

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. 1 — January 2008

<> CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS <>

January

7-10 7 Generations Training, Fairbanks, AK. For information, call Dorothy Captain at 907-468-4479 (See page 8)

February

11-15 2008 Alaska Forum on the Environment/IGAP Training, Egan Convention Center, Anchorage, AK. For more information, agenda and registration go to <http://www.akforum.com> or call 888-301-0185.

21-22 Alaska Collaborative Problem Solving, UAA, Anchorage, AK. For information, email Jane Oakley at anjeo@uaa.alaska.edu or call her at 907-786-6374. Additional information and registration forms are at: <http://resourcesolutions.uaa.alaska.edu> Please fax completed registrations to 907-786-1700. (See page 8)

March

4-7 Air Pollution and Ecosystems (ECOSYS) (Level 2), Las Vegas, Nevada. Pre-Registration Date (for priority consideration) is January 14, 2008. Contact Lydia Scheer at 928-523-1266 or for additional information. Applications can be found at <http://www4.nau.edu/itep/> (See page 9)

25-28 Management of Tribal Air Programs (Level 2), Lawrence, KS

Pre-Registration Date (for priority consideration) is January 14, 2008. Contact Lydia Scheer at 928-523-1266 or for additional information. Applications can be found at <http://www4.nau.edu/itep/> (See page 9)

April

21-24 EPA Region Tribal Leaders Summit, Little Creek Resort and Casino, Kamilche, WA
For information visit: <http://www.squaxinisland.org/tls/index.html>

June

23-27 8th National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management, Billings, MT
Hosted by the Montana/Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council and co-sponsored by EPA. See article below. For information visit: <http://www.ntcem8.org>

<>8th National Tribal Conference <>

This conference is designed to assist Tribal Environmental Professionals, Tribal Administrators, Tribal Health Professionals, and EPA representative in developing, implementing and evaluating Tribal environmental programs to meet Tribal environmental needs and improve Tribal environmental management capacity.

The conference will provide the opportunity for dialog, sharing, and learning about Tribal environmental management issues, challenges, and concerns. The conference will offer an abundance of information, professional contacts, networking opportunities and a community of environmental professionals, tribal leaders, tribal members, and other who care about and work in the Tribal environmental field.

For information visit: <http://www.ntcem8.org>

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Senior Tribal Policy Advisor

EPA is seeking the next EPA Region 10 Senior Tribal Policy Advisor. This is an Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) opportunity open to current employees of tribal governments located in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Past Advisors include Kathy Hill, Scott Sufficool, Sandy Johnson, and Mary Beth Clark. The assignment will last two years, with a possible extension of an additional one to two years.

The Senior Tribal Policy Advisor is a member of the Region 10 Executive Team and reports directly to the Regional Administrator. The incumbent serves as a senior advisor on the ongoing formulation and implementation of Region 10's programs and initiatives related to EPA's National Indian Policy. The incumbent also serves as a senior liaison between Tribes and Region 10, understanding and communicating Tribal perspectives and needs to the Region's senior management and staff, and communicating Regional Tribal policies, strategies, programs, and initiatives to Tribes.

To view the vacancy announcement visit <http://www.usajobs.gov/> and conduct a search using the announcement number: Reg 10-OT-2008-0011. The announcement closes **January 18, 2008**.

Contact Tim Hamlin at 206-553-1563 or hamlin.tim@epa.gov if you have questions regarding the vacancy.

Environmental Reporting Fellowship

The Metcalf Institute for Marine & Environmental Reporting is requesting applications for Diversity Fellowships in Environmental Reporting, a 42-week fellowship program that provides traditionally under-represented minority journalists with an opportunity to learn basic science, gain environmental research and reporting skills, and apply new knowledge and skills in a reporting assignment. Five awards are anticipated and each includes a \$34K stipend. Applications are due **March 18, 2008**. For more information: http://www.metcalfinstitute.org/fellowships/apply_diversity.htm

CWA Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Grants

EPA is soliciting proposals from eligible Tribes and tribal consortia to implement their approved nonpoint source (NPS) management programs. The primary goal of the NPS management program is to control NPS pollution through implementation of management measures and practices to reduce pollutant loadings resulting from each category or subcategory of NPSs identified in the Tribe's NPS assessment report.

Tribes and consortia must have met all of the program eligibility requirements by October 12, 2007 to be eligible to apply for FY 2008 Section 319 funding. Proposals are due **January 15, 2008**. For more information: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/tribal/currentfunding.html>

TMDL Grants

EPA Region 10 is soliciting proposals for the coordination and acceleration of research, studies, experiments, investigations and demonstration projects to improve the capacity of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington States and Tribes to effectively and efficiently develop TMDLs (surface water clean-up plans) for impaired waters located in these States. Funding will not be provided for "routine" TMDL work that the Agency supports with grants under Section 106 and 319 of the Clean Water Act.

Expected outputs of grants awarded through this funding opportunity include: new and improved methods for developing TMDLs that will direct best management practices and TMDL implementation; trained staff on demonstrated applications of improved TMDL development methods and/or improved and accelerated TMDL implementation; new tools or innovative techniques for TMDL development that accelerate the production of TMDLs; and new or innovative approaches to fostering interstate or tribal/state coordination of TMDL development when more than one state/tribe has an interest in a waterbody.

Proposals are due **January 25, 2008**. For more information: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/water.nsf/TMDLs/2008TMDL>

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Puget Sound Targeted Watershed Grants

EPA Region 10 has issued a request for grant proposals for Puget Sound 2008 Targeted Watershed Grants, which you can access at the following website -

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/water.nsf/Office+of+Water/PS08RFP>

EPA is soliciting proposals to support the protection and restoration of high valued Puget Sound aquatic resources in 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 \$2.5 million dollars. Up to ten awards will be made, ranging from about \$250,000 to \$625,000. Entities of local governments, special purpose districts, and federally recognized Indian tribes in the greater Puget Sound Basin 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 **January 31, 2008**. For details, e-mail Sally Hanft, EPA, at hanft.sally@epa.gov

Did You Know?

If we recycled the 48 billion aluminum cans that we throw away each year, we could save the equivalent of 24 million barrels of oil. (Nov. On Tap)



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Methane to Markets Partnership Grants

EPA has made up to \$7,000,000 available through a grant solicitation for innovative international projects and activities as part of the Methane to Markets Partnership.

The agency expects to award approximately 40 cooperative grants agreements ranging from approximately \$100,000 to \$700,000. The Methane to Markets partnership is an international initiative to reduce global methane emissions by promoting capture-and-use projects in oil and gas systems, coal mining, landfills, and animal waste management.

EPA is requesting proposals for projects that directly identify, characterize, or implement methane capture-and-use projects. Examples include technology transfers and demonstrations, feasibility studies, training and capacity building, and databases of potential sites.

EPA seeks proposals from a wide variety of institutions, including international governments, universities, and public or private non-profit organizations to advance project development in the following Methane to Markets Partner countries: Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, South Korea, Ukraine, and Vietnam. EPA will also consider regional proposals including other countries as long as at least one of the countries listed above is included.

The estimated project period for awards is September 2008 through September 2011. Proposals are due by **Feb. 22, 2008 at 4 p.m. EST.**

For more information about this grant: <http://www.epa.gov/methanetomarkets/grants.htm> or http://www.epa.gov/air/grants_funding.html#0801

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New Tools Make Understanding Air Quality Easier Than Ever

Ever used your computer to “fly” through the mountains, or zoom in on a satellite picture of your house? Now you can use the same technology to learn more about emissions and air quality across the country and where you live.

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EPA has developed two tools that let computer users “see” air quality information on a virtual globe. Both tools are now available to the public.

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“Google has changed the way people use the Internet. By combining their innovative mapping tools with our air data, EPA and Google are changing the way people use the Internet to protect their health,” said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson.

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The first tool is part of the new “Air Emission Sources” website, which is designed to make emissions data for six common pollutants easy to find and understand. Based on the latest National Emissions Inventory, the site uses charts and Google Earth files to answer users’ questions. Users can look at overall emissions, emissions by type of industry, or emissions by largest polluter.

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Want to know what industry emits the most sulfur dioxide in your state? Select your state from a map, pick a pollutant, and the site creates a chart showing you emissions by industry. Want to “see” which refineries in your state emit the most sulfur dioxide? Use the “tilt” feature in Google Earth to quickly find the largest emitter. Then click on the balloon to get more details about emissions from that facility.

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This tool can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/air/emissions/where.htm>

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The second tool EPA is providing is Air Quality Index (AQI) information in the Google Earth format. Use the AQI tool to quickly see air quality across the country, then click on a specific location to see that city’s AQI forecast and current levels of ozone or particle pollution.

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The AQI is EPA’s color-coded tool to inform the public about daily air pollution levels in their communities. EPA, in collaboration with state and local governments, provides AQI forecasts and conditions for more than 300 cities across the United States.

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AQI information in Google Earth format can be found at:
http://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=google_earth.main

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EPA is also using the Google Earth platform to display Acid Rain Program data, which can be viewed at:
<http://epa.gov/airmarkets/progress/interactivemapping.html>

E

Hmmm

The world spends \$300 billion a year on agricultural subsidies, \$50 billion a year on bottled water and only \$3 billion a year in foreign aid for water supply and sanitation projects. Yet \$10 to \$20 billion a year would be enough to provide basic human needs for water for all. (Source: The Pacific Institute)

S

Green Scene Podcasts

Whether you’re watching online or listening on your MP3 player, *Green Scene* podcasts are a way to explore environmental issues with EPA’s top experts. Through EPA’s latest downloadable tool, Agency officials discuss how EPA is helping protect our nation’s environment while providing the public with useful tips and information on how they can make a difference in their communities. The discussions will take place biweekly and run roughly five minutes in length.

The agency’s first podcast featured Dr. George Gray, the agency’s chief researcher, talking about America Recycles Day. The Green Scene Podcast box is located on the EPA home page at: <http://www.epa.gov>
In addition, all discussions are archived and posted at: <http://www.epa.gov/newsroom/greenscene>

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What Did You Recycle Today?

Don't throw those empty water bottles into the trash – recycle them. The same goes for the empty cereal box. New data released by EPA shows that Americans generated 251 million tons of municipal solid waste and recycled and composted 82 million tons (about 32.5 percent) in 2006. Each American generated 4.6 pounds of waste each day, of which about 1.5 pounds were recycled. In addition, approximately 31 million tons of municipal solid waste were combusted for energy recovery in 2006.

Recycling offers opportunities for everyone to help reduce climate change, save energy, and conserve natural resources. For example, recycling just one ton of aluminum cans saves the energy equivalent of 36 barrels of oil or 1,655 gallons of gasoline. Furthermore, using recycled materials instead of new materials saves energy and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Using recycled glass instead of new materials consumes 40 percent less energy.

When Americans combine their personal recycling with industrial recycling, they significantly contribute to the protection of the global environment. Americans also contribute to recycling by purchasing products with recycled content, less packaging and fewer harmful materials.

Recycling reduces costs to businesses and creates jobs. The American recycling and reuse industry is a \$200 billion dollar enterprise involving more than 50,000 recycling and reuse establishments, employing more than 1 million people, and generating an annual payroll of approximately \$37 billion.

For information on municipal solid waste generation and recycling rates visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/msw/facts.htm>

Questions: Roxanne Smith, 202-564-4355 or smith.roxanne@epa.gov

Lead/Copper Rule

The final revisions to the EPA Lead and Copper Rule include more openness about drinking water quality. Drinking water agencies are now required to lay out the lead issue in their annual consumer confidence reports. Customers served by taps used in sampling should have access to test results. The new rule decrees that, in cases where lead action levels are exceeded, utilities and health departments should work together in public communication efforts. For more: <http://www.epa.gov/leadcopperrule/index.html#2007>

Spray Paint Regulation to Help Reduce Smog

A new national regulation will help further reduce smog-forming emissions from aerosol spray paints – paints such as clear coatings, nonflat coatings, and primers used by the consumer.

The regulation, the first nationwide rule for aerosol spray paints, limits emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which react with nitrogen oxides to form ground-level ozone, or smog. The new rule focuses on reducing the VOCs with the highest ozone-forming potential, which also is known as reactivity.

EPA modeled the rule on the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) reactivity-based regulation for aerosol coatings. Nearly 85 percent of the spray paints used in the United States are produced by three companies, which already are meeting the CARB requirements.

The new national regulation will provide flexibility for paint producers, especially smaller ones who may produce niche products, by allowing them to choose the VOCs they reduce, provided they meet emissions limits. Previous regulations focused on reducing the compounds by mass, without regard to their smog-forming potential.

The new requirements also apply to imported paint sold in the United States, which must meet the VOC limits by Jan. 1, 2009, the compliance date for the rule. Manufacturers that can demonstrate they produce aerosol paints containing less than 7,500 kilograms (8.3 tons) of VOCs annually are not covered by this regulation. View the final rule at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t1pfpr.html>



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10 Tribal Program
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Seattle, Washington 98101-1128

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		