



# 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

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### Welcome to Full Circle Newsletter

#### 2017 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum

Do you have a story to share? We are looking for Tribal Case Studies involving solid waste, brownfields, USTs, Superfund, emergency response, habitat restoration, and/or Tribal water programs! We are currently accepting proposals for breakout sessions and trainings at this year's TLEF. The deadline is May 12 so be sure to submit your proposal soon.

Not quite ready to present at the TLEF? Then share your story at the Multi Media Meetup on Wednesday afternoon. This is an excellent opportunity for you to do a poster presentation or demonstration of a unique project your Tribe is engaged in.

Visit [http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr\\_tlef](http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr_tlef) to learn more.

#### ■ A Special Message from the TWRAP Steering Committee By Arvind Patel, Chair and Virginia LeClere, Vice Chair

Each year the Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee develops their annual Priority Document. The purpose of this Priorities Document is to communicate the evolving needs and priorities of tribal communities to the EPA Office of Lands and Emergency Management (OLEM), the National Tribal Caucus, federal and state partners, and other Tribal Partnership Groups. Each committee member brings a technical expertise and perspective on the wide range of environmental issues along with the knowledge of the challenges and hurdles that exist from each region of the country where we live.

This February the Steering Committee met with OLEM's Acting Assistant Administrator Barry Breen, as well as Office Directors and staff working in solid waste, brownfields, USTs, Superfund, Federal Facilities, and emergency response. The purpose of these meetings was twofold. First, we discussed progress made by EPA on last year's Priority Document and emerging issues during this transitional period. Secondly, we used what we had learned and discussed to inform the development of this year's Priority Document.

The Steering Committee finalized this year's Priority Document at the beginning of this month and began circulating it among OLEM, other EPA offices and federal agencies, and various Tribal Partnership Groups. We were very pleased to see how much progress has been made on the priorities expressed in last year's document, and look forward to working with our partners

#### 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](http://www4.nau.edu/itep/waste)

at the EPA, as well as Tribes across the country, as we move forward on this year's priorities. There is still much work to be done that will help Tribal communities with environmental stewardship and we are honored to be able to continue to advocate through this national partnership and the Priorities Document.

Please visit our website at [http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Waste/waste\\_ntsc](http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Waste/waste_ntsc) to learn more about the steering committee and to view the 2017 Priority Document.

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(Please note: We are currently accepting applications to the TWRAP Steering Committee. The deadline for applications is May 26. If you are interested in learning more about the TWRAP Steering Committee, or in receiving an application, please email Todd Barnell at [todd.barnell@nau.edu](mailto:todd.barnell@nau.edu) or visit our webpage at [http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Waste/waste\\_ntsc](http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Waste/waste_ntsc) to download an application.)

### ■ **Training Course on Designing and Using a Tribal Solid Waste Management Plan at the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation**

ITEP is working with the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation on a training course that will help attendees design (or update) and use a Tribal Solid Waste Management Plan. This course will feature lectures on the five critical elements of a Tribal SWMP, small group activities, discussion, and an extensive tour of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's solid waste facilities and activities. This training will give attendees an excellent opportunity to see the Tribes equipment, tour buildings, and discuss routes, financing, and waste diversion with Tribal staff so they can make better plans for their own Tribe. We'll also be talking with other Tribal staff about the role played by the judiciary and how solid waste management can be connected to Tribal cultural preservation projects.

This course will be taking place September 12-14, 2017 in Mayetta, Kansas. You can access the application for this course at [http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training\\_waste](http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_waste).

### ■ **Tribal Compost and Tribal Food Security**

In March, ITEP staff with Michael Northbird of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and Vicky Karhu of First Nations Development Institute, conducted a special training on creating and running Tribal composting programs. This course also looked at connections between waste management activities and Tribal food security and food sovereignty issues. Attendees not only learned about various approaches to composting, but also how to develop and conduct a community food assessment.

During this training we also visited two exceptional sites where composting and food growing activities take place. Las Milpitas de Cottonwood is run in cooperation with the Tucson Food Bank, and features community garden space, plots utilized by people interested in learning how to become a farmer, community space for special events, a greenhouse and walk in cooler, and several different composting projects. Attendees were able to see first-hand how to create their own worm composting bin, create traditional composting piles, and make a simple screener for their compost. They also were able to see an outstanding composting toilet and learn how building composting and gardening spaces also builds community.

The Tohono O'odham Nation's San Xavier Coop Farm afforded us the chance to tour large greenhouses and fields, spend time with Tribal members who are cultivating a wide variety of traditional food crops, see new fruit trees that are being planted along the fields, and to even stock up on some wonderful traditional foods at their farm store. This farm also partners with Compost Cats, a University of Arizona/City of Tucson composting operation that processes massive amounts of food 'waste' into exceptional compost. Twenty percent of the finished product is then given to the San Xavier Coop Farm while the rest is sold to the public.

While the attendees greatly enjoyed seeing this large-scale composting operation and learn about equipment and best management practices, we suspect their favorite part was a wonderful lunch that was served to us at San Xavier. Their friendly staff prepared us a wonderful meal of Indian tacos made with wheat and produce grown right there on the farm.

We would like to thank all of the instructors and field trip hosts who made this such a wonderful training. And we'd like to thank the attendees, who came from Tribes across the country. You truly inspired all of us with your enthusiasm and dedication, and we look forward to working with you over the years.



#### ■ ITEP's Online Trainings Continue to Grow

Introduction to Rural Alaska Landfill Administration has been added to the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals' (ITEP's) **free** online training courses! This online course has been developed to provide tribal environmental professionals in rural Alaska with:

- An introduction to landfills, administration, and operations in rural Alaska,
- Solid waste administration, planning, and budget basics, and
- Resources for minimizing waste in the landfill.

Although this course has been developed specifically for tribal environmental professionals in rural Alaska, many tribal professionals in the lower 48 rural/remote areas may also be interested in this online course. The development of this short course was a collaborative effort between the Alaska Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, the Alaska Forum, Inc., Green Star, and ITEP. This online course is equivalent to 0.5 continuing education unit (CEUs) and requires approximately five hours of total learning time.

You can access this course at your convenience by creating a free user account. Start now by visiting [Create New Account!](#) After setting up your own unique login and password, you can enroll in and access ITEP's online courses at anytime.

Email Natasha and Jen at [Professional@nau.edu](mailto:Professional@nau.edu) with questions and feedback. Thanks!

#### ■ Resources and News of Interest

##### **Open Position with USEPA/SEE Program for Tribal Solid Waste Liaison**

USEPA Region 10 is accepting applications for a Tribal solid waste liaison with their SEE Program. Interested applicants should send a resume and cover letter to Lois Kohashi-Sinclair at [lois@napca.org](mailto:lois@napca.org). Please be aware the deadline is **April 21!** For more information on the position you can visit <https://seattle.craigslist.org/see/sci/6068157027.html>.

### **National Call with Tribes to Discuss the CWA/CERCLA MOU**

Many of you may have participated in the first national call with Tribes to discuss the USEPA's CWA/CERCLA MOU, which took place April 4. If you missed it there will be a second call on **April 20**. This call will take place at 2:00 pm Eastern. The call in number is 866-299-3188 and the call in ID is 202-564-6943. You can find more information on this by visiting <https://tcots.epa.gov>.

### **Free 40-Hour HAZWOPER Training in June**

There will be a 40-Hour HAZWOPER course for Tribes June 19-23, 2017 in Rapid City, that is being offered by the same instruction team that has worked with ITEP in the past on this training. To apply please visit [www.trainex.org](http://www.trainex.org) and in the search window type in "40 Hour HAZWOPER", then select Rapid City.



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### **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.**