



Welcome to Full Circle Newsletter

■ **Virtual Mentoring Opportunities Are Available!**

While we are not conducting the onsite mentor matches we have done the past several years, we have started putting together special mentor matches that are taking place online. We've been able to pair several Tribal staff with peers on video chats over the past year, helping them share ideas and resources with one another. And we are expanding this opportunity to cover all the media we work on: Superfund, USTs, solid waste, emergency response, and brownfields.

If you are facing a specific challenge, and think it might be helpful to connect with a peer to help you find some possible solutions, we have created a new online form you can fill out. We'll be reviewing applications each quarter, with the first evaluation taking place on January 25. After we review your application, we'll let you know if we think we might be able to find you a good mentor or not.

You can access the mentor match application at: <http://bit.ly/ITEPMentorProgram>.

■ **The TWAR Steering Committee Wants Your Feedback**

The Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee crafts a Priority Document every spring, which outlines for senior EPA staff, as well as colleagues on the National Tribal Caucus and other Tribal Partnership Groups, priorities related to Superfund, UST, emergency response, solid waste, and brownfield programs throughout Indian Country. And they want to hear from you!

We've created an online form you can use to give your thoughts on the priorities the TWAR SC had in their 2020 Priorities Document, as well as give them your thoughts on major priorities for them to consider for their 2021 Priority Document (which they are currently working on). Please visit <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/twarsc/PriorityDocument/> to see their past Priority Documents and to access the feedback tool. If you are already familiar with their 2020 document, you can also just access the feedback tool directly at: <https://bit.ly/TWAR-PrioritiesFeedback>.

And you don't have to provide your thoughts on all the media in the document. Just jump ahead to the ones you are most interested in. We really appreciate your thoughts and feedback!

■ **Be Sure to Check Out Our Educational Videos and Online Courses**

As you all know, the Waste & Response Team has been working quite hard to provide our Tribal colleagues with a variety of online and virtual educational opportunities. We have a wide variety of short educational videos, in-depth and self-paced online courses, and recordings of virtual trainings we've recently done. And they are all available for you to access when it is convenient for you.

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:
www7.nau.edu/itep/waste

For example, did you miss our recent virtual series on recycling, or the virtual training on Tribal codes geared toward villages in Alaska? Well, you can check both of them out by visiting http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_waste. You can also visit all of our educational videos, which were viewed over 4,700 just in 2020. These are all found at <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Videos/> and selecting the Tribal Waste & Response tab.

And be sure to check out our online courses, including the updated 2021 HAZWOPER 8-Hour Refresher, at <https://itep.scholarlms.com/catalog>.

We want to extend a very special thank you to all our Tribal, federal, and industry colleagues who worked with us on crafting many of these resources. And we hope all of you find some of them helpful.

■ **Webinars, Resources and Other News of Interest**

You Can Provide Your Thoughts on Tracking the National Recycling Rate

The US EPA is seeking public input on tracking the national recycling rate, which will help them track progress toward our national recycling goal. The input you provide will help them as they update and publish the National Recycling Measurement Guide. They are currently accepting comments on the national recycling rate methodology until March 8, 2021. See the memo at <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching EPA-HQ-OLEM-2020-0443-0068. Please submit comments at ORCRMMeasurement@epa.gov.

Train-the-Trainer Session – Tribal Lead Curriculum

On February 10, 2021, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm Eastern Standard Time, the National Tribal Toxics Council, Tribal Science Council, and US EPA will host a train-the-trainer webinar on the new tribal lead curriculum - *Lead Awareness in Indian Country: Keeping our Children Healthy!* Developed with over 200 tribes, the curriculum is a robust set of educational tools that provide tribes and other communities with practical, on-the-ground, community-based resources to reduce childhood lead exposure. Visit <https://febleadcurriculumtraining.eventbrite.com> to register.

FEMA and Tribal Nations: Building Capacity and Resilience Webinar

On January 28, 2021, from 2:00 to 3:00 pm Eastern Standard Time FEMA staff will provide a better understanding of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) disaster declaration process, funding mechanisms, and trainings. This webinar will also provide information on the Emergency Management Institute's Tribal Curriculum and other FEMA trainings for tribal government officials and technical staff. Click here to [register](#).

Interim Guidance on Destroying and Disposing of Certain PFAS

On December 18, 2020, the US EPA released [new interim guidance](#) on destroying and disposing of certain PFAS and PFAS-containing materials for public comment. Specifically, the new interim guidance outlines the current state of the science on techniques and treatments that may be used to destroy or dispose of PFAS and PFAS-containing materials from non-consumer products, including aqueous film-forming foam for firefighting. They will accept comments on the Interim Guidance for 60 days following publication in the Federal Register. For more information, please see www.epa.gov/pfas.

