

NEWS

The Tribal Newsletter
is published free monthly.
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LETTER

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/TRIBAL.NSF/Newsletter/Issues>

Vol. 17, No. 3 — March 2008

<> CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS <>

March

18-19 Home Energy Efficiency Training, Seattle, WA.

For more information on the training and to register, visit: <http://www.firstpic.org>
or contact Rebecca Smith at 315-218-6261 or email at rsmith@firstpic.org

27-28 STORET/WQX Workshops. Olympia, WA and Plummer, ID.

For more information visit: <http://www.epa.gov/storet/wqx.html> Contact Janette
Rau at 206-553-048 regarding workshops. (See first item below.)

April

9-10 Green Coast 2008: Building Healthy Places to Live and Work, Mobile, AL.

For more information visit: <http://www.greencoastonline.com>

14-16 Tribal 24-hr HazMat, Richland, WA. To register contact Josie Clark at 206-553-6239 or
email clark.josie@epa.gov (See page 2.)

21-24 EPA Region Tribal Leaders Summit, Little Creek Resort and Casino, Kamilche, WA.
Info: http://www.squaxiniland.org/tribal_leaders_summit/index.html

May

5-6 Home Energy Efficiency Training, Anchorage, AK.

For more information on the training and to register, visit: <http://www.firstpic.org>
or contact Rebecca Smith at 315-218-6261 or email at rsmith@firstpic.org (See page 2.)

5-7 Brownfields National Convention, Detroit, MI.

For information visit: <http://www.brownfields2008.org>

18-20 Sixth Nation Water Quality Monitoring Conference, Atlantic City, NJ.

For information visit: [http://www.wef.org/ConferencesTraining/ConferencesEvents/
NatWaterQualityMonitoringConference/](http://www.wef.org/ConferencesTraining/ConferencesEvents/NatWaterQualityMonitoringConference/)

June

**23-27 Nurturing Mother Earth-Our People's Destiny, 8th National Tribal Conference on
Environmental Management, Billings, MT.** Hosted by the Montana/Wyoming Tribal
Leaders Council and co-sponsored by EPA. For information visit:

<http://www.ntcem8.org/> or contact Allyson Kelly at 406-252-2550.

STORET/WQX Workshops

Tribal Water Quality Staff: EPA will be presenting two hands-on STORET/WQX workshops this month. The first workshop will be Thursday **March 27, 2008** at the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission office in Olympia, Washington from 12:30 to 5:00 pm. The second workshop will be a full day workshop hosted by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe in Plummer, Idaho on **March 28, 2008**. A block of rooms have been held at the Coeur d'Alene Casino for the second workshop. Tribes should bring their data to the workshop to ensure full participation in this training. For more information on WQX visit: <http://www.epa.gov/storet/wqx.html> For more information on the workshops, please contact Janette Rau at 206-553-0483.

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Tribal 24-hr HazMat Course

Tribal officials and representatives that have responsibilities in Cultural Resources, Forestry, Fisheries, Water Resources, Law Enforcement, Fire Department, Emergency Planning, Wildlife Protection, and Environmental Protection are invited to attend this free OSHA compliant 24-hour HazMat and oil spill awareness course taught by the US EPA. Students will learn the basic skills needed to assist in responding to a hazardous materials and/or oil spill incidents including health/safety, basic chemistry, use and types of personal protective equipment, agency responsibilities and resources. Additional skills taught will include informed action related to integrating tribal responsibilities into the Incident Command System as per the Northwest Area Contingency Plan.

Training will be held **April 14-16, 2008** at the Volpentes HAMMER Training and Education Center, 2890 Horn Rapids Road, Richland, WA. To register contact Josie Clark at 206/553-6239 or clark.josie@epa.gov

Wetland Grants

The EPA Wetland Development Grant Program provides financial assistance for wetland protection and enhancement to state, tribal and local government entities. Grants may be used to develop or enhance programs for the protection, management, or restoration of wetlands. EPA Region 10 expects that approximately 15 to 25 awards will be made and will range from \$25,000 to \$250,000 depending upon the amount requested and the overall size and need for the project. Proposals are due **March 14, 2008**. For the announcement visit: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/ECOCOMM.NSF/webpage/wetland+grants>

Greenhouse Gas Calculator

Can you picture what it means to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by 1 million metric tons? News stories are packed with measurements of greenhouse gas reductions, but it can be difficult to understand them until now. EPA's new Greenhouse Gas Calculator helps you turn greenhouse gas savings into more easily understood everyday terms.

Calculator: <http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-resources/calculator.html>

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Environmental Regulation Website

The agency has added new features to one of its most popular websites for environmental regulatory information. This site – titled “Laws, Regulations, Guidance and Dockets” – is often the public’s first exposure to EPA’s regulatory activities. Its user-friendliness has been enhanced with easily accessible ways to search and comment on EPA regulations and significant guidance documents, and to learn how environmental regulations are written. The site also includes new sections for finding regulations and related documents, plus regulatory history, statutory authority, supporting analyses, compliance information, and guidance for implementation. Also, for the first time, searches for regulatory information can be conducted by environmental topics such as water or air, or by business sectors such as transportation or construction.

The new site is easily accessible from EPA’s homepage and can be found by choosing “Laws, Regulations, Guidance & Dockets” from the left-hand navigation bar.

See the new site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/lawsregs/>

Home Energy Efficiency Training

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Native American Programs is putting on training relevant to indoor air quality. The first workshop will be held on **March 18-19, 2008** in Seattle, Washington. The second workshop will be held on **May 5-6, 2008** in Anchorage, Alaska. The 2-day informational workshops will focus on homes energy efficiency and comfort, as well as indoor air quality, renewable energy resources, and mold and moisture prevention. The workshops also feature hands-on demonstrations of energy efficiency products. Registration is free.

For more information on the training and to register visit: <http://www.firstpic.org> or contact Rebecca Smith, Conference Coordinator, 315-218-6261 or email at rsmith@firstpic.org

LGEAN Toolbox

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The Local Government Environmental Assistance Network (LGEAN) has provided a toolbox resource to assist local government officials in their efforts to protect the environment and public health. Opening each drawer provides users with access to a variety of tools in a particular area of concern to local governments. The tools (interactive software or documents that require user input) are designed to help users perform operations and calculations necessary to fulfill environmental reporting requirements or guide the development of a helpful environmental program. For the toolbox visit: <http://www.lgean.org/html/toolbox.cfm>

Reduce Costs by Using LID Practices

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EPA has released a new report "Reducing Stormwater Costs through Low Impact Development (LID) Strategies and Practices," which contains 17 case studies from across North America that show the economic viability of LID practices. Using these practices in construction projects can lower costs while improving environmental results.

LID practices are innovative stormwater management practices to manage urban stormwater runoff at its source. The goal is to mimic the way water moved through an area before it was developed by using design techniques that infiltrate, evapotranspire, and reuse runoff close to its source. Some common LID practices include rain gardens, grassed swales, cisterns, rain barrels, permeable pavements and green roofs. LID practices increasingly are used by communities across the country to help protect and restore water quality.

The report highlights examples that, in most cases, reduce project costs while improving environmental performance. Total capital savings ranged from 15 to 80 percent, with a few exceptions in which LID project costs were higher than conventional stormwater management costs. As LID practices become more common, it is likely that they will become cheaper to use. For a copy of the report: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/lid/costs07/>

Multicultural Environmental Outreach

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EPA has released two publications specifically designed to increase environmental awareness among multilingual communities. "*Teach English, Teach about the Environment*" is a curriculum designed to help teach adult students English, while introducing basic concepts about the environment and individual environmental responsibility. The concepts introduced in the curriculum can help immigrants understand their role in contributing towards cleaner and healthier communities by reducing, reusing and recycling. "*Teach English, Teach about the Environment*" can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/education/teachers.htm>

The second publication, "*Working Together for a Healthy Environment – A Guide for Multi-Cultural Community Groups*," is designed to help community-based organizations plan and execute community events that promote reducing, reusing and recycling. It has a brief introductory paragraph on the inside cover in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean. "*Working Together for a Healthy Environment – A Guide for Multi-Cultural Community Groups*" can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/osw/community.htm>

ITEP

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) was established in 1992 to assist Indian Tribes in the management of their environmental resources through effective training and education programs. ITEP trains tribal environmental staff in issues ranging from compliance inspections, wastewater management, and water and air quality, to name a few. Educational and internship opportunities for students ranging from the elementary school level through college are available, as is direct professional assistance. ITEP's TAMS center provides technical assistance and training, and the Resource Center can answer questions and furnish aid in a variety of environmental topics.

At the ITEP website you will find training schedules, program information, software tools, tribal links, equipment loans, news & events, publications, contacts, and much more. The ITEP website can be found at: <http://www4.nau.edu/itep>

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Green Infrastructure

EPA, with state and national partners, released a comprehensive plan to reduce runoff and increase environmental and economic benefits for communities. The strategy will help reduce stormwater runoff and sewer overflows by promoting green infrastructure approaches, such as green roofs, trees and tree boxes, rain gardens, and porous pavements. Green infrastructure techniques, technologies, and practices reduce the amount of water and pollutants that run off a site. These tools have many other benefits, including cost savings, improved air quality, urban heat island reductions, energy savings, water conservation, and urban habitat creation.

The plan explains how states, municipalities, permitting authorities, and non-governmental organizations can use green infrastructure practices to meet water quality goals while sustaining their water infrastructure. The document, "Managing Wet Weather with Green Infrastructure Action Strategy 2008," outlines ways to bring green infrastructure technologies and approaches into mainstream use for runoff and sewer overflow management. More information on green infrastructure: <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/greeninfrastructure/general>

EPA Money and Support Help Make Beach Visits Safe

While it is still too cold to go to the beach in most parts of the country, EPA works year-round on ensuring beach visits are well-planned and safe for everyone. By providing states an additional \$9.75 million in beach grants in 2008, EPA is helping states continue to monitor water quality at beaches and notify the public of beach warnings and closings when bacteria levels rise too high.

The funds are available to 35 eligible states, territories and tribes as grant money. This is the eighth year grants are being made available since Congress passed the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act in October 2000, bringing the total to more than \$71 million awarded to states.

EPA estimates Americans make 910 million trips to coastal areas each year, spending about \$44 billion. A decade ago, state and local monitoring and notification programs differed across the country. These grants are designed to consistently protect and inform the public before swimming at beach waters.

In addition to supporting stronger beach programs nationwide, EPA is also focusing on developing new technologies to more quickly identify possible bacteria contamination at beaches. The science is evolving, and EPA's research program involves epidemiological studies at a variety of beaches to assess new analytical approaches.

Another way EPA protects and educates the public about beach safety is through the SunWise Program, an environmental and health education program that teaches children and their caregivers how to guard against sun overexposure any time of year. Because skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the U.S., practicing sun safety year-round is the key to prevention. Remember to wear protective lenses, a hat, and sunscreen; use the Ultraviolet (UV) Index as a planning tool; and seek shade between the hours of 10 and 4 when UV radiation is at its peak. It is important to use extra caution near water, sand, and snow because those surfaces reflect the sun's damaging rays.

More information about grant awards: <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/beaches>
Sun safety: <http://www.epa.gov/sunwise>



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Alaska Operations Office

ALASKA NEWS

Update on the State of Alaska's application to operate the NPDES program in Alaska

On June 29, 2006, the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) submitted an application to the US EPA seeking authority to administer the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program in Alaska. The NPDES program issues permits for wastewater discharge consistent with the Clean Water Act (CWA). The CWA presumes States will seek to administer the NPDES program, and sets out a process and criteria for EPA to follow when reviewing a State's application. Tribes who are eligible for treatment as state may also implement this program, following EPA approval.

On November 5, 2007, EPA invited Tribal leaders to inform us if they would like to hold government to government consultation with EPA concerning this potential decision. Currently, the tentative plan is to hold government to government consultation meetings with interested Tribal governments in Bethel, Dillingham, and Juneau or Sitka, Alaska. Once the tribal consultation schedule has been confirmed it will be posted on the EPA Anchorage Office Web site.

The Web site link is
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/aoo.nsf>

Tribes that are interested in this authorization effort may want to visit the ADEC website, where the entire program application is posted as well as the tentative timeline for EPA's review and final determination. Also, possibly of particular interest to Tribes, ADEC has posted its new working draft of ADEC's public participation guidance. Tribes also can sign up for NPDES program updates from ADEC.

For more information, visit the ADEC website at
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/npdes/npdes.htm>

If you would like to discuss this information, please call Michelle Davis, Tribal Trust and Assistance Unit, at (907) 271-3434 or (800) 781-0983 (toll-free in Alaska only). If Michelle is unavailable, you can call Nina Kocourek at (206) 553-6502. In addition, you may also write to Michelle at davis.michelle@epa.gov or to Nina at kocourek.nina@epa.gov for additional information.

Alaska Tribal Coordinator is Appointed to New EPA Position

Tami Fordham, Alaska Tribal Coordinator, has been appointed as the Alaska Resource Extraction Tribal Policy Advisor. Tami will serve as the primary point of contact regarding Tribal interests and concerns related to oil, gas, and mining exploration/development. Tami will continue to serve part time as Tribal Coordinator for some Tribes, and her geographic region remains to be determined.



Got E-mail?

Make the choice to receive this newsletter electronically. Send your e-mail address to Robb Woodman at: woodman.robert@epa.gov

To Report Spills and Accidents

Note these emergency numbers to call in the event of hazardous material spills or accidents.

Alaska	800-478-9300	Washington	800-258-5990
Idaho	800-632-8000	National (EPA)	800-424-8802
Oregon	800-452-0311		

Tribal Staff

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Sandra Borbridge, <i>Tribal Coordinator</i>	271-6558
Santina Gay, <i>Tribal Coordinator</i>	271-3413
Sherry Kimmons, <i>Tribal Coordinator</i>	271-6322
Tami Fordham, <i>Tribal Coordinator</i>	271-1484
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**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Alaska Operations Office**

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