

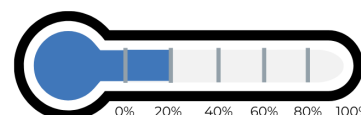
GAP Innovations and Investments

The [Indian Environmental General Assistance Program](#) (GAP) is EPA's largest capacity-building program for Tribal governments. GAP helps Tribes and intertribal consortia:

- build capacity to implement EPA statutory programs, and
- administer a solid and hazardous waste programs.

This report provides:

- an analysis of the first year of data collected in the GAP Hub performance management application, which is limited to 20% of total Tribal GAP data, and
- an overview of the EPA American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) recent GAP innovations.

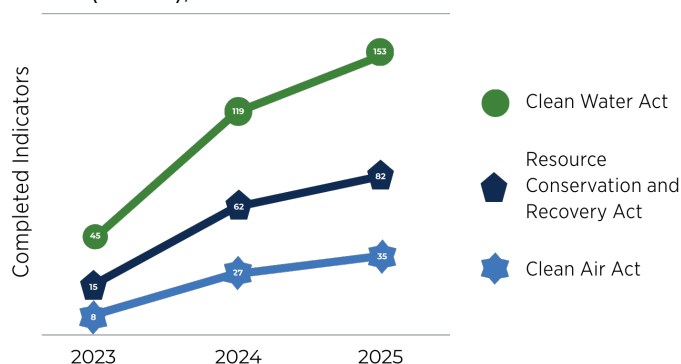


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Capacity Building with GAP: Overview

Where are Tribes Building Capacity with GAP?

- **Tribes are leveraging GAP** to strengthen their environmental programs—especially in key statutory areas: Clean Water Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and Clean Air Act.



- **Tribes most often leverage GAP funds for water quality monitoring:** The top use of GAP funding is with EPA's Clean Water Act Section 106 grants.
- **Regulatory ambition is growing:** 43 Tribes plan to use GAP to pursue Tribal assumption of 57 regulatory programs.

GAP Hub Shows Capacity Building Progress

Clean Water Act:

- 18 Tribes are in the process of establishing a water quality monitoring program
- 22 Tribes are planning to apply for program delegation, authorization, or approval related to a Tribal water quality standards program

RCRA:

- 28 Tribes are in the process of establishing a waste minimization program, and 29 Tribes are now planning a program
- 21 Tribes are planning to prepare a Tribally approved Integrated Waste Management Plan

Clean Air Act:

- 18 Tribes are in the process of establishing an air quality monitoring program

Solid Waste Results with GAP: An Example



The Chalkyitsik Alaskan Native Village utilized GAP to remove 60,000lbs of waste from their landfill. Over four years of hard work and backhaul, their landfill inspection scores went from 15% to 76%. Their successful efforts inspired community clean up events, community and council training, a new landfill, and creation of a recycling center.

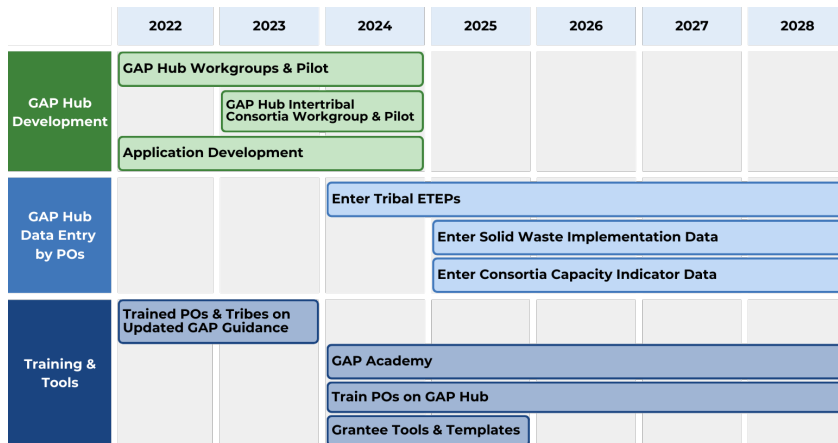
Investments in Efficient and Effective Program Delivery

In 2024/2025, AIEO continued our initiative to streamline GAP program management with **better data collection tools, improved guidance, and training** for EPA staff, applicants, and grantees.

Drivers of Innovation:

- AIEO issued **updated GAP Guidance** to increase flexibility for Tribes and improve GAP program management.
- AIEO began to develop the **GAP Hub performance management application** in 2022 as a nationally consistent way to track and evaluate effectiveness.

Program Innovation Timeline



Innovation Milestones:

- New [GAP Guidance](#)
- [GAP Capacity Indicators](#)
- Launch of [GAP Hub](#) in 2024
- Tribally Developed Indicator Submission [Form](#)
- [Supplemental Guidance](#) on Solid Waste Reporting
- First [GAP Academy](#) Training at Tribal Lands and Environment Forum (TLEF)
- ETEP/Work Plan [Template](#)
- [Solid Waste Data Entry Tool](#)

GAP Hub: A Powerful Tool for Analyzing GAP's Effectiveness

The GAP Hub performance management application uses existing data from work plans, progress reports, and EPA-Tribal Environmental Plans (ETEPs) to help AIEO:

- Evaluate how well GAP is fulfilling its statutory purpose
- Track how GAP is used to complete solid waste service delivery activities
- Identify where Tribes are planning and building capacity in environmental programs
- Identify how and where EPA can assist

How GAP Hub Tracks Tribal Capacity Building

What GAP Hub tracks

100

capacity indicators related to 10 different statutes from which Tribes can select and place in their ETEP

ETEPs tracked

110

to date

ETEPs tracked

500

by 2028

Rate of data entry

100

ETEPs per year

By the Numbers



510 Tribal and Intertribal Consortia Grants were awarded in FY 2024



32% of FY24 grantees combined GAP funds with one or more eligible programs in Performance Partnership Grants



69 intergovernmental agreements have been or will be established with GAP funds