

NEWS

The Tribal Newsletter
is published free monthly.

To receive a copy, call:

AK, Ernest 907-271-1485

ID, Jim . . 208-378-5691

OR, Don . . 503-326-5015

WA, Alison . 360-753-8185

LETTER

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/TRIBAL.NSF/Newsletter/Issues> Vol. 18, No. 1 — January 2009

◁ CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS ▷

January 2009

20-23 Tribal Solid Waste Education and Assistance Program (TSWEAP) Trainings,
"Source Reduction Strategies for Tribal Solid Waste Programs" in San Diego, California
For information, go to www4.nau.edu/itep/trainings/tsweap_course_SrcStraSWP.asp

25-27 Harvesting Clean Energy Conference, Billings, Montana – Crowne Plaza Hotel,
To register or view the agenda: www.harvestcleanenergy.org/conference/index.html

February 2009

**2-6 The Alaska Forum on the Environment, Anchorage, Alaska - the Egan/Dena'ina
Convention Center.** Please submit Poster Projects to Sherry Kimmons,
EPA Tribal Coordinator. For questions, go to 907-271-6322.

Capacity Building Grants for States and Tribes

All federally recognized Tribes, including Tribes in Alaska are eligible to request funding under the Brownfields State and Tribal Response Program. The Region's will be accepting requests starting December 1, 2008 through **January 31, 2008**. The goal of this funding is to ensure that tribal response programs include certain elements that help build program capacity to address and manage contaminated lands. Approximately \$50 million will be available nationally. Individual request may be made up to \$1.5 million to cover a one year project period. In Region 10, tribal requests have ranged from \$27, 000 to \$400,000. To learn more read the guidance available at www.epa.gov/brownfields and then talk with the regional coordinators for details on how to apply.

West Coast Estuaries Watershed Protection Grants

EPA Region 10 has issued a request for grant proposals for the West Coast Estuaries Initiative, which you can access at yosemite.epa.gov/r10/water.nsf/Office+of+Water/WEI08RFP

EPA is soliciting proposals to support the protection and restoration of high valued aquatic resources in coastal areas threatened by growth pressure. The grant program emphasizes local, holistic watershed protection and management approaches. Grant funds will assist local and tribal governments in managing land uses while protecting watershed functions and values. Successful projects will match proposed activities to the appropriate watershed scale to ensure environmental results.

EPA plans to award a total of \$2.8 million. Up to ten awards will be made, ranging from about \$400,000 to \$600,000. Entities of local governments, special purpose districts, and federally recognized Indian tribes in the coastal zones of Oregon and Washington and in Cook Inlet near Anchorage, Alaska are eligible to apply. State agencies, institutions of higher learning, and non-governmental entities are not eligible to directly receive these grant awards; however, EPA encourages tribes and local governments to solicit their participation as local collaborators.

Proposals are due by **February 19, 2009**.

For additional details, contact Daniel Steinborn at steinborn.dan@epa.gov or 206-553-2728.

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Native American Congressional Internships

The Native American Congressional Internship Program provide Native Americans and Alaska Natives with an inside view of the federal government. Our ten-week internship in Washington, D.C., places students in Senate and House offices, committees, Cabinet departments and the White House, where they are able to observe government decision-making process first-hand. In 2009, the Foundation expects to award 12 Internships on the basis of merit to Native Americans and Alaska Natives. The application deadline is **January 30, 2009**. For more information, go to aislc.blogspot.com/2008/09/application-native-american.html

Test Your Air Knowledge

EPA and the National Weather Service challenge all Americans to improve their knowledge of the Air Quality Index (AQI). As warm weather approaches, using the AQI will help reduce exposure to ground-level ozone pollution. The Air Quality Index is EPA's color-coded tool for communicating air quality to the public. The most common AQI forecasts range from "code green," — a good day to engage in outdoor activities, to "code red" — when everyone should use caution.

This summer, residents of many cities may notice more "code orange" ozone days than in the past. The potential increase in these "orange" days does not mean air quality is getting worse; it is a result of EPA's recent strengthening of the national ozone standards. However, any time air quality reaches "code orange," those sensitive to ground-level ozone should alter their outdoor activities to reduce exposure.

The daily AQI forecast is widely available from a variety of electronic and print media sources. Members of the public can also receive daily email updates of the air quality forecast by subscribing and following the directions on "EnviroFlash" at www.airnow.gov/ Recent improvements to EnviroFlash make it easier to use. Just enter: the name, e-mail address, and zip code and EnviroFlash will find the nearest local forecast. The information can also be customized to select a specific forecast to be received, such as for "code red" days only.

Information about state and local Air Quality Awareness Week events is available at airnow.gov/airaware

Handbook from the Center for Watershed Protection

The Center for Watershed Protection's Better Site Design Handbook offers a comprehensive suite of guidance documents on Better Site Design. The Handbook outlines 22 guidelines for more environment-friendly development: changes to subdivision and land development and zoning regulations that will better manage stormwater, preserve and enhance existing natural areas, and reduce pollution in local streams. It provides detailed rationale for each principle, everything from basic engineering principles to actual vs. perceived barriers to implementing Better Site Design; examines practices in local communities; details the economic and environmental benefits of Better Site Design; and presents case studies from across the country. For more information, go to www.cwp.org/PublicationStore/bsd.htm

Window to My Environment

This tool is designed to provide interactive maps and tools to answer questions about environmental conditions affecting air, land, and water in user's community. Users enter their zip code or city location and gain access to a broad array of environmental data. For more information, go to www.epa.gov/enviro/wme

Environmental Toolkit

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) has released a CD-ROM called the *Local Environmental Toolkit*. The toolkit contains 21 publications, fact sheets, and other resources that ICMA has produced to help local government officials meet their environmental and economic development challenges. Content includes resources on brownfields, smart growth, military base reuse, and environmental liability. To request a copy of this toolkit call 877-865-4326

Purchasing Solar Power

The Rarus Institute released a guide for organizations interested in purchasing solar electricity without buying the solar equipment. The *Customer's Guide to Solar Power Purchase Agreements* provides an explanation of this rapidly growing business model where a "solar services provider" installs the solar equipment at a university, business, or other organization, and the organization pays only for the solar electricity.

For a copy of the *Guide*, go to www.californiasolarcenter.org/pdfs/ppa/Rarus_SPPACustomersGuide_v20081005LR.pdf

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U.S. Air Quality Standards for Lead Now 10 Times Stronger

EPA dramatically strengthened the nation's air quality standards for lead, improving public health protection, especially for children. The new standards tighten the allowable lead level 10 times to 0.15 micrograms of lead per cubic meter of air (ug/m3).

Lead emissions have dropped nearly 97 percent nationwide since 1980, largely the result of the agency's phase-out of lead in gasoline. Average levels of lead in the air today are far below the 1978 standards.

Lead in the air comes from a variety of sources, including smelters, iron and steel foundries, and general aviation gasoline.

More than 1,300 tons of lead are emitted to the air each year, according to EPA's most recent estimates. For more information, go to www.epa.gov/air/lead/

Formaldehyde Emissions from Pressed Wood

What are the possible risks of formaldehyde emissions from pressed-wood products? The EPA wants to find out and is asking interested parties to submit comments, information and data to determine the extent of the problem and what to do about it. In addition to the 60-day public comment period, EPA has scheduled five public meetings to obtain more input. Formaldehyde is both an irritant and a probable human carcinogen. Attention to the formaldehyde issue significantly increased after Hurricane Katrina when temporary housing for dislocated families in New Orleans allegedly caused illness in many people from formaldehyde emissions in pressed-wood components.

For more information, go to: www.epa.gov/opptintr/chemtest/formaldehyde/index.htm

CERCLA Funding Guidance for State and Tribal Fiscal Year 2009

Section 128(a) of CERCLA authorizes a noncompetitive \$50 million grant program to establish and enhance state and tribal response programs. Generally, these response programs address the assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of brownfields sites and other sites with actual or perceived contamination. For more information, go to epa.gov/brownfields/html-doc/128aguid.htm

Loan Guarantee Program for Native Americans & Alaska Natives

The Section 184 Loan Guarantee Program is a mortgage program only available to Native Americans.

Highlights of the program are: Eligible borrowers include American Indians, Alaska Natives, Tribes, Indian Housing Authorities and Regional or Village Corporations formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act; Available every where in Alaska including tribal trust; Individual allotted trust or fee simple land; 100% guarantee to the lender in the event of a foreclosure and claim; Low down payment of 2.25% based on the lower of the appraised value or cost to acquire the home and a down payment of 1.25% for loans less than \$50,000. For more information, go to www.hud.gov/offices/pih/ih/homeownership/184

Solid Waste Management for Rural Areas Tool

This manual seeks to provide a rudimentary set of tools to help address the challenges of solid waste management, with a focus on waste reduction. The guide is a first step at sharing experiences of a regional council of governments in applying strategic planning principles, group problem solving, public involvement process, business development, and regional approaches, to solid waste management and waste reduction. For more information, go to www.epa.gov/epawaste/index.htm

Guidebook of Financial Tools

This is a reference work that provides an overview of a wide range of financial tools. It is divided into 10 sections that present information on traditional means of raising revenue, borrowing capital, enhancing credit, creating public-private partnerships, ways of lowering the costs of compliance, encouraging pollution prevention, paying for community-based environmental protection, financing brownfields redevelopment, and improving access to capital for small businesses, local governments, and the environmental goods and service industry.

For more information, go to www.epa.gov/efinpage/guidebook.htm

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Grant Funding for Principalship's

Penn State's College of Education has received funding in excess of \$960,000 to offer new graduate fellowships to American Indian and Alaska Native students who are interested in becoming school principals.

The initiative, titled Principals for Student Success (PSS), allows participants to earn a master's degree in Educational Leadership with principalship certification. The primary purpose is to prepare American Indians and Alaska Natives, over a four-year period, to be effective school principals in schools that serve significant numbers of Indian students.

Applications are now being accepted for the fall 2009 semester. The fellowships include a monthly stipend of \$1,675, as well as allowances for dependency support, tuition, textbooks, relocation, and health insurance.

For more information, contact Dr. John Tippeconnic
American Indian Leadership Program,
Suite 300 Rackley Building,
University Park, Pa. 16802
or at jwt7@psu.edu or 814-863-1626
or Dr. Susan Faircloth at scf2@psu.edu or
814-863-3775

Magic School Bus

EPA's Clean School Bus USA program has partnered with Scholastic to write, illustrate, and publish a new book in the popular *Magic School Bus* children's series. In this acclaimed educational series of books and videos for children from kindergarten through fourth grade, a teacher named Ms. Frizzle takes her class on several science-oriented field trips, riding in their magical school bus.

This special-edition book is intended to be used by libraries, schools, state and local air programs, non-profit education and outreach campaigns, and for other targeted opportunities to increase awareness of the importance of reducing diesel emissions.

The books are free and can be requested from the National Service Center for Environmental Publications at EPA's publication warehouse at www.epa.gov/otaq/schoolbus/outreach.htm#order_pubs

Pesticides Available In Indian Country Nationwide

On November 28, 2008, the EPA Administrator authorized a finding that will allow growers in Indian country to use certain pesticide products not currently available for use in Indian country to combat pests in emergency situations.

Under federal pesticide law, growers in Indian country do not explicitly have access to the benefits of pesticide emergency exemptions or special local needs registrations. These products are especially useful when growers in a particular region identify a pest problem that available products do not currently alleviate, such as the arrival of a new pest species from abroad. Without the added protection of emergency exempted or special local needs pesticide products, pest infestations could go unchecked in Indian country, with the potential to devastate crops in Indian country and beyond. In the worst-case scenario, untreated fields in Indian country could act as a safe haven for pest species, allowing them to easily re-infest nearby crop-growing areas.

With this pilot program in place, a use that would otherwise be considered illegal in Indian country would be lawful, if all conditions of the finding are met. The pilot will expire in three years. EPA will continually assess whether or not this approach should be continued, modified, or expanded.

Tribes may decide not to participate in this pilot program at any time. If a tribe does not want to participate, the tribe must notify EPA; otherwise, it will automatically be included.

For more information on the tribal pilot, including special conditions that apply and a table of tribes that are not participating in the pilot, please see www.epa.gov/oppfead1/tribes/pilot-project.htm

Web Sites for Kids: The Great, Green Fun Machine

You can check out what kids in Canada and India are doing about climate change at Ecokids at www.ecokids.ca/pub/index.cfm or Edugreen at www.edugreen.teri.res.in/index.asp

The EPA has two kids' websites - one about the environment in general and one that's all about climate change. Both have games, interactive stories, and links to other interesting websites.

For more information, go to www.epa.gov/kids/ or www.epa.gov/climatechange/kids/index.html

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Art Grants

The grants program was designed to support the wide ranging creative activities of Native American artist, with the goal of increasing the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of contemporary Native American arts. The program will fund exhibitions, installations, publications and critical writing that interpret and present the work of contemporary Native visual artists to the public and encourage dialogue and critical commentary. Awards range from \$7,500 to \$15,000 per project. The criteria for selection will be based on the artistic and programmatic merit of the project, the ability to reach a diverse audience and the nature and extent of interpretation. Non-profit or education-based organizations are encouraged to apply. For more information, go to www.americanindian.si.edu

Middle School Sustainability Challenge

The Siemens Foundation invites middle school students to participate in the We Can Change the World Challenge. Through this national sustainability education initiative, students are challenged to create sustainable, reproducible environmental improvements in their local communities.

Awards include, but are not limited to, Savings Bonds, TV appearances, cameras, and travel. Responses are due by **March 15, 2009**.

For more info, go to www.wecanchange.com/about-challenge/challenge-description

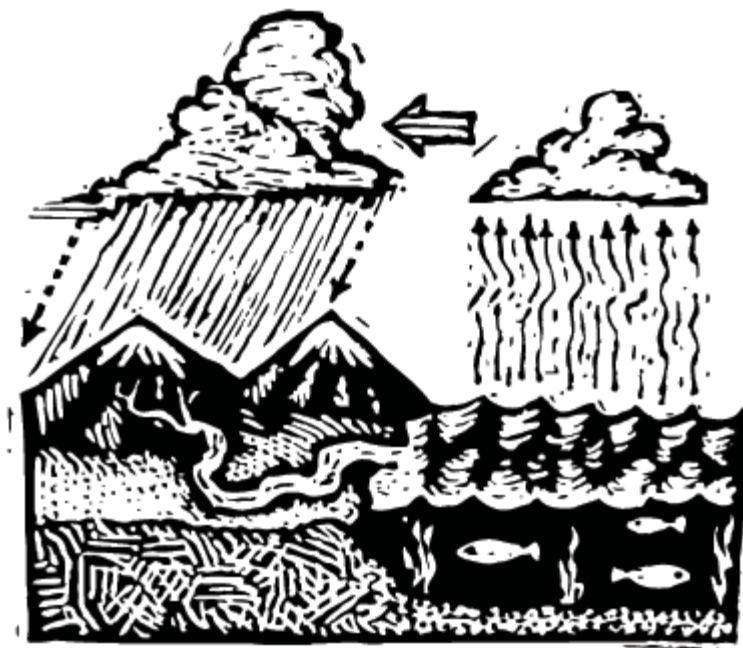
Groundbreaking PBS

After almost five years of planning and production, a groundbreaking television series depicting more than 350 years of history from an American Indian perspective is scheduled to premiere next spring.

Producers of the award-winning PBS history series *American Experience* are nearing completion of *We Shall Remain* – a five-part series of 90-minute documentary films that will air each week for five consecutive weeks beginning on April 13.

In addition to the films, *We Shall Remain* has a massive multi-media and community outreach component that includes mentoring emerging Native filmmakers, a national library initiative, and a coalition of Native organizations and tribes, historical societies, museums, schools and other groups to plan and sponsor activities that promote understanding of local Native history and contemporary life.

For more information, go to www.pbs.org/weshallremain





U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10
Tribal Program
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, ETPA-085
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

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		