



FULL CIRCLE

Waste Management & Tribal Response



Newsletter for Tribes

Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

Tribal Solid Waste Education and Assistance Program
Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program

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Welcome to the Full Circle Newsletter

The Importance of Community

I started this year with a *Full Circle* piece offering my thanks to all of you, and my appreciation for the community we belong to. I thought I'd revisit that theme as we move into Autumn.

I recently had the chance to meet up with a colleague and friend, who works for a Tribal Nation in the Midwest. She was in town for a meeting, and we actually got to spend time together in person! We talked about big issues (the climate crisis, justice, and the general state of things) as well as personal issues (how we've been dealing with life during the pandemic, our gardens, helping our pollinating relations). We also talked about people we were fortunate enough to help, but also the people who had lent us a hand when we needed it.

Our conversation also got me thinking about things we are dealing with right now: loss of capacity at a time when we face so many huge challenges, a sense of uncertainty during these tough times, mental and physical exhaustion from all we've had to juggle, and more. There are no simple solutions to overcome these challenges. But there are a few things we can look to for inspiration. And one of the most important to me is the community that we build together.

Our lands, people, and relations so often face things that are created by forces that seem beyond our control. We all bring passion to our work, but sometimes it can all seem a bit much. However, you are not alone in this struggle. You have friends and colleagues out there, many of whom may have faced a similar struggle. And they just might have a new perspective, a new method, a new trick up their sleeve that helped them and could help you as well. And remember to not sell yourself short! Even when you might feel overwhelmed, you no doubt have an idea, or a kind word, which is exactly what one of your colleagues needs right now.

Now more than ever we need to be sure we are tending our garden of community. And part of that tending includes remembering that we can be a support, as well as find support ourselves when we need it. The relationships we build become even stronger when we prioritize reciprocity, respect, and mutual responsibility.

So, thanks again for all you do, protecting our lands and people, but also fostering this community. And I hope you get the chance to offer a kind word to someone, who might need it more than you know, today.

Speaking of Connection...Could You Use a Mentor?

As part of our team's work, we try and match Tribal professionals, who are facing a particular challenge, with a mentor who can provide a fresh perspective, and some assistance to get over

Meet Our Team

Todd Barnell
Program Manager
Todd.Barnell@nau.edu

Julie Jurkowski
Senior Program
Coordinator
Julie.Jurkowski@nau.edu

Jennifer Williams
Senior Program
Coordinator
Jennifer.Williams@nau.edu

Amanda Kapp
Research Specialist
Amanda.Kapp@nau.edu

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the hurdle. This opportunity is available to anyone working for a Tribe or Native Village on Superfund, USTs, solid waste, emergency response, or brownfields. These matches can be done virtually, or in some cases, in person.

While we wished we could find a good match for every application, that just isn't possible all the time. But if this sounds of interest, then we do want to hear from you and see if we can help! You can access the online application directly [from ITEP's main website](#). You can also access it from our [Tribal Lands and Assistance Center \(TLAC\) website](#). You'll also learn more about this opportunity, and some examples of recent matches we've done, on either of these pages.

And hey! As I said above about community going both ways, if you would like for us to keep you in my mind as a potential mentor – maybe you've got experience with a particular tool, or you figured out a solution to a real challenge, or you have some interesting experiences someone else might find useful – then shoot us an email so we can chat about it.

We'd Like Your Feedback on What Challenges You Face in Working on Contaminated Sites

When you have a few moments, we've created a very short questionnaire (I promise it really is short). We have been responding to feedback we've been getting from you regarding resources and tools you'd find helpful in your work with contaminated sites, and have been adding them to the Tribal Lands Assistance Center (www.triballands.org) as well as through virtual trainings, discussions, and via our mentor match program. But this isn't a "one and done" kind of thing. We really want to know where you are facing obstacles and where we might be able to help. So do [please complete this online form and share your thoughts](#) – and don't hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Did You Know the Tribal Lands Assistance Center Has Information on... Preparing for and Responding to Release and Spills?

Our Tribal Lands and Assistance Center (TLAC) website has numerous webpages for Tribes to access information that will increase their resilience to hazardous materials in several ways, including reducing the likelihood of a release (prevention), being prepared to respond to a potential release (preparedness), effectively responding if a release does occur (response), and coordinating planned retortion efforts (recovery). To get started visit [TLAC's Response and Spills page](#).

Events, Webinars and, Opportunities

Does your Tribe have emergency response plans but you're not sure how to facilitate an exercise? Tribal partners can receive technical assistance and support for exercises at no cost from experienced exercise specialists in FEMA's National Exercise Division. See the [National Exercise Program \(NEP\) website](#) for details. The NEP accepts requests for exercise support twice a year from state, local, tribal, and territorial jurisdictions. Upcoming deadlines are Nov 1, 2022, April 3, 2023, and Nov 1, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact the [National Exercise Division](#).

The **Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP)** has opened registration for the **8th Annual Tribal Nations Training Week** to be conducted March 11-18, 2023 on the CDP campus in Anniston, AL. They are offering a variety of excellent and specialized training courses for Tribal and Native professionals on a wide range of topics. Each course has its own unique code you'll need to enter in order to register. All the course offerings and those codes are found in the pdf announcement [attached to this newsletter](#).

Does your Tribe have a Brownfields program? The FY23 Section 128(a) Grant Funding Guidance provides the information needed to determine if this funding opportunity, awarded in the form of a cooperative agreement, is appropriate for your Tribe. Requests are due by **December 16, 2022**, so visit: [FY 2023 Grant Funding Guidance for State and Tribal Response Programs](#) for more information.

The Department of Homeland Security has extended the deadline for nominations to the inaugural DHS Tribal Homeland Security Advisor Council to Friday, October 21st, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. ET. On September 7, 2022, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the establishment of the first-ever Tribal Homeland Security Advisory Council and the opening of the nomination period (Sep 7 - Oct 10, 2022) for membership. This Council will enable Tribal leaders to advise the Secretary on homeland security policies and practices that affect Indian Country and indigenous communities, including emergency management, law enforcement, cybersecurity, domestic terrorism and targeted violence, and border security. Learn more at the [Tribal Homeland Security Advisory Council \(THSAC\) website](#)

Webinar on **IHS-EPA MOU on Open Dumps on Tribal Lands** on November 3, 2:00-3:00 pm ET. The Indian Health Service (IHS) and the EPA's Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery will share information and provide insight related to improving open dump data, solid waste projects, and programs in Indian Country. During this interactive session, IHS and EPA will highlight the Focus Areas of the IHS-EPA MOU and the Tribal Waste Program Assessment Form. Attendees will be able to learn how to review the open dumps on their lands and share their questions. [Register](#).

The [National Integrated Drought Information System](#) has developed a **new map feature for Tribal Nations**. Users can display boundaries for the more than 300 reservations across the U.S. from the U.S. Census Bureau, overlaying reservation boundaries on any map available on [Drought.gov](#). A national map can become a local map, showing key drought and climate indicators for Tribal lands. This provides a valuable tool for drought monitoring and Tribal communications.