do provide a roadmap for the activities that support the priorities identified in the President's Budget.

The NPM Guidances are developed in three stages:

1. NPMs receive input from tribes and states during the early engagement stage, which is now underway.
2. NPMs prepare draft guidances for review and comment
3. NPMs issue final NPM Guidances.

CONTACT: **Emily Heller** • 202-564-0000 • Heller.Emily@epa.gov

Or **Joseph Greenblott** • 202-564-4250 • Greenblott.Joseph@epa.gov

Grants

G R A N T S

FY2017 NOAA Community-Based Marine Debris Removal Grants

DUE DATE: **October 14.**

NOAA Marine Debris Program grants provide funding to support locally-driven, marine debris assessment and removal projects that will benefit coastal habitat, waterways, and NOAA trust resources.

Projects awarded through this grant competition implement on-the-ground marine debris removal activities, with priority for those targeting medium to large scale debris, including derelict fishing gear. There is also a secondary priority for projects that conduct post-removal habitat monitoring to assess the beneficial impacts of debris removal. Removal operations can be paired with outreach and education to prevent further introduction of marine debris, though the overall focus of the grant is on removal operations. Typical awards will range from \$50,000 to \$150,000.

Through this solicitation NOAA fosters awareness of the effects of marine debris to further the conservation of living marine resource habitats, and contributes to the understanding of marine debris composition, distribution and impacts.

If you have questions or would like to discuss project ideas, please feel free to contact **Peter Murphy** at Peter.Murphy@noaa.gov or **Nir Barnea** at nir.barnea@noaa.gov.

For specific questions about the grant and funding opportunity, please contact **Tom Barry** at tom.barry@noaa.gov. For more information, go to <http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/funding/funding-opportunities>.

New Office of Indian Energy Opportunity:

First Steps Toward Developing Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency on Tribal Lands

DUE DATE: **October 20.**

Under this Funding Opportunity Announcement, DOE's Office of Indian Energy is soliciting applications from Indian Tribes (including Alaska Native Regional Corporations, Village Corporations, and Tribal Energy Resource Development Organizations) to:

1. Conduct energy options analyses.
2. Establish baseline energy use and efficiency options.
3. Develop energy organizations.
4. Conduct climate resiliency planning.
5. Establish policy, regulations, and codes to reduce energy use or promote energy development.
6. Obtain skills and training related to energy use and development.

DOE anticipates making approximately eight to twenty grant awards with DOE funding per individual award varying from \$50,000 to \$250,000, with period of performance of approximately one to two years, but no longer than three years. To learn more about the funding opportunity, go to <http://go.usa.gov/xDwt5>.

Brownfields Technical Assistance to Tribal Communities

DUE DATE: **October 31.**

The EPA expects to award one cooperative agreement to support tribal communities addressing brownfields related issues. The cooperative agreement awarded under the Technical Assistance to Tribal Communities Addressing Brownfields announcement will help tribal communities tackle the challenge of assessing cleaning up and preparing brownfield sites for redevelopment.

The focus of the technical assistance will focus on the following subject areas:

- Developing a forum to share ideas and support the development of training and peer network learning related to brownfields.
- Assisting tribes in understanding and building Tribal Response Programs.
- Providing science and technology related assistance to brownfields assessment, remediation, and site preparation.
- Helping tribes develop integrated approaches to brownfield cleanup and reuse.
- Helping tribes develop brownfields financial and planning strategies.

The maximum amount for the cooperative agreement is \$2,000,000.

For more information and to access the RFP, please visit our website at <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/apply-brownfields-grant-funding>.

EPA FY17 Exchange Network Grant

DUE DATE: **November 18.**

The Exchange Network Grant program provides funding to states, territories and federally recognized tribes to support the development of the Environmental Information Exchange Network. The primary outcome expected from Exchange Network assistance agreements is improved access to, and exchange of high-quality environmental data from public and private sector sources. Applications should demonstrate support for and results toward EIEN program priorities.

In FY17, the EPA expects to award about \$9 million for 30-40 assistance agreements for Exchange Network projects. Most awards will be in the range of \$50,000 to \$300,000. Awards to a single applicant cannot exceed \$300,000. EPA may make a limited number of awards to collaborative, partnership assistance agreements.

Budgets for these projects cannot exceed \$500,000. The exact number of assistance agreements will depend on the final amount of EPA's appropriation for the EN grant program, the number of applications submitted to EPA by the application deadline, the amounts of proposed budgets, and the outcome of application reviews.

A webinar for tribes interested in learning more will be held on **October 19 at 10 a.m. Pacific Time**. Use this link to register for the webinar: <http://bit.ly/2bp2MgW>. Once registered, an email confirmation will be sent with additional information.

The FY 2017 EN grant program solicitation notice is available at <http://go.usa.gov/xk4cF>. To view previous Exchange Network grant projects, go to <http://go.usa.gov/xkxym>.

CONTACT: **Salena Reynolds** • 202-566-0466 • reynolds.salena@epa.gov

Training & Scholarships

For more information on EPA Tribal trainings, webinars, grants and opportunities for tribal consultation, visit <http://www2.epa.gov/tribal>.

EPA Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Technical Assistance

DUE DATE: October 12.

The EPA invites communities to apply for targeted technical assistance to help overcome barriers to implementing smart growth development approaches. This assistance will help communities, local governments, and tribal governments improve their capacity to implement smart growth and other approaches that protect the environment, improve public health, and expand economic opportunity.

Communities can choose from tools to help them make development more equitable, attract infill development, assess policies in small towns and rural areas, improve resilience to floods, or promote streets that are safe for all users and provide environmental benefits.

The program provides quick, targeted technical assistance to selected communities using a variety of tools that have demonstrated results and widespread application.

Tools offered include:

- Tool 1: Creating Equitable Development
- Tool 2: Planning for Infill Development
- Tool 3: Sustainable Strategies for Small Cities and Rural Areas
- Tool 4: Flood Resilience for Riverine and Coastal Communities
- Tool 5: Green and Complete Streets

The EPA delivers the assistance using teams of experts who conduct one to two-day workshops in the selected communities. After the workshop, the community gets a next-steps memo with specific actions it can take if it chooses to implement the ideas generated in the workshop.

Applicants can be a local, county, or tribal government, or a nonprofit organization that has the support of the local government on whose behalf they are applying. EPA expects to select 25 recipients by November and provide all technical assistance by July 2017.

To learn how to apply, please read the 2016-2017 Request for Letters of Interest on the following website: <http://go.usa.gov/xkQ9h>. For more information on the Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities program, go to <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/building-blocks-sustainable-communities>.



Clean Air Act and Permitting (a Level 2 course)

November 29 - December 2 at TAMS Center in Las Vegas, NV

This ITEP course provides an understanding of the Clean Air Act and tribal authority as the foundations for air quality permitting on tribal lands. There will also be discussion of tribal involvement in permitting off-reservation sources.

There will be a pre-course module to prepare participants for the content. Instructions for the module will be sent with notice of selection for this training. Pre-registration deadline: October 18 (applications accepted until course is full). For more information go to http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_aq_caap.

CONTACT: Pat Ellsworth • 928-523-6721 • Patricia.Ellsworth@nau.edu.



The Mining Lifecycle: Tribal Engagement and Environmental Responsibility

November 2-4 in Phoenix-Gilbert, AZ.

As a follow-up to the Mining and National Environmental Policy Act 101 Training, the Nez-Perce Tribe, in conjunction with National Tribal Mining Workgroup, the EPA, and various environmental and mining experts will host “*The Mining Lifecycle: Tribal Engagement and Environmental Responsibility*” training in Phoenix-Gilbert, AZ, **November 2–3** with a mine tour **November 4**.

The training will include a variety of topics related to NEPA, compliance, engagement, and mining. For more information and to register, go to <http://www.ntmw.org/mining-lifecycle-201-training.html>.

HUD Office of Native American Programs Technical Assistance

Ongoing

The Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Native American Programs offers free specialized training and technical assistance for Tribal and Tribally Designated Housing Entity grant recipients in areas related to Indian housing programs, administration and management, development, and financing.

Tribes or TDHE’s are encouraged to formally request training and technical assistance on a particular need.

CONTACT: Lisa Stewart • lisa.stewart@hud.gov • 206-220-6166

Alaska Ocean Acidification Network “State of the Science”

November 30-December 1 in Anchorage, AK

The Alaska Ocean Acidification Network is hosting a 2-day workshop inviting a broad audience across the state interested in ocean acidification issues. Workshop goals include educating the broader Alaska community on the processes and consequences of OA, creating connections between researchers and stakeholders, and developing new ideas and partnerships to enhance monitoring and community engagement. A report on the state of the science in Alaska will be produced after the workshop, as well as a set of recommendations to help guide the Alaska OA Network.

There will be opportunities for remote participation at satellite viewing sites and via personal computer. A full list of sites will be posted soon. This workshop is free and open to the public. Please register by **November 7**. To register go to <http://bit.ly/2dLDDyU>.

CONTACT: **Darcy Dugan** • 907-644-6718 • dugan@aos.org.

Two ITEP Air Quality Training Courses for Alaska

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals is accepting applications for two separate air quality courses planned for tribes in Alaska.

Air Quality & Indoor Air Quality in Alaska Native Villages

December 6 – 9 in Kotzebue, AK

ITEP is offering this entry-level course for Alaska tribal environmental staff interested in air quality issues. The content is basic and assumes the participant has no background in science or air quality management.

The course provides an understanding of the importance of clean air (outdoors and indoors) for the protection of human health and the environment. Instructors and participants will explore ways in which Alaska Native Villages can take action to solve air quality problems, protect human health, and preserve cultural values. This course consists of lectures, demonstrations, small-group activities, and a building walk-through. There will be hands-on practice with a comprehensive assessment checklist used to identify IAQ problems.

CONTACT: **Lydia Scheer** • 928-523-6887 • Lydia.Scheer@nau.edu

Air Quality Project Planning, QAPPs, and Grants for Alaska

December 13 – 16 in Anchorage

This course is designed for environmental professionals who are responsible for managing air quality projects in Alaska Native Villages. This will be a highly interactive training. There will be presentations, small-group work, and roundtable discussion. As this is a Level 2 course, applicants should have completed one of ITEP’s Level 1 courses, such as “Introduction to Tribal Air Quality” or “Air Quality & Indoor Air Quality in Alaska Native Villages.”

CONTACT: **Pat Ellsworth** • 928-523-6721 • Patricia.Ellsworth@nau.edu

For a full list of all ITEP trainings offered: <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training>

EPA Water Quality Standards Academy

December 12 – 16 in Washington, D.C.

The EPA Office of Science and Technology is hosting a Water Quality Standards Academy on December 12-16. The training course will be held at the Washington Court Hotel and is offered free of charge, however you must apply in advance to attend. Applications are due by **October 14**. Please apply online at <http://bit.ly/WQSADEC2016>.

Space is very limited. EPA reserves the right to accept applications based on a balanced mix of participants from different types of organizations. Due to the large amount of material to be covered during the course, participants must be present at all times. Your application does not guarantee your attendance. You will be notified in writing as to whether or not your application to attend the course has been accepted. Please do not make travel arrangements until EPA confirms your attendance in writing.

For more information about the Water Quality Standards Academy, go to <http://www.epa.gov/wqs-tech/water-quality-standards-academy>.

CONTACT: **Erin Cabral** • 508-833-6600

EPA Tribal Solid Waste Peer Matching Program

The EPA has developed a new tribal solid waste management peer matching program. The program aims to strengthen tribal capacity building and develop sustainable waste management programs. The program identifies peer matches for tribes through the use of peer mentors who are working on similar issues to exchange experiences and practical knowledge with each other.

Peer mentors are tribal environmental personnel who can provide expertise and experience. Mentors volunteer to participate in the program. Please note that the peer matching program does not have funding available to cover any associated costs (i.e. travel to meet with a mentor). However, funding for travel for peer matches may be available through the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program or other programs. For details, click on the fact sheet link at <http://go.usa.gov/xDwz4>.

CONTACT: **Tonya Hawkins** • 703-308-8278 • Hawkins.tonya@epa.gov



Climate Change

Being Prepared for Climate Change: A Workbook for Developing Risk-Based Adaptation Plans

The EPA climate change adaptation workbook, *Being Prepared for Climate Change*, guides users to develop a risk-based climate change adaptation plan, consisting of a vulnerability assessment and an action plan to reduce the most pressing risks. Tribes and communities can follow the workbook steps to identify their potential climate change risks and consider adaptation options. The workbook is available at <http://go.usa.gov/xKSWp>.

EPA Fact Sheets on State-Specific Climate Change Impacts

The EPA recently released fact sheets on climate change impacts for each state. As our climate changes, every state will become warmer – but other impacts will vary by location. To view your state-specific fact sheet on potential climate change impacts, go to <https://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/impacts/state-impact-factsheets.html>.

Tribal Climate Resilience Resource Guide

A new resource guide was developed by the Climate Subgroup of the White House Council on Native American Affairs to provide federal government resources for tribes and climate in a standard framework. Tribal communities can use this guide as a “one-stop-shop” for locating integrated, federal government-wide resources relating to climate resilience. To view the resource guide, go to: <http://go.usa.gov/xkgjM>.

Climate Science Digest

Climate Science and Observations

Earth is warming at a pace ‘unprecedented in 1,000 years’ • <http://bit.ly/2d3IIA1>

Predicting the future positions of storms • <http://bit.ly/2dfc5gk>

At the Poles & in Alaska

Scientists use hunters’ knowledge to understand a warming ecosystem
<http://bit.ly/2dL8Oun>

Thaw could release Cold War-era U.S. toxic waste buried under Greenland’s ice
<http://bit.ly/2dvLvRV>

Study measures methane release from Arctic permafrost
<http://phys.org/news/2016-08-methane-arctic-permafrost.html>

Alaskan village votes to relocate over global warming
<http://www.cnn.com/2016/08/18/us/alaskan-town-votes-to-move>

Glaciers in Greenland have disappeared rapidly over the past century
<http://time.com/4447252/greenland-ice-climate-change>

NASA monitors the “new normal” sea ice • <http://go.usa.gov/xkxu3>

Warming climate expected to squeeze out Arctic bird habitat • <http://bit.ly/2e2BiyC>

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Climate Science Digest – At the Poles**Polar bears to decrease as emissions rise** • <http://bit.ly/2dsmQkD>**Impacts****Major wildfire events in the West to expose tens of millions to high levels of air pollution**<http://phys.org/news/2016-08-health-threat-wildfires-climate-west.html>**Map shows where animals will move under climate change** • <http://bit.ly/2cTKCj2>**Adaptation/Mitigation****Living shorelines improve biodiversity** • <http://bit.ly/2dNH2dD>**U.S. tribes work with scientists against climate change**<http://www.southcentralclimate.org/index.php/pages/news/289>**Climate Change Webinars, Conferences and Trainings** • For a calendar of climate change and water-related trainings, conferences, and webinars, visit <http://go.usa.gov/xg84F>.

This newsletter contains information from multiple sources including tribes, newspapers, and other sources. Any information or opinions in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the United States or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Calendar of Conferences & Events

October

- 12** Federal Interagency Committee on Indoor Air Quality public meeting and webinar **Towards Healthy Schools: Reducing Risks to Children and Well Living Lab** on indoor environmental quality. 10 a.m. Pacific Time. To register: <http://bit.ly/2dSrGHu>
- 13** **From Home to School and Back Again: Creating Safe and Healthy Environments for Children.** Webinar at 10 a.m. Pacific Time. To register: <http://bit.ly/2dfs3qM>
- 13** **Introduction to Toxics Release Inventory.** Webinar at 10 a.m. Pacific Time. Register online: <http://bit.ly/2cT7Rig>
- 14** **Neurodevelopment and Children’s Environmental Health.** Webinar at 9 a.m. Pacific Time. Registration at <http://bit.ly/2e2TVT1>
- 17 – 21** **Mountain Climate Conference,** Leavenworth, WA. Contact: info@mtnclim.org. For more information, go to <http://www.mtnclim.org>
- 18 – 21** **Natural Areas Conference,** Davis, CA. Register by **October 12.** <http://naturalareasconference.org>
- 18 – 20** **Future of Our Salmon Conference,** Portland, OR. <http://bit.ly/2aferLC>
- 18 – 20** **Indoor Air Quality in Tribal Communities – Promoting Healthy Homes,** Mt. Pleasant, MI. Patricia Ellsworth • 928-523-6721 • patricia.ellsworth@nau.edu • For more information, go to http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_air
- 19** **EPA Exchange Network FY17 Grant Solicitation.** Webinar at 10 a.m. Pacific Time. To register, go to <http://bit.ly/2d3Z7Ex>
- 19 – 21** **West Coast Climate Strategies Forum,** Westin San Diego Gaslamp Quarter, San Diego, CA. <http://www.climatestrategiesforum.org>
- 19 – 21** **2016 National Toxics Release Inventory Training Conference,** Washington, D.C. <http://go.usa.gov/xKS5J>
- 20** **Stories of Bees, Bed Bugs, and Hoarding: Indoor Air Quality and Public Health Concerns – Federal Listening Session.** Webinar at 11 a.m. Pacific Time. Call 1-800-309-2350 and use code 928-523-0526#. To register: <http://bit.ly/2dFp9in>

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October – Conferences and Workshops

- 24 – 28** **Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management**, Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, AK
907-729-3430 • <http://www.atcemak.com>
- 25** **Leveraging Resources for Brownfields Revitalization: Meet the Funders**, EPA Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization. Webinar at **10 a.m. Pacific Time**.
To register: <http://bit.ly/2bp2MgW>
- 25** **National Resources and Training Summit to Revitalize Vulnerable Communities**, Crystal City Marriott, Arlington, VA. **Holly Wilson** • 919-541-5624 • wilson.holly@epa.gov or **Dr. Marva King** • 202-360-6053 • king.marva@epa.gov
To register: <http://www.survivingtothrivingsummit.org/welcome>
- 25 – 26** **Pacific NW Pollution Prevention Resource Center’s 25th Annual Regional Roundtable**, Suquamish, WA. <http://pprc.org/index.php/2016/pprc/regional-roundtable-2016>
- 26** **State of the Science - Endocrine Disruption and Children’s Environmental Health**. Webinar at 10 a.m. Pacific Time. Hosted by Alaska Community Action on Toxics with Dr. Carol Kwiatkowski of The Endocrine Disruption Exchange (TEDX). To register: <http://bit.ly/2cTar7U>
- 31 – Nov. 3** **National Non-Point Source Training Workshop, Boston, MA.**
Kristen McQuaide • 978-349-2514 • kmcquaide@neiwppc.org

November

- 2 – 4** **The Mining Lifecycle: Tribal Engagement and Environmental Responsibility**, Phoenix, AZ.
<http://www.ntmw.org>
- 14 – 16** **Northwest Climate Conference**, Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, WA.
Kathie Dello • kdello@coas.oregonstate.edu • <http://pnwclimateconference.org>
- 29 – Dec. 2** **BIA’s 26th Annual Tribal Provider Conference**, Anchorage, AK
<http://biaprovidersconference.com>
- 29 – Dec. 2** **The Clean Air Act and Permitting**, Las Vegas, Nevada. Deadline for applications **October 18**. **Pat Ellsworth** • 928-523-6721 • Patricia.Ellsworth@nau.edu
http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_aq_caap
- 30 – Dec. 1** **Alaska Ocean Acidification Network “State of the Science” Workshop**, Anchorage, AK.
Please register by **November 7** at <http://bit.ly/2dLDDyU>.
Darcy Dugan • 907-644-6718 • dugan@aoos.org

December

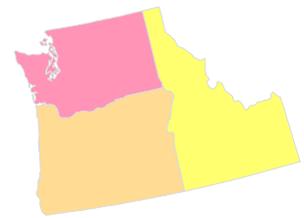
- 6 – 9** **Air Quality & Indoor Air Quality in Alaska Native Villages (Level 1 course)**, Kotzebue, AK.
Lydia Scheer • 928-523-6887 • Lydia.Scheer@nau.edu
http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_air
- 12 – 16** **Water Quality Standards Academy**, Washington D.C. **Deadline to apply October 14**.
For more information about the Water Quality Standards Academy:
<http://www.epa.gov/wqs-tech/water-quality-standards-academy>
- 13 – 16** **Air Quality Project Planning, QAPPs, and Grants for Alaska (Level 2 course)**, Anchorage, AK. **Pat Ellsworth** • 928-523-6721 • Patricia.Ellsworth@nau.edu
http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_air

For more information on EPA tribal trainings, webinars, grants and opportunities for tribal consultation, visit <http://www2.epa.gov/tribal>



Region 10 Tribal Newsletter

Vol. 25 No.9 – October 2016



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

REGION 10 TRIBAL PROGRAM

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, RAD-202

Seattle, WA 98101-3140

Got News?

The Region 10 Tribal Newsletter invites you, our readers, to submit ideas and articles for consideration and to share your successes and challenges. Photographs are also welcome as separate files in jpeg or other graphic format. Please submit articles and pictures to:

Don Creek

EPA, 805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, Oregon 97205

☎ 503-326-5015

✉ email creek.don@epa.gov

Helpful Links

R10 Tribal Programs:

<https://www.epa.gov/tribal/region-10-tribal-program>

EPA on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EPARegion10>

Follow us @EPAnorthwest on Twitter!
<https://twitter.com/EPAnorthwest>



To report environmental violation tips and complaints to the EPA: www.epa.gov/tips.

EPA Region 10

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REPORT SPILLS AND ACCIDENTS

NOTE THESE EMERGENCY NUMBERS TO CALL IN THE EVENT OF HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SPILLS OR ACCIDENTS.

ALASKA 800-478-9300

IDAHO 800-632-8000

OREGON 800-452-0311

WASHINGTON 800-258-5990

NATIONAL (EPA) 800-424-8802