



FULL CIRCLE



Newsletter for Tribes

Waste Management & Tribal Response

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
May/June 2016 Vol.8, Issue3

Welcome to Full Circle Newsletter

■ 2016 TLEF Updates: Agenda, Training/Field Trip Signups, and Transportation Information Now on Our Website

We recently completed the agenda for the 2016 TLEF agenda – which features four field trips, 15 trainings, and 79 different presentations during 49 breakout sessions. We've recently added updates to our website at http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr_tlef, which includes the agenda, descriptions about our trainings and field trips (and how to sign up for them), and [new information on transportation options](#) from the airport to the Mohegan Sun.

We have a terrific lineup for you this year, so be sure to drop by our website and register for the 2016 TLEF. We look forward to seeing you in August!

■ Superfund Training and Site Visit: The Bunker Hill Superfund Site

Last week we coordinated the first training/site visit for the Tribal Superfund Working Group (TSFWG) in Spokane, Washington. The training portion included a full day of "Superfund Essentials" - including sessions on CERCLA basics, regulatory frameworks, removal and remedial processes, liability and enforcement issues, and community involvement strategies – by three excellent presenters from the US EPA, as well as fascinating case studies and discussions by Rebecca Stevens and Phillip Cerner from the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. The second day was spent on a fantastic tour of multiple sites associated with the Bunker Hill Superfund site. This tour was expertly led by Rebecca and Phillip, as well as Bill Adams and Ed Moreen from US EPA Region 10, and several on-the-ground staff involved in remediation activities. Our last stop on the tour was a visit to the farm of Mike Schlepp, who has been working with the Tribe and USEPA on doing some truly inspiring restoration work. On the final day we heard from Randy Connolly, from the Spokane Tribe, and had a roundtable discussion among the members of the TSFWG. Over thirty tribal professionals, from Alaska to New York, participated in this training. ITEP will be coordinating similar training/site visits for members of the TSFWG each year, and we are already starting work on selecting the 2017 location.

We want to extend our sincere thanks to all of the instructors who made this a terrific training, and especially our colleagues at the Coeur d'Alene Tribe for leading such an education and interesting tour. And we also want to thank our attendees. We hope you found this event as fascinating and fun as we did!

Meet Our Staff:

Todd Barnell, Program
Manager, TSWEAP and
TWRAP
Todd.Barnell@nau.edu

John Mead, Program
Coordinator Sr, TWRAP
John.Mead@nau.edu

Julie Jurkowski, Program
Coordinator Sr, TSWEAP
and TWRAP
Julie.Jurkowski@nau.edu

Roberta Tohannie, Program
Coordinator Sr NNWDP
and TWRAP
Roberta.Tohannie@nau.edu

Jennifer Williams, Program
Coordinator Sr, TWRAP
Jennifer.Williams@nau.edu

■ 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



Touring the Coeur d'Alene's trailhead of a Rails to Trails project.



Visiting part of the cleanup work at the Big Creek Repository.



Visiting an amazing restoration project conducted in partnership with Mike Schlepp, a local farmer.

Be sure to visit the ITEP Facebook for more terrific photos of the tour!

■ **Ongoing Onsite Mentoring and Peer-to-Peer Work**

As we mentioned in the last issue of *Full Circle*, we are coordinating several onsite mentoring opportunities for tribal professionals involved in tribal solid waste programs. Tribes seeking help

with their solid waste programs apply for this special opportunity, and if accepted, ITEP works with them to either send one of their staff to a mentoring tribe, or arrange to have a mentor visit them. In the past two months we have set up onsite mentoring activities for the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and Big Sandy Rancheria, as well as developing a series of mentoring projects in Alaska. And more are in the works! ITEP is conducting this project under grants from both the USDA and USEPA's Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery (ORCR). At this time we have used all of our USDA funding. If you are interested in this opportunity we ask that you visit ORCR's special website at <https://www.epa.gov/tribal-lands> and click on "National Tribal Waste Management Peer Matching Program". From here you can apply for this opportunity online. ITEP staff will work with ORCR to evaluate the applications, and we will match selected tribes with a mentor and provide reimbursements for their travel costs. You can also learn more about ITEP's onsite mentoring work by visiting our website at http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Waste/waste_mentors.

If you have any questions about our mentoring opportunities, please contact Todd Barnell at todd.barnell@nau.edu or Julie Jurkowski at julie.jurkowski@nau.edu.

■ **USEPA Environmental Justice Updates**

The USEPA has initiated a 45 day public comment period for their draft five year environmental justice strategic plan, [Draft EJ 2020 Action Agenda](#) and the corresponding [Draft EJ 2020 National Measures Technical Appendix](#). The EJ 2020 Action Agenda seeks to advance environmental justice through USEPA's programs, policies, and activities, and support the cross-agency strategy on making a visible difference in environmentally overburdened, underserved, and economically distressed communities, including tribal and other indigenous communities. The USEPA invites you to provide input on the draft EJ 2020 Action Agenda and participate in the Agency's planned public webinars and indigenous peoples outreach calls on the draft, during the public comment period of May 23 – July 7, 2016. There is a separate tribal consultation and coordination period for federally recognized tribal governments also taking place June 2 – July 18. Information on the tribal consultation period can be found at the following link:

<https://tcots.epa.gov/oita/tconsultation.nsf/x/DB867D2A08AB1B4985257FBE00416491?opendocument>

Two conference calls to discuss the Draft EJ 2020 Action Agenda have been scheduled:
Thursday, June 16, 2016 (1:30 – 2:30 EST): 1-866-299-3188, access code 202-564-2576
Wednesday, June 29, 2016 (1:30 – 2:30 EST): 1-866-299-3188, access code 202-564-2576

There are also two national webinars scheduled for the public to hear about the Draft EJ 2020 Action Agenda:

Thursday, June 2, 2016 (2:00 - 3:30 EST)
Tuesday, June 7, 2016 (3:00 - 4:30 EST)

Those interested in the webinars are asked to register at <https://ej-2020-action-agenda.eventbrite.com>. If you have questions about the Draft EJ 2020 Action Agenda webinars, please contact Nicolette Fertakis at fertakis.nicolette@epa.gov.

You can also reach out to your Regional or Program Office Point of Contact for the draft EJ 2020 Action Agenda (Page ii – 4th page in the document) to discuss this strategic plan. Written comments are welcome. Please submit them to ejstrategy@epa.gov.

■ **Boost Your Professional Credentials: Earn Continuing Education Units**

(CEUs) and Obtain Certifications with ITEP's New Online Courses!

ITEP has developed, a series of FREE online courses of interest to tribal environmental professionals (and more are on the way!). The following self-paced, online courses are currently available:

- Quality Assurance Fundamentals
- Introduction to Brownfields
- Building Performance: Improving Energy Efficiency and IAQ in Alaska
- Radon Fundamentals (coming soon)

These online courses contain assignments, quizzes, videos, examples, downloadable spreadsheet and other resources. While they are self-paced, each course provides the opportunity for individual interaction with subject matter experts. The QA Fundamentals course, for example, includes assignments on assessing objectives and QA requirements specific to students' needs, and is applicable to all environmental monitoring projects.

See www.nau.edu/itep/elearning for details or email professional@nau.edu with questions.

■ **Resources and News of Interest**

Centers for disease Control – ATSDR: Projects Related to Contamination at Brownfield/Land Reuse Sites Grant

Proposals for this grant are due July 5, 2016. Please click on this link for full details:

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=283485>

Tribal ecoAmbassadors Program Accepting Grant Proposals

The USEPA's Tribal ecoAmbassadors Program is now soliciting grant proposals. The Tribal ecoAmbassadors Program Request for Proposals (RFP #EPA-OITA-AIEO-2016-001) is designed to assist Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU) to conduct research on environmental and climate change issues within their campus and tribal communities. With this RFP, the USEPA is seeking to award several grants of up to \$50,000 to enable awardees to prepare course curriculum, conduct their research project, select student participants, and identify equipment and materials necessary to successfully complete their science research study within a one academic year time frame. Specific problems that may be addressed include, but are not limited to: climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, air quality, water quality, and waste management. The USEPA will be accepting applications for this RFP through Friday, June 17, 2016, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET). Please visit <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/tribal-ecoambassadors-program> for more information.

FY 2016 Hazardous Waste Management Grant Program for Tribes

The competitive announcement for the FY 2016 Hazardous Waste Management Grant Program for Tribes was posted on [grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) on May 18, 2016. You can view the competitive announcement at: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=283966>.

The deadline for receipt of proposals for the competitive announcement is June 27, 2016.



Find Us On Facebook!

➔ www.facebook.com/ITEPnau

Learn more...

➔ **[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.