



FULL CIRCLE

Waste Management & Tribal Response



Newsletter for Tribes

Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals



NORTHERN ARIZONA
UNIVERSITY

Tribal Solid Waste Education and Assistance Program
Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program
Navajo Nation Environmental Workforce Development Program
November/December 2015 Vol. 7, Issue 6

Welcome to Full Circle Newsletter



■ 2016 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum: August 15-18, 2016 at the Mohegan Sun Resort

We have just completed our site selection process for the 2016 TLEF. Next year's forum will be held August 15 through 18, at the Mohegan Sun Resort in Connecticut, which is owned by the Mohegan Tribe. Keep your eyes on your inbox, as we will be going live with our TLEF website in January, where you can register online, submit session proposals, learn more about the facility, and start planning your travel. We look forward to seeing you next August!

■ ITEP's On-Site Mentoring Program: The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Visits the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

Recently we completed our third on-site mentoring project for tribes interested in developing waste diversion programs. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians submitted an application to our on-site mentoring program earlier this year. They are very interested in developing a wide range of projects to divert waste and initiate sustainable practices across Tribal operations. Chris Manzano, from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, was paired with Simeon Matthews, the Industrial Hygienist at Shakopee. ITEP has had the good fortune to

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work in the past with Mr. Matthews and other staff at the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, and we knew they have initiated a whole host of exceptional projects – at both Tribal offices and Tribal businesses – to reduce waste, increase energy efficiency, and create a more sustainable approach to their overall operations.

As part of this USDA-funded project, Mr. Manzano spent a few days at Shakopee, touring different offices, business, and facilities. Mr. Manzano said, “I definitely gained knowledge and received new ideas to help manage our solid waste better.” In his post-visit report Mr. Manzano identified many new ideas he wants to explore for his tribe. For example, he was able to see the inventory software system used at Shakopee to track their waste, talk with landscaping staff about methods for creating rain gardens, learn more about implementing e-waste collection systems, and how to reduce overall costs through efficient leveraging of contracted services. Mr. Manzano was able to tour the Shakopee transfer station (where he learned new strategies for the collection of hazardous materials) and an organic grocery store (where he gained new insights in strategies to reduce food waste).

The tours that Mr. Matthews set up for Mr. Manzano allowed him to talk one-on-one with several Tribal professionals from a variety of departments, affording him the opportunity to identify “low hanging fruit”, learning efficient administrative procedures to move his own projects forward, seeing how different types of equipment could be effectively used, and to ask knowledgeable mentors the questions that were of specific interest to him and his Tribe.

We at ITEP want to thank Simeon Matthews and everyone else at the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, who made this on-site mentoring opportunity possible. Their willingness to share their strategies and passion with another Tribe is very much appreciated.

We will be offering more on-site mentoring opportunities in 2016 for tribal solid waste professionals looking to create 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.

■ **Bringing Things Full Circle: ITEP’s “Greening Tribal Operations and Facilities Course in Oklahoma**

In October, ITEP held a “Greening Tribal Operations and Facilities” course in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This course has been offered before and is always very competitive due to the large number of applications we receive. This course was a special course in the fact that it brought the information from the first rendition of the course, a year previous, full circle.

What do we mean by bringing it full circle? This course location was chosen specifically to incorporate a special field trip to Muscogee (Creek) Nation. During our first “Greening Tribal Operations and Facilities” course, held in San Diego in December 2014, we had an energized, driven group. One of the participants from that course was a member of Muscogee (Creek) Nation. During the course he made some calls and was already implementing some of what he had learned by the time he arrive back home. We had the opportunity to tour some of these projects, along with many others including the College of the Muscogee Nation, the recycling center (built out of structural insulated panels - SIPs), their geothermal projects, and Tribal housing.

Julie Jurkowski, of ITEP, and Shannon Judd, Fond du Lac Tribe, both provided instruction at this course. We had a great group of 17 tribal environmental professionals from 15 tribes across the nation, and can’t wait to see some of the great work that comes from this group of

participants!



■ 40-Hour HAZWOPER Being Offered in February

We will be offering our 40-hour HAZWOPER training February 22-26, 2016, in Las Vegas, in collaboration with the USEPA Environmental Response Team. This five day course instructs participants to recognize, evaluate, and remediate an uncontrolled hazardous waste site. The course provides basic information needed to meet the 40 Hour training requirements of 29 CFR 1910.120 (e)(3)(i) Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER). Participants will become more knowledgeable in hazardous waste operations, health and safety, and team functions.

Applications for this training are due February 5, 2016. To receive an application for this training, please contact Roberta Tohannie at roberta.tohannie@nau.edu.

■ Resources of Interest

EPA Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) Cooperative Agreement –\$1.2 million

- Applications Due: February 12, 2016
- Eligible Entities: Tribal governments, native American organizations, and nonprofits

EPA announced funding to support community-based organizations to collaborate and partner with industry, government, academia, and other stakeholders to develop and implement solutions that address local environmental and public health issues. Proposals should include outreach to affected underserved vulnerable communities and residents about environmental and public health issues and engage them in activities to plan, access, improve, and benefit from their local environment.

For more information, visit the [request for proposals](#).

EPCRA (non-313) On-line Training for States, Tribes, LEPCs and Local Planners and Responders is Now Live

This course explains the requirements of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) and its implementing regulations. It provides key information to States, Tribes, LEPCs, and local planners and responders on their role under EPCRA and supports these agencies in fulfilling their responsibilities prescribed in the law in order to prepare and protect the community from chemical emergencies.

http://epawebconferencing.acms.com/epcranon313nonepa/event/event_info.html .



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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.

➔ **[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.