



Welcome to the Full Circle Newsletter

Expressing My Thanks During Such Trying Times

As I write this, we find ourselves at the midpoint between winter and spring, which led me to poke around a bit in my icy and snow-covered garden, and dream about the day when I'll be able to plant my first seeds. And then I noticed small, green, leaves poking up near one of my compost bins. It's the first stirrings of a perennial sorrel I planted last year. As I brushed off a little snow to look at it, a Northern Flicker flew in and alit on an aspen branch, watching what I was doing.

Two years into a global pandemic, on top of the climate crisis and a host of other issues, has left me drained, frazzled, and all too often without a great deal of hope. And I know many of you are also suffering fatigue, trauma, and loss as well. But as I looked at those first stirrings of green life, beneath the gaze of a Flicker, I felt a tiny bit of hope rekindled.

I am very fortunate that for the last 20 years I've been able to work with such amazing people from Tribal Nations, Native Villages, non-profits, federal and state agencies, and private businesses, across the country. My job allows me the opportunity to talk with all of you, hear your stories, and learn from you. And I want you to know that I constantly draw inspiration and hope from you.

Over the last few years my team and I have been organizing many virtual mentor matches, where people I *know* are struggling themselves still want to offer help to others. I've seen people dealing with loss and fatigue hold out their hand to another to provide solace. I've watched many of you learn new skills you've put to use to help not only your own Nations and communities, but your colleagues across the country.

I hope you find comfort in knowing you are part of a large community of people striving, in the face of so many obstacles and challenges, to make the world safer and fairer for our communities, for our lands, and for all our relations. And I want you all to know how thankful I am to be a part of such a community.

I'll end with a fragment from a new poem by Amanda Gorman that I hope speaks to you as it did to me.

*While we might feel small, separate & all alone,
Our people have never been more closely tethered.
The question isn't if we can weather the unknown,
But how we will weather the unknown together.*

Todd Barnell, Waste & Response Manager

New Resources on Our Tribal Assistance Center

We have added some new sections to our Tribal Lands Assistance Center (TLAC) we hope you find useful. The TLAC is found at www.triballands.org and is a constantly evolving resource for you on all types of contaminated site issues – Superfund to spills, and hiring consultants to honing your emergency response capacity. You'll find new information on some online tools to help you plan for worse case scenarios and improve your resiliency under the "Resources" dropdown menu. And if you have some favorite tools you want others to know about, shoot us an email so we can include it!

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

The Status of Tribes and Climate Change Report (STACC) Is Available Online

ITEP's Tribes and Climate Change Program worked throughout 2021 with their Tribal colleagues across the country to produce an amazing and extremely comprehensive report, covering a variety of media and issues. It includes successes, challenges, personal narratives, and an exceptional vision for future efforts. Julie Jurkowski worked with Mark Junker, the chair of the TWAR SC, on assisting this project. You can find the report here:

<https://sites.google.com/view/stacc2021-itep/home>

Getting Ready for the 2022 TLEF

As we hope you already know, we are planning a hybrid TLEF for this year – with in-person activities in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (fingers crossed!) as well as virtual components – August 8 through 11. There are a lot of terrific Tribal organizations in that neck of the woods doing great things. If you'd like to start to familiarize yourself with their lands, waters, and issues, a good place to start would be to check out the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission – GLIFWC. You can visit their website at <https://glifwc.org/>, and if you are on Facebook search for them there as they are always posting interesting news and events. And keep your eye on your inbox as we'll be sending out TLEF updates and announcements soon!

Abt Associates is Accepting Applications for Their Tribal Internship Program

Many of you are familiar with Abt Associates, who have been long-time supporters of the TLEF and have worked with Tribes across the country. But did you know they had paid internship possibilities for Tribal students interested in pursuing environmental careers? If you know of someone at your Tribe who might be interested, be sure to check out the [flyer attached](#) to this issue of Full Circle for more information.

Learn How to Use US EPA's EJSCREEN

There will be a special EJSCREEN Tool office hours on February 23rd. This is your chance to talk with EPA EJSCREEN experts about many topics, including how to use and apply the tool, technical issues, and any other questions. They are conducting these sessions on a bimonthly basis, and the next will be **February 23rd, 2022 at 12:00 pm EST**. The meeting will take place on Zoom and you do not need to register. Meeting Link: [February 23rd, 2022 at 12:00 pm EST Meeting Link](#).