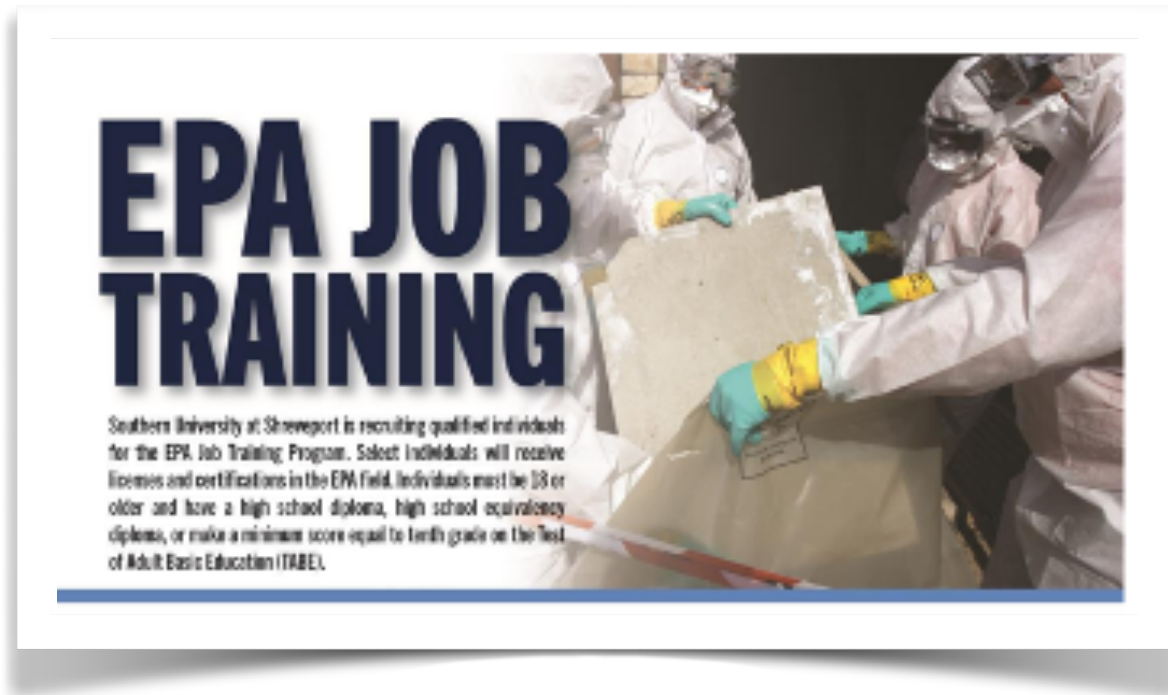


PLC Session 298 - September 13, 2023

Southern University



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1. Latest News Impacting Brownfield Job Training Programs

Back to work after summer break

With FY24 JT applications due August 2nd, and the National Brownfields Conference August 8th the PLC felt it was a good time to take a summer break. With Fall approaching, it's time to revisit program plans for the FY24 fiscal year. If you are on our PLC list, there is no need to reregister. Notices will be sent out when new sessions are announced. If you would like to invite a guest, feel free to forward this email. **Please note the new login for future PLC calls.**



New login for this cycle

To Join PLC Zoom calls, go to:

<https://eicc-edu.zoom.us/j/93456883911>

If you have ZOOM installed, you can just log in with the following:

Meeting ID: 934 5688 3911

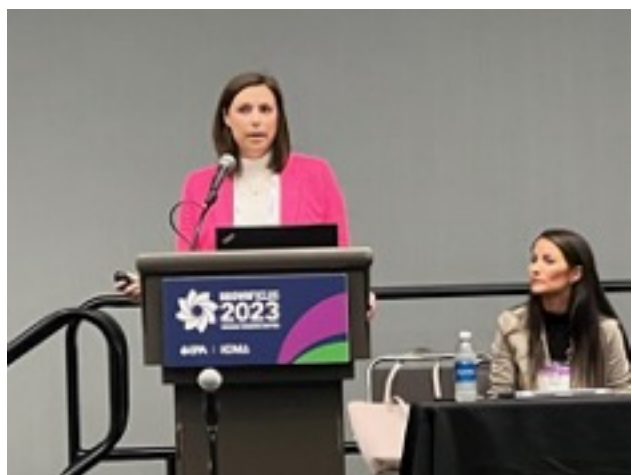
Brownfields 2023 – Detroit Michigan

Congratulations to the JT grantee presenters at this year's national conference. The National Brownfields Conference was held in Detroit, Michigan August 7-11, 2023, and was a big success. It was well attended, and several Brownfields job training grantees were presenters.

Cindy Chang from Groundworks Denver, and Michele Paul, City of New Bedford were on separate panel discussions.

Jenny Lourwood and Carmen May, City of Springfield, MO, followed by Fred Lucero of RichmondBuild, and then followed by Mileidy Soto, PathStone all gave excellent job training presentations in the same room. In a session called "*Training for the EJ Terrain*,"

[Abby Wolensky](#), Auberle, [Thomas Guentner](#), Landforce and [Gianna Rosati](#), EPA Region 3 gave an informative, and well attended presentation.



There was also an informal Brownfields Job Training Grants Office Hours session with Matt Wosje, US EPA Headquarters, several EPA Regional Coordinators, and Nolan Curtis and Steve Fenton representing HMTRI.

The HMTRI Booth in the Exhibit Hall received a lot of traffic. Many of our grantees who were attending the conference stopped by, and there was also a lot of interest from individuals who were contemplating submitting applications in the next round.



We anticipate EPA will be returning to its original schedule convening national meetings 18 months apart. The next city to host Brownfields 25 has not yet been announced.

2. Frequently Asked Questions



Question:

Our organization submitted our FY24 Brownfields Job Training Application and other than acknowledgement that the application was received, we have not heard from EPA. Should we be concerned.

Response:

No. Applicants who failed to pass application threshold requirements were notified about 30 days after August 2nd. Application due date. We are now entering what we call the “long wait”. This is the time during which applications are reviewed and

recommended for funding. Unless you hear from EPA regarding clarification of your submission, all is well. If you were notified that your application was rejected, you have 15 days to request a debriefing. Last year applications recommended for funding were posted in January. We expect a similar schedule this cycle.

Question:

Who is eligible to apply for a Brownfields Job Training Grant?

Response:

Applicants able to apply for EPA JT grant funds are defined in CERCLA Section 104(k)(1) and in 2 CFR Part 200. These documents roughly define eligible applicants as nonprofit, government, and government affiliated organizations.

Question:

We are thinking of applying in the next grant cycle. Can a nonprofit organization or eligible governmental applicant submit a joint application in partnership with a for-profit organization?

Response:

No. EPA awards Brownfields Job Training Grant funds to a single applicant. Successful applicants may contract necessary goods and services with for-profit organizations following competitive procurement procedures as required by EPA grant regulations.

Question:

What is the maximum amount of money that an applicant may be awarded?

Response:

In FY24, EPA anticipates awarding approximately 25 Brownfields Job Training Grants at a total of \$12,000,000. An eligible applicant may apply for up to \$500,000 for a five-year grant. Actual funding is dependent upon the availability of funds, quality of applications received, and other applicable considerations. EPA reserves the right to partially fund applications or make no awards at all. If this policy continues, FY25 applicants can expect a similar level of funding. 3. Last Minute Job Training Application Submission Checklist

3. Southern University at Shreveport - John Galitos

Shreveport, LA is the third largest city in [Louisiana](#) with a population of about 400,000. Located in northwest Louisiana, Shreveport became a hub for the oil and gas industry in the mid-1900s. Unfortunately, by the 1970s and continuing to the end of the century, those industries vacated Shreveport in what is called the big oil bust followed by the exit of the automobile industry. As a result, Shreveport experienced one of the highest crime rates in America compared to all communities of all sizes. One's chance of becoming a victim of either violent or property crime was 1 in 15. As the only HBCU comprehensive community college in Louisiana, Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate degrees, technical diplomas, and certificates. SUSLA previously worked on one of EPA's early a pilot programs in 2001 targeting former abandoned industrial sites resulting from the oil bust of 1980. Since then, The Southern University at Shreveport has received 4 JT grants including 2006, 2008, 2013, and 2020.

John Galitos is Dean/Associate Professor of Chemistry in the Department of Community and Workforce Development.



Target Community

The Southern University at Shreveport is targeting residents of the low-income and high unemployment Shreveport neighborhoods including

- Allendale
- Ledbetter Heights
- Lakeside
- Cedar Grove
- Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Queensborough



Program Training Goals

- Train participants in the safe handling and disposal of hazardous materials
- Expand the existing curriculum to include training for participants who are taking asbestos contractor/supervisor courses
- 40-hour HAZWOPER
- OSHA 10-hour construction industry safety
- Operations Safety including plant safety operations
- Renovation, repair, and painting
- Asbestos
- CPR/ First Aid

Graduates earn state and federal certifications

Upon completion of the program, the goal is to place a minimum of eighty-five (85%) percent of graduates

Working Partners

- Housing Authority City of Shreveport
- Shreveport Fire Academy
- Calumet Lubricants and Specialty Products-Refinery



John has provided his PowerPoint presentation (attached to these notes) and would be happy to speak in more detail about his program and share ideas regarding SUSLA and their approach to environmental job training.

John Galiotos. Dean/Associate Professor of Chemistry
Department of Community and Workforce Development
Southern University at Shreveport
jgaliotos@susla.edu

4. Funding Opportunities



EPA Seeks Applicants for 2023 Environmental Education Grants
30-40 grants nationwide
\$50,000-\$100,000 each
Application deadline November 8, 2023,

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced that up to \$3.6 million in funding for locally focused environmental education grants is now available under the 2023 Environmental Education (EE) Local Grant Program.

EPA will award grants in each of EPA's 10 Regions, between \$50,000-\$100,000 each, for a total of 30-40 grants nationwide. The program includes support for projects that reflect the intersection of environmental issues with climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, preventing future water quality and human health issues, in addition to other environmental topics.

Funded projects will increase public awareness of those topics and help participants to develop the skills needed to make informed decisions. Each of the 10 EPA Regions published a solicitation notice with their respective regional details. Applicants must apply to the Regional

NOFO that corresponds with the location of their proposed project. Through this grant program, EPA intends to provide financial support for projects that design, demonstrate, and/or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques, that will serve to increase environmental literacy and encourage behavior that will benefit the environment in local communities, especially underserved communities. This grant program recognizes underserved communities as high-poverty areas, persistent poverty counties, communities the Council on Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool identifies as disadvantaged communities, and Title I schools.

Visit the new [EPA Grants Community Library of Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) and the [EE grant FAQ](#) webpages to learn more about the current competition and the federal grant process. Find out background information on the EE Grants Program and resources for applicants on EPA's [EE Grant Homepage](#).

Applications are due on November 8, 2023, and the Notice of Funding Opportunities are now posted on www.grants.gov and the [EE Grant Solicitation Notice webpage](#).

The Office of Environmental Education will also host at least one webinar during the open solicitation period on how to write a competitive application and to address commonly asked questions. Once confirmed, webinar registration details will be available on <https://www.epa.gov/education/grants#webinar>. Stay up to date on all EE grant information, including announcements related to upcoming webinar registration, by subscribing to the [EE Grants Listserv](#).

Technical Assistance (TA) to Tribal Nations and Entities

\$4 million over a 5-year period

Application deadline November 13, 2023

This solicitation is anticipated to be \$4 million over a 5-year period of performance for one grant recipient under a cooperative agreement. The application deadline is **November 13, 2023**. The purpose of this grant is to provide specialized technical assistance to increase the capacity of Tribal governments and entities to build sustainable brownfield programs and strengthen capacity to manage successful brownfields reuse.

Please find below information on the **FY 2024 Technical Assistance to Tribal Nations and Entities Addressing Brownfields Grant** Guidelines and application resources.

- [Opportunity Notice at grants.gov](#)
- [FY 2024 Technical Assistance to Tribal Nations and Entities Addressing Brownfields Grant Guidelines \(pdf\)](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about Technical Assistance to Tribal Nations and Entities Addressing Brownfields Grant \(pdf\)](#)

EPA funds and resources that are available to all communities

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Brownfields Amendments authorize EPA to provide funding to organizations to conduct research and to provide training and technical assistance to communities to help address their brownfields challenges. Information presented at this site lists past and current technical assistance and research projects EPA funds and resources that are available to all communities.



<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-technical-assistance-and-research>

Tips for Submitting Brownfields Grant Applications Through www.grants.gov

Grants.gov is the official system for managing all federal grant applications.

All EPA grant applications are submitted online. Organizations must be registered in two government systems to apply for EPA grants. Learn the 5-step registration process when considering applying for a Brownfields JT grant. Go to the following technical assistance page.

[https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-08/](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-08/Grants.gov%20Tip%20Sheet_Aug%202023_0.pdf)

[Grants.gov%20Tip%20Sheet_Aug%202023_0.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-08/Grants.gov%20Tip%20Sheet_Aug%202023_0.pdf)

For more specific information go to:

<https://www.epa.gov/grants/how-register-apply-grants>

5. Online Zoom Calls

EPA is hosting a series of three webinars for assistance agreement (grant) applicants and recipients. During each webinar, EPA staff will review key aspects of EPA's grants processes and requirements, and you will have the opportunity to submit questions.

You must register in advance for each webinar using the links provided below:

Applying for Non-Competitive EPA Grants

Tuesday, September 19: 2:00-3:00pm ET

This webinar will cover aspects of non-competitive grants including their life cycle and some frequently asked questions (FAQs). [Register here](#)

Competition Process

Tuesday, September 26: 2:00-3:30pm ET

This webinar is intended to help grant applicants learn how to find and successfully apply for competitive EPA grants. EPA will also provide an overview of the competition process from application through evaluation and selection. [Register here](#)

EPA Grant Terms and Conditions for Fiscal Year 2024

Thursday, September 28: 12:00-1:00pm ET

This webinar is intended to help applicants and recipients navigate changes to existing Terms & Conditions as well as provide training on the new Terms & Conditions that are effective October 1, 2023. This webinar will also cover subrecipients and the consultant fee cap. [Register here](#) the consultant fee cap. [Register here](#)

Please visit and bookmark the [EPA Grants Webinars](#) page where you will find tips for preparing for EPA webinars, presentation materials, helpful resources, and webinar recordings. We also

invite you to visit and bookmark the [Community Library of Frequently Asked Questions](#) to find answers to questions about EPA grants that were asked by previous webinar participants.

For Those Who Missed EJScreen 101 Training

EPA hosted a webinar titled **EJSCREEN 101: Mapping Tools and EPA Competitive Grants**.

EJSCREEN is an environmental justice mapping and screening tool that allows users to access environmental and demographic information for locations in the United States. Anyone can use this web-based tool to access high-resolution content about environmental justice, and compare data across state, EPA region, and national locations.

This webinar provides guidance on how to use EJSCREEN effectively, as well as how to tailor its usage to specific needs, like responding to competitive grants or other organizational needs. To learn more about EJScreen, please [visit the EJSCREEN website](#) and [access the EJSCREEN webinar here](#).

Environmental Justice Meetings and National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Calls



The purpose of these calls is to inform communities about EPA's environmental justice work and enhance opportunities to maintain an open dialogue with environmental justice advocates. As environmental justice continues to be integrated into EPA programs and policies, the Agency hopes that these calls will help reaffirm EPA's continued commitment to work with community groups and the public to strengthen local environmental and human health outcomes.

September 19th. & October 17th (2 - 4 pm Eastern)
EPA environmental justice initiatives

DATE: Tuesday, September 19, 2023

TIME: 2 p.m. Eastern, 1 p.m. Central, Noon Mountain, 11 a.m. Pacific

AGENDA:

- Community focus Presentation Energy Justice Initiatives
- Water Infrastructure Planning Tool
- Regulatory Updates from the Office Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS)

Zoom link - <https://usepa.zoomgov.com/j/1608000096>

For more information and registration, go to:

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls>

Register for DOE's Justice Week 2023

The U.S. Department of Energy's **Justice Week 2023 | Equity Empowered** is a five-day hybrid event dedicated to empowering each other to move toward a more equitable, clean, and just

energy future. Join us Monday, October 30th through Friday, November 3rd to learn more. Here's what you need to know.

- Hybrid Events | Online and In-Person
- Registration is required
- Free and open to the public

To register and learn more, Go to:

https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/justice-week-2023-equity-empowered-2281589?aff=odclrmctfte&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

6. In Person Meetings and Workshops

Northeast Sustainable Communities Workshop (NSCW)

September 19-20, 2023

Worcester, MA

NSCW is the premier conference for brownfield professionals in the northeast. Brownfield Coalition of the Northeast (BCONE) are looking for professionals from throughout the region to share their experiences, best practices, and innovative ideas on ways to revitalize contaminated or underused properties. Their 2023 theme is "Reimagining Brownfields: Strategies for Successful Redevelopment."

[For more information visit the conference website.](#)

California Land Recycling Conference

September 26 - 28, 2023 | Carson, CA

The EPA Region 9 and the [CA Department of Toxic Substances Control's \(DTSC\) Office of Brownfields](#) in collaboration with the [Center for Creative Land Recycling \(CCLR\)](#) are excited to announce the continuation of the California Land Recycling Conference (CALRC). CALRC is the premier event for community, municipal, and redevelopment professionals focused on the beneficial reuse of underutilized and contaminated properties. With unprecedented resources to address brownfield cleanup and reuse challenges, Join us for the 4th annual CALRC on September 26-28, 2023, at the Carson Event Center in Carson, CA.

[Click Here to Register](#)

2023 LOUISIANA BROWNFIELD CONFERENCE

October 25-26, 2023

Alexandria, LA

Save the date for the 2023 Louisiana Brownfield Conference, October 25-26, 2023, at the Convention Hall in Alexandria, LA. To register, please click [here](#). For hotel accommodations, please click [here](#).

The Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference

Save the Date

March 25-27, 2024

Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College, PA

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Land Recycling Program is pleased to partner once again with the Engineer Society of Western Pennsylvania in presenting the 2024 Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference.

More details coming soon.

7. Technical Assistance Resources

New Resource: EPA Grants Community Library of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment is excited to announce a new tool for grant applicants and recipients! The [Community Library of Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) is a comprehensive resource based on questions asked by participants of EPA's grants webinars. Use the library to quickly find answers to questions about applying for grants, executing grants, and complying with EPA grants policies and requirements. In many cases, the answers provide links to more details and additional training materials.

You can filter questions by topic (for example, Budget, Certification and Compliance, Drawdowns, among others) or use the search control to find questions based on a keyword. The library of FAQs will be updated with new questions and answers as EPA grants webinars are held. If you have questions or feedback regarding the Community Library of FAQs or EPA grants, please send an email to EPA_Grants_Info@epa.gov.

Training from EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment

EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment periodically hosts webinars for the EPA grants community. EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment is pleased to announce the availability of several new and updated training resources for grant applicants and recipients.

If you are interested in applying for EPA grants or are currently managing an EPA grant, please consider visiting one of these sites.

- NEW— Learn how to [Register in SAM.gov and Grants.gov](#) to apply for EPA grants. This webpage will help you register your organization in SAM.gov, create an applicant profile in Grants.gov, and get familiar with using Workspace.
- The [How to Develop a Budget training](#) was recently updated. This course will help you prepare work plans, budgets, and budget narratives for EPA grants.
- The [EPA Grants Management Training for Applicants and Recipients](#) course introduces key aspects of the grant life cycle starting with preparing an application through closing out a grant. The six modules can be completed individually.

Additional webinars or completed webinars with recordings and PowerPoints are available at the following sites:

[Competition Process](#)

This webinar is intended for help grant applicants learn how to find and successfully apply for competitive EPA grants. EPA will also provide an overview of the competition process from application through evaluation and selection.

[Training for EPA Pass-Through Grant Applicants, Recipients, and Subrecipients](#)

This training is intended for EPA grant applicants and recipients that plan to use EPA funding to provide grants to other entities through “sub-awards.” This type of EPA grant recipient is considered a pass-through entity because the goal of the grant is to further award EPA funds. This training will focus on:

- Oversight responsibilities of EPA pass-through entities
- Federal regulations that govern pass-through entities and the recipients of sub-awards (sub-recipients)
- EPA’s specific requirements for sub-recipients

EPA pass-through entities are encouraged to share this training information with their sub-recipients.

8. Contact EPA Regional Coordinators

Regional Coordinators are the first place to go regarding questions about BJT grants, extensions, budgets, or work plans. Many Regions maintain a Listserv for past, current, and potential recipients.

EPA Region 1 CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT William “Bill” Lariviere Phone: (617) 918-1231 E-mail: lariviere.william@epa.gov	EPA Region 2 NJ, NY, PR, VI Schenine Mitchell Phone: (212) 637-3283 E-mail: mitchell.schenine@epa.gov
EPA Region 3 DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV Gianna Rosati Phone: (215) 814-3406 E-mail: Rosati.Gianna@epa.gov	EPA Region 4 AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN Olga Perry Phone: (404) 562-8534 E-mail: perry.olga@epa.gov
EPA Region 5 IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI Linda Morgan Phone: (312) 886-4747 E-mail: morgan.linda@epa.gov	EPA Region 6 AR, LA, NM, OK, TX Rita Ware Phone: (214) 665-3163 E-mail: ware.rita@epa.gov Emily Jimenez Phone: (214) 665-2176 e-mail: jimenez.emily@epa.gov
EPA Region 7 IA, KS, MO, NE Alma Moreno Lahm Phone: (913) 551-7380 E-mail: moreno-lahm.alma@epa.gov	EPA Region 8 CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY Christine Michaud-Tilly Phone: (303) 312-6706 E-mail: MichaudTilly.Christine@epa.gov

EPA Region 9

AZ, CA, HI, NV, AS, GU

Amanda Pease

Phone: (415) 972-3068

E-mail: pease.amanda@epa.gov

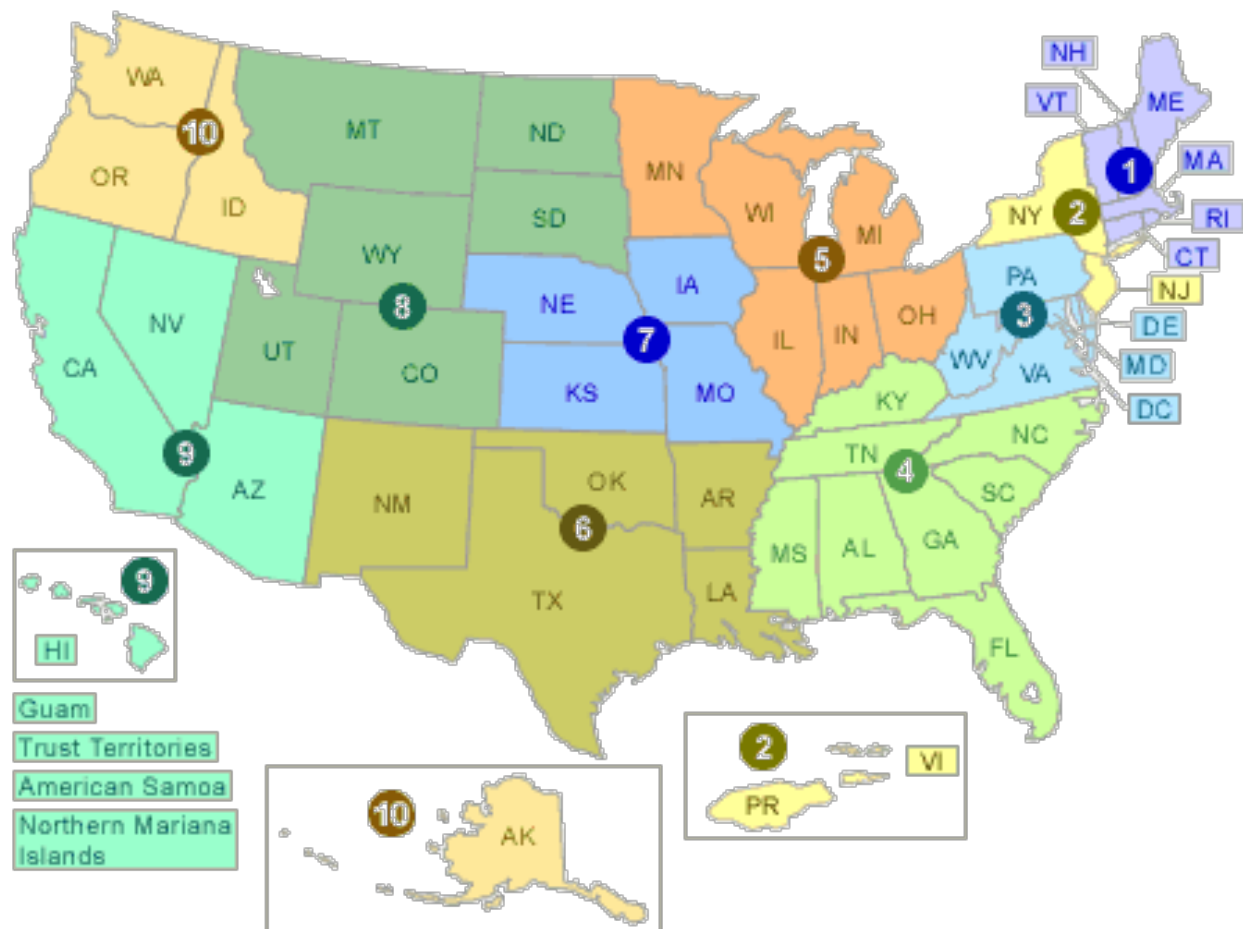
EPA Region 10

AK, ID, OR, WA

Angel Ip

Phone: (206) 553-1673

E-mail: ip.angel@epa.gov



9. Join us for the next Professional Learning Community Call September 27th

Join a conversation with EPA Brownfields Job Training grant recipients, alumni, and interested stakeholders. PLCs are scheduled on Wednesdays, same time.

Please note the new PLC Zoom link.

New login for this cycle

To Join PLC Zoom calls, go to:

<https://eicc-edu.zoom.us/j/93456883911>

If you have ZOOM installed, you can just log in with the following:

Meeting ID: 934 5688 3911

The objective of the (PLC) is to promote and share innovative strategies among those interested in establishing community based environmental job training programs. Our sessions allow participants to stay in touch with BJT happenings, ask questions, showcase their programs, and help others. The Environmental Workforce PLC is open to all and there is no cost or obligation to attend. Join us when you can. If you would like to invite a guest, feel free to forward this email.

Send comments to:

Mike at:

msenew@gmail.com/

PLC notes presented represent individual opinions and ideas from Professional Learning Community participants and BJT recipients. They do not represent EPA policy, guidance or opinions and should not be taken as such.



The Brownfields Training PLC is sponsored under Cooperative Agreement with The US Environmental Protection Agency in association with the Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI), part of the Eastern Iowa Community Colleges (EICC).

