

NEWS

The Tribal Newsletter
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LETTER

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



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

Vol. 18, No. 4 — April 2009

<> CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS <>

April

- 13-15 Tribal Hazmat Training, Richland, Washington.**
To register, please contact Ashley Vernon at 360-871-8723 or avernon@techlawinc.com
See also the article on page 2

May

- 4-6 Managing Water Resources and Development in a Changing Climate: AWRA Conference, Anchorage, Alaska.** For more information, call 907-479-8891 or go to <http://www.awra.org/meetings/Anchorage2009/index.html>
- 11-14 National Conference for Nonpoint Source and Stormwater Outreach--Achieving Results with Tight Budgets, Doubletree Hotel, Portland, Oregon.** For more information, see article below or go to <http://www.epa.gov/nps/outreach2009>

June

- 1-26 Water Resources Technician Training, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico.** For more information, see the article on page 4 or call Mo Baloch at 202-208-6042 or Toni Village Center at 202-208-3956 or 208-4004. Dead line for application **April 3, 2009.**

April 22 is Earth Day

On April 22, 1970, 20 million people across America celebrated the first Earth Day. It was a time when cities were buried under their own smog and polluted rivers caught fire. Now Earth Day is celebrated annually around the globe. Through the combined efforts of the U.S. government, grassroots organizations, and citizens like you, what started as a day of national environmental recognition has evolved into a world-wide campaign to protect our global environment. Learn about the history of Earth Day at <http://www.epa.gov/earthday/history.htm>

5th National Conference for Nonpoint Source and Stormwater Outreach

The 5th National Conference for Nonpoint Source and Stormwater Outreach--Achieving Results with Tight Budgets, will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Portland, Oregon on May 11th through 14th, 2009. It will provide practitioners from around the country the opportunity to learn and share ideas on developing and implementing nonpoint source and stormwater outreach strategies that produce positive, measurable outcomes, comply with NPDES requirements, and can be successfully implemented with modest budgets. The conference will explore practical, current examples of successful outreach programs and projects through facilitated training sessions, workshops, presentations with interactive discussion, group exercises and networking events. The conference will serve local, regional, state and federal professionals tasked with educating various audiences on nonpoint source pollution, stormwater pollution, watershed protection and promoting sustainable behavior changes in challenging economic times.

For more information or to register, go to <http://www.epa.gov/nps/outreach2009/registration.html>

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NAHASDA, The Native American Housing Block Grant program

The Native American Housing Block Grant program, authorized by the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (“NAHASDA”) assists tribes in developing, operating, maintaining, and supporting affordable housing for rental and homeownership housing. Funds can be used for acquisition, new construction, rehabilitation of affordable housing, site improvement, development and rehabilitation of utilities and infrastructure, utility services, conversion, demolition, financing, administration and planning, improvement to achieve greater energy efficiency, mold remediation, investments that leverage private sector funding or financing for renovations, and energy conservation retrofit investments.

Funds will be obligated through competitive funding by September 30, 2009. Priority will be given to projects that will spur construction and rehabilitation and will create employment opportunities for low-income and unemployed persons. Tribes/tribally designated housing authorities (TDHE) will be required to obligate one hundred percent of their funds within one year of the date funds are made available, expend at least fifty percent of such funds within two years of the date in which funds became available, and expend one hundred percent of such funds within three years of such date.

If a tribe/TDHE fails to comply with the two year expenditure requirement, the funds will be recaptured and reallocated by formula to tribes that have complied with this requirement. If a tribe/TDHE fails to comply with the three year expenditure requirement, the balance of the funds originally awarded to the tribe/TDHE will be recaptured. Milestones in the award process include the publication of a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), submission of an application by the tribe/TDHE, review of the application by HUD, and execution of a Funding Approval/Agreement by the tribe/TDHE. In compliance with the Recovery Act, the funds will be obligated by **September 30, 2009**.

If you have difficulty accessing the full announcement electronically, please contact: Deborah M. Lalancette at 303-675-1600, extension 1625 Direct or go to <http://www.hud.gov/recovery/native-american-hi.cfm>

Department of Homeland Security is Sponsoring Free Training for all Indian Tribes

DHS is sponsoring free training sessions for all Indian Tribes. They will cover the costs of the instruction, travel expenses to any Tribe, and materials for the participants. In the class, each person will receive a DHS manual on the subject, a Field Guide, and a DHS certification as a Trainer. The instructor is Steve Parker who teaches environmental technology at Penn State University and is a master trainer in avian influenza (AI) response and in AGTerror Counter-Terrorism Preparedness. DHS will only fund these free courses through **June 30, 2009**. Training can begin as early as **May 18, 2009**. Depending upon need and time, he can teach this course in seven hours or, if necessary, in four hours. Both courses can be taught in a day and a half; however he is willing to tailor the course to fit your time schedule. For more information, call Steve Parker at 570-320-2400, extension 3545 or send an email to sparker@pct.edu

Wetland Program Development Grants

This competitive grant program provides state, tribes, local governments, interstate agencies, and intertribal consortia an opportunity to develop and refine elements of comprehensive wetland programs. The overall goal of this grant program is to increase state and tribal capacity to protect wetland resources. EPA will be especially interested in proposals that address one or more of the national and regional priorities.

The priorities for FY2009 are promoting state/tribal/local wetland program planning based on the four core elements. This priority is intended to develop or refine plans to aid in protecting wetlands and water resources through developing or updating: a Comprehensive Wetlands Protection Plan; a Wetland Monitoring Plan; a state or tribal Comprehensive Regulatory Strategy and Implementation Plan; and/or a Wetland Restoration and Protection Plan; enhancing Wetland Protection through Regulation; developing a Comprehensive Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Program; or developing and/or refining elements of a wetland program using a watershed approach.

The deadline for applications is **April 16, 2009**.

The RFP can be found on the Region 10 web site at [http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/ECOCOMM.NSF/webpage/wetland+grants/\\$FILE/RFP-09-WPDG.pdf](http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/ECOCOMM.NSF/webpage/wetland+grants/$FILE/RFP-09-WPDG.pdf)

State and Tribal Wetlands

The website describing EPA's efforts to Enhance State and Tribal Programs (ESTP) for wetlands and describing the Core Elements for state/tribal programs is now available (see link below). This information will become more important as future wetland funding opportunities will likely be tied more closely to these Core Elements.

At this time, the website is probably most valuable for states and tribes that have not yet developed any substantial wetland programs. The information is designed to help guide them in actions/tasks they might undertake to begin work on such a program in any (or all) of the program areas:

1. Monitoring and Assessment;
2. Regulatory activities including 401 certification;
3. Restoration and Protection;
4. Water Quality Standards for Wetlands.

It's a good starting point for states and tribes, both ones without wetland programs and also those that want to expand/refine existing programs. Any feedback on the website and the information it contains will be appreciated.

EPA's Wetlands Division launched the Enhancing State and Tribal Wetlands Program (ESTP) initiative in 2008. The ESTP is a sustained effort to provide enhanced EPA support to state and tribal wetland programs, with a focus on programs that are actively working to build their capabilities.

The Wetlands Core Elements Framework is the foundation of this effort and is now available at: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/initiative/estp.html>

Sponsor: Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP)

ITEP's American Indian Air Quality Training Program has released the 2009 training catalog that includes detailed descriptions of ITEP air quality training courses, activities and services. To view the schedule, go to <http://www4.nau.edu/itep/trainings/aiaqtp.asp> or contact Lydia Scheer, at Lydia.Scheer@nau.edu or call 928-523-6887.

300 Years of History

PBS has an upcoming series on the 300 year history, as seen from Native American eyes, of America "civilization". It starts April 13th.

For a preview, go to

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/weshallremain/>

Tribal Water Training

EPA's Clean Water Act Tribal Training Web site has been updated to include new course information. Please visit the site at <http://www.epa.gov/water/tribaltraining/index.html> to view course details.

Specific changes to the site include:

New Event Dates: NPDES Permit Writers Training Course (<http://www.epa.gov/water/tribaltraining/tevent0905.html>)

New Course: Introduction to WQX Web Tool and STORET Excel Template—Webinar (<http://www.epa.gov/water/tribaltraining/tevent0906.html>)

New Event Dates: STORET and WQX Data Submission Training (<http://www.epa.gov/water/tribaltraining/tcourse25.html>)

New Course: GAP On-line Training (<http://www.epa.gov/water/tribaltraining/tcourse0903.html>)

Updated Information: Water Quality Standards Academy Basic Course (<http://www.epa.gov/water/tribaltraining/tevent50.html>)

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ), Region 10 Project Proposals Requested

EPA requests proposals for IAQ Projects. Areas of interest include: Assistance on adoptions of EPA's IAQ Tools for Schools program; indoor asthma triggers education and exposure reduction; Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) education and exposure reduction; and general IAQ training, education, and outreach for homes and/or commercial buildings. Projects must take place in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon or Washington. Four awards are anticipated and \$105,000 is expected to be available.

Responses are due **April 17, 2009**.

For more information, contact Davis Zhen at zhen.davis@epa.gov or go to:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/airpage.nsf/Indoor+Air/IAQ+RFP/>

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EPA releases new Fact sheet to Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Do you know how to tell the difference between carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and the flu? The answer to this and other questions about preventing carbon monoxide poisoning can be found in a new fact sheet developed by EPA.

Symptoms could be the result of CO poisoning when you feel better when you are away from home or the symptoms occur or get worse shortly after turning on a fuel-burning device or running a vehicle in an attached garage.

Carbon monoxide, an odorless and colorless gas, is the most common cause of poisoning death in the United States. Unintentional CO poisonings are responsible for about 500 deaths and 15,000 visits to the emergency room each year. Carbon monoxide poisoning can be prevented by installing a carbon monoxide alarm, yet less than one third of homes have them installed.

Everyone is at risk of being poisoned by CO exposure. Older adults with health conditions such as chronic heart disease, anemia or respiratory problems are even more susceptible. Devices that produce CO include cars, boats, gasoline engines, stoves and heating systems. CO from these sources can build up in enclosed or semi-enclosed spaces.

An easy way to remember how you can prevent CO poisoning are the letters I CAN B.

- Install CO alarms near sleeping areas.
- Check heating systems and fuel-burning appliances annually.
- Avoid the use of non-vented combustion appliances.
- * Never burn fuels indoors except in devices such as stoves or furnaces that are made for safe use.
- * Be attentive to possible symptoms of CO poisoning.

This is the 8th fact sheet in a series of educational information for older adults and their caregivers about preventing exposure to harmful environmental hazards. To read more on preventing carbon monoxide poisoning, please go to

<http://www.epa.gov/aging/resources/factsheets/pcmp/index.htm>

Manage Stormwater Runoff

The EPA and the U.S. Botanic Garden produced an on-line video, “Reduce Runoff: Slow It Down, Spread It Out, Soak It In,” that highlights green techniques such as rain gardens, green roofs and rain barrels to help manage stormwater runoff.

The film showcases green techniques that are being used in urban areas to reduce the effects of stormwater runoff on the quality of downstream receiving waters. The goal is to mimic the natural way water moves through an area before development by using design techniques that infiltrate, evaporate, and reuse runoff close to its source.

The techniques are innovative stormwater management practices that manage urban stormwater runoff at its source, and are very effective at reducing the volume of stormwater runoff and capturing harmful pollutants. Using vegetated areas that capture runoff also improves air quality, mitigates the effects of urban heat islands and reduces a community’s overall carbon footprint.

The video highlights green techniques on display in 2008 at the U.S. Botanic Garden’s “One Planet – Ours!” Exhibit” and at the U.S. EPA in Washington, D.C., including recently completed cisterns. To watch the video, go to <http://www.epa.gov/nps/lid>

For more information on stormwater management, go to <http://www.epa.gov/greeninfrastructure>

Drinking Water Training for Tribes and Tribal Operators

The following Web site presents a list of training opportunities that may be of interest to tribes and tribal operators--

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/tribal/training.html>

Click on your region to learn about training opportunities that are available in the upcoming months. For more information, email betanzo.elin@epa.gov

Heads Up: Region 10 Tribal Leaders Summit Approaching

A Region 10 Tribal Leaders Summit will be held in Lewiston, Idaho from September 14 to September 18, 2009.

For more information, please call 208-843-7368.

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Statement by Lisa P. Jackson by EPA Administrator-designate

"I am honored by the confidence and faith President Obama and the Senate have reposed in me to lead the EPA in confronting the environmental challenges currently before us. As Administrator, I will ensure EPA's efforts to address the environmental crises of today are rooted in three fundamental values: science-based policies and programs, adherence to the rule of law, and overwhelming transparency. By keeping faith with these values and unleashing innovative, forward-thinking approaches – we can further protect neighborhoods and communities throughout the country." More information can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/administrator/memotoemployees.html>

Communities Creating Health Environments (CCHE)

CCHE is a National Program Office of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation under the leadership of The Praxis Project. The Praxis Project is a national, nonprofit organization that builds partnerships with local groups to influence policymaking that addresses the underlying, systemic causes of community problems. For more information on other funding initiatives of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and its goal of reversing the childhood obesity epidemic by 2015, please visit them on the web at <http://www.rwjf.org>

CCHE will provide funding and technical assistance for up to ten local community organizing groups and indigenous nations with grants of up to \$250,000 over three years. Youth led organizing groups in communities of color are strongly encouraged to apply. For more information on the Call for Proposals or to become a part of CCHE, go to <http://www.ccheonline.org> where you can download the Call for Proposals, sign up for information sessions and more.

Economic Development Grants

The U.S. Department of Commerce requests proposals for Economic Development Assistance Grants in the following program areas: Public Works, Planning, Local Technical Assistance, and Economic Adjustment Assistance. Proposals will be accepted through **September 30, 2009**.

For more information, go to:
<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=42952&mode=VIEW>

Native Non-Profit to Focus on Green Collar Careers

This Web site provides a wealth of information on green technology, training resources, and projects in Indian Country. Additional resources include: nationwide listings of Native Chambers of Commerce, Urban Indian Centers, and Tribal Colleges as well as green Native businesses, green grants for tribes, green tribal news and links to other Native environmental organizations. See Native Workplace at <http://www.NativeWorkplace.com> or for more information contact Cristala Mussato-Allen at 512-462-9056 or write to info@nativeworkplace.com

How to Report a Possible Violation of Environmental Law

If you have seen what appears to be a violation of environmental laws and regulations, visit <http://www.epa.gov/tips>

This webpage gives you a tool to report possible environmental violations. Because different activities fall under different jurisdictions, the page gives examples of situations and who to call. The webpage also helps you tell the difference between environmental violations and emergencies.

Recovery and Reinvestment Act

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act approved by Congress includes approximately \$2.5 billion to create jobs and economic opportunity in Indian Country.

Senate Indian Affairs Committee Chairman Byron Dorgan (D-ND), who proposed including initiatives for Indian Country in the package, said the legislation represents "a long over-due and urgently needed investment in Indian Country. Indian reservations have faced 50% unemployment rates and double digit poverty rates for decades. These initiatives are targeted to help create jobs in the short term where they are most in need. In addition, the initiatives will also help promote long term economic opportunity and activity."

Airline Flies a 747 on Fuel From a Plant

Air New Zealand tested a jet fuel made from the jatropha plant, as the airline searches for an affordable and environmentally friendly alternative to crude oil. Unlike other biofuel crops like soybeans and corn, jatropha needs little water or fertilizer and can be grown almost anywhere — even in sandy, saline or otherwise infertile soil. Each seed produces 30 to 40 percent of its mass in oil, giving it a high per-acre yield.



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Region 10
Tribal Program
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Got News?

The Region 10 Tribal Newsletter invites you, our readers, to submit ideas and articles for consideration and to share your successes and challenges. Photographs are also welcome. Please submit articles to: Don Creek, EPA, 811 S.W. 6th Ave., Portland, OR 97204 or e-mail creek.don@epa.gov.

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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)	800-424-8301
Oregon	800-452-0311		