



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

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Welcome to Full Circle Newsletter

■ ITEP's Waste Diversion Strategies and Tribal Food Sovereignty Course

ITEP recently conducted a new training course in Minneapolis that focused on exploring the connections between waste diversion activities and tribal food sovereignty. Instruction at this course was provided by several outstanding tribal professionals, including Michael Northbird of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe; Matthew Rogotzke of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; Nicole Staudt of Prairie Island Indian Community; and Nikki Crowe of Fond du Lac Band of Chippewa. In addition, Lynn Hoffman of Eureka Recycling, a local nonprofit, provided information about their work, including recycling, coordinating zero waste activities, and engaging and supporting the communities they serve. As part of this training attendees visited recycling and composting operations at the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) operated by Eureka Recycling.

An exciting and unique aspect of this training is it brought together tribal professionals from many different areas – solid waste and environmental programs, but also environmental justice, fish management, and food and health programs as well. In addition to tribal attendees we had two staff from the Indian Health Service who learned new strategies to assist their tribal partners. Topics covered in this course included overcoming common obstacles to waste diversion; tribal case studies on recycling, composting, developing biofuels, and approaches to creative funding; and tribal case studies on growing traditional food and medicines and creating effective partnerships with other tribal departments and non-tribal partners.



Course attendees at the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community's composting facility.

Meet Our Staff:

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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



Touring the MRF run by Eureka Recycling

We want to thank all of the wonderful tribal professionals who attended, our outstanding instructors, and the various partners who made this training such a success!

■ **Onsite Mentor Visit to Walker River Paiute Tribe**

As part of our ongoing work coordinating onsite mentoring activities for tribal solid waste professionals, we recently matched staff from Walker River Paiute with two mentors who visited the tribe in early October.

Cynthia Ocegüera, Walker River's GAP Manager, requested assistance with a multitude of issues her tribe is facing, including an unlined open-pit landfill, uncompleted transfer station, unexploded ordinance, and contamination from a mining operation. Ms. Ocegüera is highly motivated to not only address these issues, but to create partnerships with other tribes to leverage their resources and create new projects to protect tribal people and their natural resources. Given the complexity of her situation, ITEP assigned her two mentors, who bring a wide variety of skills and experience to this situation. Cynthia Naha, environmental specialist with the Santo Domingo Tribe, and Sarah Diefendorf, executive director of EFCWest, both visited Ms. Ocegüera. They toured the reservation, met with tribal leaders and staff, and spent time with Ms. Ocegüera discussing her situation in detail. They helped set up priorities, shared various educational and outreach examples, provided insights on financial and planning strategies, and outlined possible approaches on dealing with toxic materials and designing community-specific waste management activities. Prior to visiting Walker River, both mentors also reached out to their colleagues at other tribes and organizations for additional insights, and shared those with Ms. Ocegüera.



The willingness of people like Ms. Diefendorf and Ms. Naha to share their knowledge on these kinds of site visits is something that never fails to inspire us here at ITEP. One of the exciting aspects of these onsite mentoring visits is that our mentors always say they learned as much as the mentees. We are very gratified to help make these connections and sharing opportunities happen and we look forward to staying in touch with Ms. Ocegüera and her colleagues at Walker River Paiute Tribe. With their dedication we know great things will be happening there!

To learn more about our onsite mentoring opportunities contact Julie Jurkowski (julie.jurkowski@nau.edu) or Todd Barnell (todd.barnell@nau.edu) or visit our website at www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Waste/waste_mentors

■ **Upcoming Brownfield Webinars: October 31 and November 7**

Two special webinars for tribal professionals working in brownfield programs will be taking place in the next two weeks. On these webinars you will learn how the Brownfields 128(a) Tribal Response Programs (TRP) can provide resources for tribes to establish and enhance programs that oversee assessment and cleanup activities at brownfields sites. During the upcoming webinars, EPA staff will cover what tribes need to know to increase tribal capacity for developing and maintaining a tribal response program and empowering tribes to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse sites identified as brownfields. Additional instruction will be provided by staff from Technical Assistance to Brownfield Communities (TAB) programs.

You can register for the upcoming webinars at the links below. Attendees are welcome and encouraged to submit written questions during the webinar through the GoToMeeting site.

1. Monday, October 31, 2016 at 11:00am AKT | 12:00pm PT | 1:00pm MT | 2:00pm CT | 3:00pm ET: **Brownfields 128(a) TRP Training Webinar 1 of 2: TRP Purpose, Scope, and Eligibility; TRP Cooperative Agreement Terms; TABs Overview - KSU, CCLR, and NJIT Programs**
 - a. Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8552926507698954241>
2. Monday, November 7, 2016 at 11:00am AKT | 12:00pm PT | 1:00pm MT | 2:00pm CT | 3:00pm ET: **Brownfields 128(a) TRP Training Webinar 2 of 2: Four Elements of a TRP; TRP Record Requirement; Identifying TRP Activities**
 - a. Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5328923119571400961>

If you have any questions about these upcoming webinars, please contact ITEP's Jennifer Williams at jennifer.williams@nau.edu.

■ **ITEP's Online "Introduction to Tribal Brownfields" Course**

ITEP has developed a series of FREE online courses of interest to tribal environmental professionals (and more are on the way!). As part of our ongoing work with tribal brownfield professionals one of these self-paced courses is "Introduction to Tribal Brownfields." To learn more about this course please visit:

itep.scholarlms.com/catalog/index.php?route=product/product&product_id=40

We currently are also offering:

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

These online courses contain assignments, quizzes, videos, examples, downloadable spreadsheets and other resources. While they are self-paced, each course provides the opportunity for individual interaction with subject matter experts. Please visit www.nau.edu/itep/elearning for details or email professional@nau.edu with questions.

■ **Resources and News of Interest**

ITEP's Hazardous Substances Research Page

There are a variety of hazardous substances in our communities, and in our waste streams, that can affect the health and wellbeing of our lands and waters. As part of our work with Tribal and Federal partners, we have compiled a variety of resources to assist you in identifying, understanding, and mitigating the effects of many different hazardous substances. Visit our special research page at: <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/HazSubMap/>.



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➡ www.facebook.com/TEPNau

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.