



Welcome to Full Circle Newsletter

■ **Over 500 Attendees at the 2015 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum!**

The 2015 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum: A National Conversation on Tribal Land and Water Resources took place in Minneapolis August 17-20. This was the fifth TLEF and over 500 attendees from over 150 tribes from across the country, as well as federal employees from the US EPA, FEMA, USGS, Army Corps of Engineers, US Coast Guard, and others, were present.

We were very excited to feature, for the first time, a variety of breakout sessions and trainings focused on tribal water programs and resources. We've heard from many of you that you really found the cross-program discussions and information sharing to be a very positive aspect of this year's TLEF.

Attendees were able to take advantage of over 60 breakout sessions and 12 special trainings. Plus, there were multiple field trips including visits to the Bruce Vento Nature Preserve, Reilly Superfund site, the Shakopee Sioux community's compost facility and a UST site, and several restoration projects being conducted by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.



We were exceptionally pleased to have so many honored guests at the opening plenary. Jim Rock sang a Dakota welcoming song at the beginning which was greatly appreciated by the attendees, and a local tribal color guard presented the colors. Our opening plenary panel discussion featured members of the TWRAP Steering Committee and National Tribal Water Council, as well as senior US EPA staff from several offices. During our closing plenary music was provided by the Timber Trails drum group and numerous beautiful gifts, donated from tribes across the nation, were raffled off.

Meet Our Staff:

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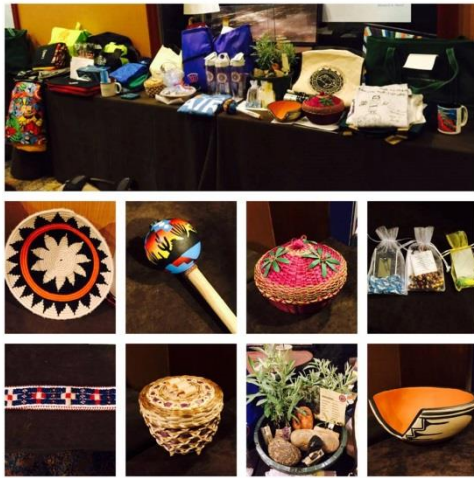
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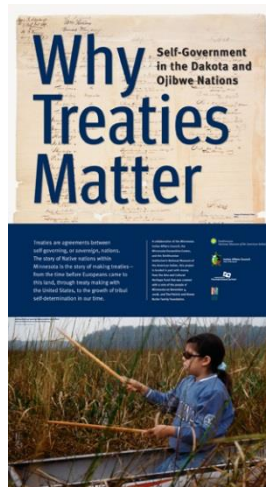
■ ***Full Circle Network***
Did someone forward this newsletter to you? Send an email to Todd Barnell to subscribe or unsubscribe to the newsletter. Archived issues can be found at: www4.nau.edu/itep/waste



The staff at the Hyatt Regency, where the TLEF was held, also provided our attendees with a special treat. They organized a competition, where attendees were invited to transform waste they found into works of art. The competition was fierce and the art produced was all absolutely wonderful!



Our vendor and exhibitor area was completely filled and well visited throughout the TLEF. We were also fortunate to host the exceptional “Why Treaties Matter” exhibit, which told the story of the 11 Minnesota tribes and proved to be a big hit with the attendees.



We at ITEP want to thank all of the presenters, moderators, exhibitors who made this year's TLEF such a wonderful experience. We look forward to seeing you all again next year!

■ ITEP's On-Site Mentoring Program: Helping the Havasupai with Composting

ITEP's on-site mentoring program for tribal professionals working on waste diversion and source reduction is off to a great start! Funded by the USDA, this special program offers tribal professionals the opportunity to visit other tribes, or work with technical experts, so they can advance their own, community-specific, waste diversion programs.

Recently we worked with the Havasupai Tribe, located eight miles in the Grand Canyon. Dealing with solid waste is an extremely complicated, and expensive, challenge for them as all waste must be hauled out by helicopter or on horses. Since a significant portion of their waste stream is composed of food waste they are interested in developing a comprehensive composting program for their community.

Under our program we were able to arrange for tours of composting sites for the tribe's solid waste manager, and also send a composting expert down to their community. Patrick Pfeifer, of Roots Composting Inc. visited the Havasupai over a few days, meeting with community members and solid waste professionals. He held workshops, reviewed their plans, and suggested various approaches that would work for them.



We will be offering more on-site mentoring opportunities in 2016 for tribal solid waste

professionals interested in creating waste diversion and source reduction projects. If you are interested in being considered for this special program, please contact Todd Barnell at todd.barnell@nau.edu or Julie Jurkowski at julie.jurkowski@nau.edu for an application.

■ The Second Navajo Nation Cohort Graduates from the Environmental Workforce Development Program

The Navajo Nation Environmental Workforce Development (NNEWD) program, a cohort-based environmental job training program, celebrated student success at a completion ceremony May 15, 2015, at the Twin Arrows Casino near Flagstaff, Arizona. Surrounded by family, friends and guest speakers, the participants were recognized for completing four weeks of intense study in preparation for environmental cleanup and related jobs. Participants completed the OSHA 40-Hour HAZWOPER, Radiological Technician, and OSHA 30-Hour Construction Safety courses, and received additional training in occupation safety, environmental cleanup standards, hazard materials safe handling, and soft skills development. The graduation also included remarks from David Yogi, Manager of Community Involvement Section, Superfund Division (US EPA Region 9) and Navajo Nation Tribal Council Delegate, Walter Phelps. Two participant speakers shared and highlighted their training experiences and employment goals with their peers and members of the audience. At the end of the ceremony the participants were awarded their training certificates.

The NNEWD program is funded by a grant from the US EPA under a three-year (2013-2016) cooperative agreement.



■ Resources of Interest

Tribal Consultation Opportunity on USEPA's Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes: DRAFT Guidance for Discussing Tribal Treaty Rights

A series of special calls are coming up regarding consultation on the USEPA's draft "Guidance for Discussing Tribal Treaty Rights. The schedule for these calls is:

- September 8, 2:00 – 3:30 pm Eastern: Consultation call open to tribal leaders and consultation officials. Call in number: 1-866-299-3188; Access Code: 2025646633#
- September 22, 2:00 – 3:30 pm Eastern: Consultation Call open to tribal leaders and consultation officials. Call in number: 1-866-299-3188; Access Code: 2025646633#
- October 6, 2:00 – 3:30 pm Eastern: Consultation Call open to tribal leaders and consultation officials. Call in number: 1-866-299-3188; Access Code: 2025646633#

If you are interested in submitting comments, you can do so online via TCOTS by visiting <http://epa.gov/tribal/consultation/comments-ttr.htm> or mailing them directly to Jeff Besougloff US EPA American Indian Environmental Office (2690R) 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington DC 20460

Tribal P2 Webinar Coming Up!

Tribal P2 will be holding a special webinar on Safer Products for Facilities in your Community. Participants in this webinar will learn about unsafe product chemicals, the Safer Choice program, and how to choose safer products for yourself and your community. This special webinar is being co-sponsored by the National Tribal Toxics Council.

The webinar will take place **September 9, 2015, at 11:00 am MDT**. To register please visit:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2606331109614189825>

Roundtable Discussion on Environmental Impact and Tribal Superfund Site

The Rocky Mountain Tribal Leader Council and Coalition of Large Tribes is sponsoring a special roundtable discussion on tribal Superfund sites and their environmental impacts September 23-24, 2015 in Fort Hall, Idaho. For more information, or to register for this event, please contact Ms. Randy'L Teton, Public Affairs Manager, at rteton@sbtribes.com or 208-478-3818.



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➔ [**Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program \(TWRAP\)**](#)

TWRAP is a program focused on assisting tribes with all waste management, brownfields, USTs, contaminated sites, and response programs. This program is funded by the USEPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.

➔ [**Tribal Solid Waste Education and Assistance Program \(TSWEAP\)**](#)

TSWEAP's focus is providing training and assistance to tribes working on solid and hazardous waste management.

➔ [**National Tribal Toxics Council \(NTTC\)**](#)

The NTTC is a USEPA Tribal Partnership Group that is focused on providing Tribes with an opportunity for greater input on issues related to toxic chemicals and pollution prevention.

➔ [**Navajo Nation Environmental Workforce Development Program \(NNEWDP\)**](#)

The NNEWDP provides training to members of the Navajo Nation so they may secure employment in the fields of environmental cleanup and remediation.