

## PLC Session 300 - October 11, 2023

# Moving Forward



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## 1. Moving Forward - An Open Discussion

### Thank You...

Steve, Nolan, and I would like to thank you for giving us an opportunity to collectively seek ways to initiate and deliver Brownfields Job training programs supported by EPA's Land Revitalization Program. For over 25 years HMTRI has assembled large and small groups to discuss issues and strategies that may help to improve employment opportunities for community residents. With over 400 grants, training over 20,000 residents facing significant barriers to employment, Brownfields Job training Grantees have contributed greatly to the communities in which they work. HMTRI has been privileged to be associated in a small way with the hard work of Job Training programs. Thank you for the many compliments and condolences expressed during the last week.



For those who have not been informed of recent developments regarding HMTRI's participation in technical assistance to Brownfields Job training Grantees, we have attached a letter of explanation.

*We make this announcement with profound regret...*

**Effective October 15, 2023, Eastern Iowa Community Colleges (EICC) will no longer manage the EPA Brownfields Job Training Technical Assistance Cooperative Agreement grant.**

This decision and attendant circumstances are outside of our control. As such, we will not be able to continue with professional technical support services to you, the EPA BJT Grantees. Although efforts to continue our program and services are ongoing, we feel it appropriate to communicate our program status to you as we now know it.

*We can only share with you our disappointment at this outcome after more than 30 years of service.*

Our final Professional Learning Community (PLC) zoom call will be held on Wednesday, October 11. After which time the program will be on hiatus. We anticipate that all HMTRI Brownfields-Toolbox.org documents, services, and activities (including the web site) will be unavailable after Friday, October 13. Going forward, BJT grantees and potential applicants are encouraged to work with your EPA Regional Job Training Coordinator to resolve any questions or issues that may arise.

We are deeply appreciative of the support and confidence placed in us over many years by US EPA, EICC, and most of all, all of you. We encourage you to continue your important work unabated and to continue to network with and support each other.

Mike, Steve, and I are hopeful that we may be able to offer our services in the future and have communicated that desire to US EPA.

**It has been our distinct honor and pleasure to work with each of you.**

Mike Senew, Steve Fenton, and Nolan Curtis  
HMTRI Consultants

## 2. Online Events

### Next Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call

October 17<sup>th</sup> and November 21<sup>st</sup> (2 - 4 pm Eastern)

#### EPA Environmental Justice Initiatives



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.

For more information and registration, go to:

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

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### 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=odclrlmctfte&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/justice-week-2023-equity-empowered-2281589?aff=odclrlmctfte&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

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### EPA Grants Procurement, Subawards, and Participant Support Costs Webinar

EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment is pleased to confirm that materials from the EPA Procurement, Subawards, and Participant Support Costs Webinar held on June 27, 2023, are now available on the [EPA Grants Procurement, Subawards, and Participant Support Costs Webinar webpage](#):

- Recording of the webinar with closed captions
- Helpful web links from the presentation
- A list of Questions & Answers based on questions submitted by attendees during the webinar
- Presentation slides in PDF format

If you have questions about the posted materials or need more information on EPA's grants award process, please email [EPA\\_Grants\\_Info@epa.gov](mailto:EPA_Grants_Info@epa.gov).

Thank you for your interest in EPA's grants programs.

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## EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment Webinars

EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment periodically hosts webinars for the EPA grants community. If you are interested in applying for EPA grants or are currently managing an EPA grant, please consider attending one of these webinars. [Subscribe to the EPA Grants Update Listserv](#) to receive updates about these webinars.

EPA recently hosted a series of three webinars for assistance agreement (grant) applicants and recipients. During each webinar, EPA staff reviewed key aspects of EPA's grants processes and requirements. 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.

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## 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](#).

## 3. In Person Meetings and Workshops

### 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](#).

## **GBA Presents:**

### **PFAS and Brownfields – EPA Regulatory Update and PFAS Groundwater Case Study**

**Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023**

**Atlanta, GA**

Join us virtually, from the comfort of your computer or phone to hear from EPA and industry leaders involved with the future of PFAS in Georgia during GBA's Fall event, "PFAS and Brownfields – EPA Regulatory Update and PFAS Groundwater Case Study."

- Heather Friedman – GBA President + Partner, Morris, Manning & Martin
- Aaryn Jones, EPA PFAS Coordinator for Region IV
- Tim Goist - WSP PFAS groundwater case study
- 4 pm - 6 pm WSP Chamblee, [3340 Peachtree Rd #2400, Atlanta, GA 30326](#)
- 6 pm - 8 pm Hopstix, [3404 Pierce Drive NE, Chamblee 30341](#)

**Registration:** Free for 2023 GBA members /\$20 nonmembers / \$10 govt. & students

[Register Now!](#)

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## **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.

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## **4. 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](http://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](#).

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## 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 \(pdf\)](#)

## Grants to Create Career Opportunities in the Water Workforce

**Applications must be received by EPA by November 17, 2023**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing the availability of over \$20 million in grant funding to support training for workers who protect and treat our nation's drinking water and provide critical wastewater services. Through the Innovative Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Grant program, EPA will support training and career opportunities in the water sector. With the Biden-Harris Administration's historic investment in water infrastructure, growing and sustaining the water sector workforce is more important than ever for ensuring clean and safe water for generations to come.

The focus of the Innovative Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Grant program is to build a strong pool of skilled and diverse workers in the water and wastewater utilities sector. This grant program supports collaboration among federal, state, and local governments and institutions of higher education, apprentice programs, labor organizations, high schools, and other community-based organizations to provide access to workforce opportunities and build career pipelines in the water sector

Applications must be received by EPA by November 17, 2023.

[Learn more about the Innovative Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Grant program.](#)

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## Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$10 Million to Expand Access to Clean Energy Workforce Training Programs



The Department of Energy (DOE) is now accepting applications for competitive funding to expand energy efficiency workforce training programs. Authorized by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Career Skills Training program will provide up to \$10 million in competitive grants for nonprofit partnerships

between public or private industry and labor organizations to deliver programs that provide both energy efficiency classroom instruction and on-the-job training. For more information.

<https://www.energy.gov/articles/biden-harris-administration-announces-10-million-expand-access-clean-energy-workforce>

## 5. Technical Assistance Resources

### **Technical assistance for trainers offered by the National Partnership for Environmental Technology Education (NPETE) and the Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training (CCCHST)**

As noted in previous PLC's, the National Partnership for Environmental Technology Education and the Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training offer training to eligible Brownfields Job Training grantees.

The first training program is Disaster Site Response Training for trainers that will occur at Indian River State College in Florida and will be held in January.

The second is a Train-the-Trainer two-week program broken up into two parts. The first session is held in Kansas (in April) and is the Spill Response course. The second part of this program is held in Bettendorf, Iowa in May.

#### **Part 1**

##### **Disaster Site Response for Trainers Institute**

**January 8-12, 2024**

**Indian River State College – Treasure Coast Public Safety Training Complex,  
Ft. Pierce, FL**

Register online now at [www.nationalpete.org](http://www.nationalpete.org)

#### **Part 2**

##### **The IBSMART 2.5 Day Institute for Spill Response Training**

**April 24-26, 2024**

**Institute for Basic Spill Management and Response Training (IBSMART)  
Barton CCC, Junction City, KS**

During this “Pilot” Program Instructors are prepared through a 2.5-day Program called the Institute for Basic Spill Management and Response Training (IBSMART) to deliver required certifications for public and private responders and workers including:

- 24 hr. Industrial Emergency Response
- Spill Response

Instructors use CCCHST curriculum to train workers and responders in their local area and report to NPETE the number of courses they provide, for which they may be provided a small reimbursement. NPETE reports these numbers to NIEHS. CCCHST members may charge for the courses offered in their local area. Instructors reporting numbers must return every two years for Instructor Refresher training offered either at live conferences or through NPETE StayFreshers via zoom.

18 scholarships covering travel, tuition, lodging and Per Diem are available from NPETE. Electronic Applications are available on our website at [www.nationalpete.org](http://www.nationalpete.org)

A complete on-line application package is due by **due January 28, 2024**

**For more information contact: Hilary Kessler, Office Manager NPETE  
at [hkessler@nationalpete.org](mailto:hkessler@nationalpete.org)**

**To Register please go to [www.nationalpete.org](http://www.nationalpete.org)**

This program is supported with funding from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) – Worker Training Program.



## **Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training (CCCHST) offers trainer certifications open to Brownfields Job Training grantees.**

### **5.5 Day NPETE GreatEST Institute**

#### **OSHA Health & Safety Instructor Training**

#### **Waste Site Cleanup Train the Trainer**

**May 13-18, 2024**

**Scott CC, Bettendorf, IA**

The GreatEST Institute

The Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training (CCCHST)

GreatEST – Waste Site Cleanup Train the Trainer

Instructors are prepared through a 5.5-day Train-the-Trainer Program called the GreatEST Institute (Great Environmental Safety Training Institute) to deliver required certifications for public and private responders and workers including:

- 40-hour Waste Site Worker Health and Safety
- Confined Space Non-Entry Rescue
- Hazard Awareness and Communication

Instructors use CCCHST curriculum to train workers and responders in their local area and report to NPETE the number of courses they provide, for which they may be provided a small reimbursement. NPETE reports these numbers to NIEHS. CCCHST members may charge for the courses offered in their local area. Instructors reporting numbers must return every two years for Instructor Refresher training offered either at live conferences or through NPETE StayFreshers via Zoom.

24 scholarships covering travel, tuition, lodging, and Per Diem are available from NPETE. Electronic Applications are available on our website at [www.nationalpete.org](http://www.nationalpete.org)

Completed application packages are due February 28, 2024

For more information contact: Hilary Kessler, Office Manager NPETE at

[hkessler@nationalpete.org](mailto:hkessler@nationalpete.org)

To Register please go to [www.nationalpete.org](http://www.nationalpete.org)

This program is supported with funding from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) – Worker Training Program.

### **Training from EPA 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 “subawards.” 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 subawards (subrecipients)
- EPA’s specific requirements for subrecipients
- EPA pass-through entities are encouraged to share this training information with their subrecipients.

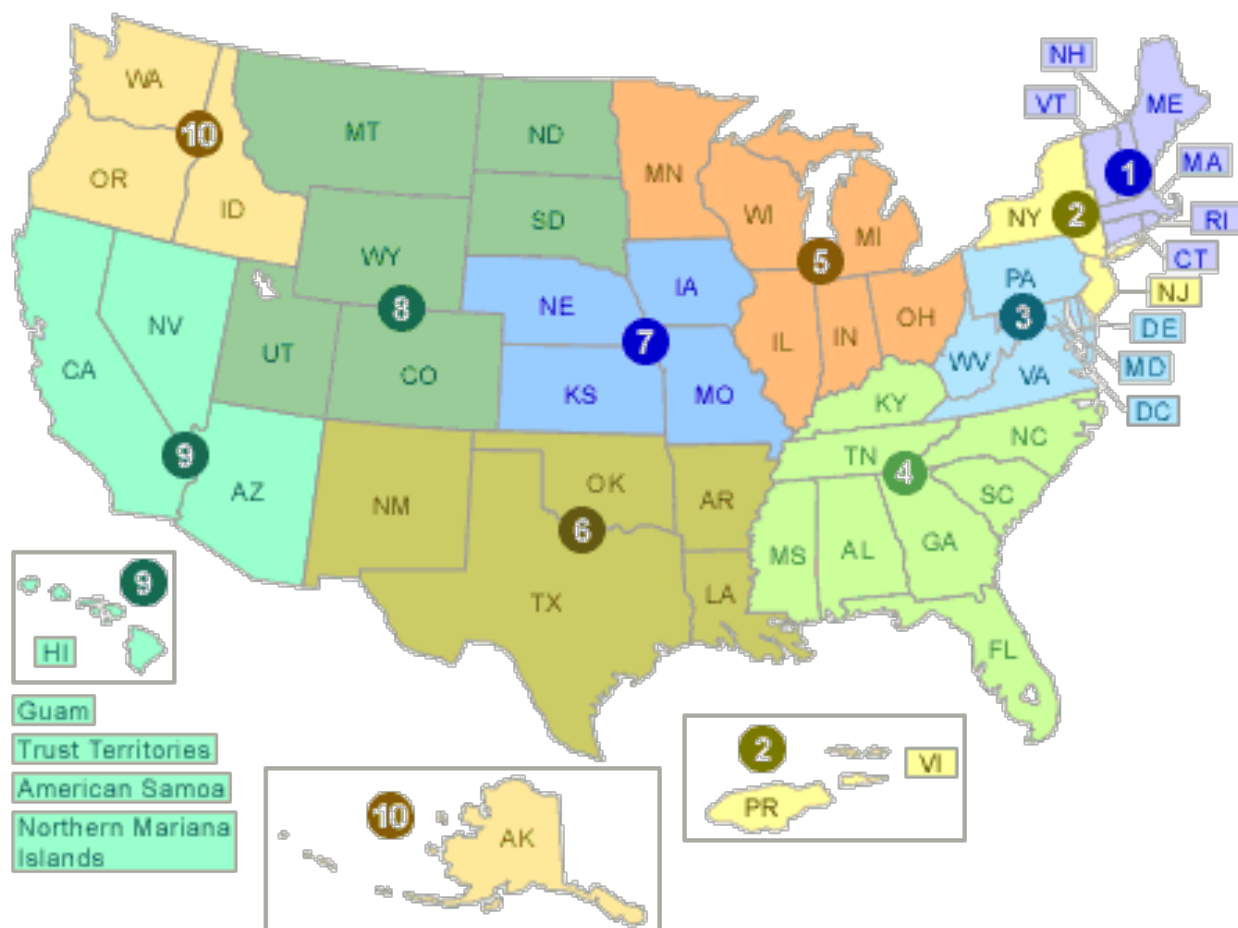
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## **8. Contact EPA Regional Coordinators**

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.

<b>EPA Region 1</b> CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT <b>William “Bill” Lariviere</b> Phone: (617) 918-1231 E-mail: <a href="mailto:lariviere.william@epa.gov">lariviere.william@epa.gov</a>	<b>EPA Region 2</b> NJ, NY, PR, VI <b>Schenine Mitchell</b> Phone: (212) 637-3283 E-mail: <a href="mailto:mitchell.schenine@epa.gov">mitchell.schenine@epa.gov</a>
<b>EPA Region 3</b> DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV <b>Gianna Rosati</b> Phone: (215) 814-3406 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Rosati.Gianna@epa.gov">Rosati.Gianna@epa.gov</a>	<b>EPA Region 4</b> AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN <b>Olga Perry</b> Phone: (404) 562-8534 E-mail: <a href="mailto:perry.olga@epa.gov">perry.olga@epa.gov</a>

<p><b>EPA Region 5</b> IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI</p> <p><b>Linda Morgan</b> Phone: (312) 886-4747 E-mail: <a href="mailto:morgan.linda@epa.gov">morgan.linda@epa.gov</a></p>	<p><b>EPA Region 6</b> AR, LA, NM, OK, TX</p> <p><b>Rita Ware</b> Phone: (214) 665-3163 E-mail: <a href="mailto:ware.rita@epa.gov">ware.rita@epa.gov</a></p> <p><b>Emily Jimenez</b> Phone: (214) 665-2176 e-mail: <a href="mailto:jimenez.emily@epa.gov">jimenez.emily@epa.gov</a></p>
<p><b>EPA Region 7</b> IA, KS, MO, NE</p> <p><b>Alma Moreno Lahm</b> Phone: (913) 551-7380 E-mail: <a href="mailto:moreno-lahm.alma@epa.gov">moreno-lahm.alma@epa.gov</a></p>	<p><b>EPA Region 8</b> CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY</p> <p><b>Christine Michaud-Tilly</b> Phone: (303) 312-6706 E-mail: <a href="mailto:MichaudTilly.Christine@epa.gov">MichaudTilly.Christine@epa.gov</a></p>
<p><b>EPA Region 9</b> AZ, CA, HI, NV, AS, GU</p> <p><b>Amanda Pease</b> Phone: (415) 972-3068 E-mail: <a href="mailto:pease.amanda@epa.gov">pease.amanda@epa.gov</a></p>	<p><b>EPA Region 10</b> AK, ID, OR, WA</p> <p><b>Angel Ip</b> Phone: (206) 553-1673 E-mail: <a href="mailto:ip.angel@epa.gov">ip.angel@epa.gov</a></p>





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*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.*



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