Alaska Tribal Multi-Media Project
Community Environmental Demonstration Program

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- **Goal**: improving environmental conditions harmful to Tribal health and the Tribal environment.
- **Purpose**: enhancing the human health and/or environment of Tribal communities in rural Alaska
- **Requirements**: for the benefit of federally-recognized Tribal governments in Alaska,
  - contribute to the long-term sustainability of Alaska Native Villages,
  - build Tribal capacity to reduce human health risks and/or environmental degradation in Alaska Native Villages.

Results

- Built capacity for sub-awardee staff
  - project planning and project management
  - grant performance
  - environmental media proficiency,
  - community education and outreach
- Created measurements for project success
  - Quality: The village will look cleaner when more is recycled.
  - Quantity: 10 more households will recycle by the end of the project
  - Suitable to the project
  - Made sense to the sub-awardees

Results

- Gather and report data in a meaningful way for their understanding and for sharing with the Council and community.
- Write final reports, create and present powerpoint presentations and brochures, write question and answer documents to share lessons learned, and some developed a video.
- Develop project materials which could be used by other tribes to implement similar projects, like important questions to consider before beginning a project.

Projects

- **Energy Projects:** Alternative Energy, Conservation, Efficiency
- **Health of the Environment and People:** Air and Water Quality, Clean up Junk and Contamination, Climate and Subsistence, Community Building, Stewardship, Watershed Assessment, Youth Involvement
- **Recycling, Re-using, Reducing:** Antifreeze, Plastics to Oil, Public Engagement
- **Sewage and Sanitation:** Honeybucket Hoppers, Sewage Haul
- **Solid Waste:** Balefill, Bin Service, Collection, Composting, Hazardous Waste

Lessons Learned

- Research
- Planning
- Ask questions
- Figure out the steps
- Prepare
- Persistence
- Community Involvement
- Education
- Ongoing Efforts
- Outreach
- Testing and Redoing: A "Feedback Loop"
- Training
- Persistence

Research

- Do research. Has someone else done this project? Someone in your region of the state, or even in Alaska?
- Ask questions!
- Don't take on a huge project until you understand the financial commitment.
- Ask for ideas or examples from other IGAP Coordinators and technical assistance providers.
- Find out if you must hire someone who is certified and qualified for the job, for example, electrical wiring.

Planning, Preparing, Step by Step

How is going fishing like an environmental grant?
They both use project management!

- Planning ahead is the beginning
  - Who? What? Where? When? How? …Why?
  - Research. Ask Questions. What next? What if? And then what?
    - "If only I had thought about this beforehand…"
    - "I didn't know the vendor costs didn't include this."
    - "I assumed the grant would pay for that."

Who? What? Where? When? How? …Why?

- **Who** is going fishing? Who will help you fish? Who will know when you're coming back and if you're delayed? Who will help you clean and hang the fish? Who will get the first fish? Who will help you eat the fish?
- **Who** is doing the project? Who will help you write the grant? Who will review the draft? Who will sign the forms? Who will check the budget? Who will order the materials? Who will talk to the Council? Who will do the work? Will they do all of the work? Will someone else help? Who will run the Community Meeting?

Who? **What?** Where? When? How? …Why?

- **What** do you need to bring fishing? What about if the weather changes? What if something breaks? What if fishing is really good and you stay longer? What do you need to bring the fish home or to fish camp? What tools do you need?
- **What** do you need to work on the project? What tools? What supplies? What people? What skills? What don't I know about this? What if something breaks? What about the weather: does it affect the project? What if the weather changes? What is the barge schedule? What if…

Who? What? **Where? When?** How? …Why?

- **Where** are you going fishing? Where is your gear? Where are your life vests?
- **Where** will the project be done? Where is the equipment going to be stored? Where are the tools you need?
- **When** will you need to start packing? When will you find out the fish are in? When will you leave? When will you return?
- **When** will you need to order things to make the barge? When will you start Community Outreach? When will you report on your progress? When will you start collecting cans, separating haz waste,

Who? What? Where? When? **How? …Why?**

- **How** will you get there? How long will it take to get there? How long will you be fishing?
- **How** will you get the supplies here? How long will it take to do the work? How will you do the project? How will you get people interested? How will you ask for help? How will you show others how to do this?
- **Why**? Why are you fishing? Why do you need this boat or that net? Why do you bring this food?
- **Why** do you need this project? Why this equipment and not something else? Why this location and not on the other side of town?

Planning, Preparing, Steps

Special Questions About Equipment:

- Do you need special training for this equipment?
- If you buy equipment from a vendor, will they go to your village and train local operators?
- Will the equipment or materials work in extreme temperatures?
- Does the equipment need to be stored out of the elements? Where? Does it need to be locked up? Does it
- Does the equipment need special power that is different from existing electrical power sources, like "three-phase power"?
- Will the village have funds for maintenance and to replace parts?

Success Story

Overview of the success story for each project we subawarded. You can find these on our web page. Details of two projects follow this slide as an example.

- Project Photos
- Challenge
- Project Objective
- Results
- Benefits
- Lessons Learned

Green Salvage of Vacant Building:
Ekuk Village Council

This old BIA school, was a "shell" of usable wood after any hazardous materials were cleaned out. At left, some of the dismantled lumber is staged for re-use.

Challenge: Remove an "eyesore" without adding to the local landfill.

Project Objective
The Ekuk Village Council choose to conduct an environmentally-friendly demolition and salvage of the old cleaned up and "shelled" school building. Rather than end up at the community dump, the salvaged lumber was re-used by community for various activities, like repairing smokehouses and steam-baths, making flowerboxes, etc.

Results
- Community meetings were planned and held to educate the community and promote their participation in the project.
- The project providing employment for local residents and caused workforce capacity development.
- The building was dismantled and the salvageable materials sorted and staged for community collection of materials.
- Firewood (untreated lumber) for heating source was delivered to families.
- Building lumber was separated and staged for reuse in various construction projects in village, including: steam-bath houses and fish smoke houses.

Benefits
This project demonstrates what can be done with many of the abandoned buildings that are of great concern in communities across rural Alaska. By recycling and reusing materials that would have ended up in the local Ekuk dumpsite, we saved space at the dumpsite and saved residents money. It will be exciting to watch the habitat return to its natural state. Very importantly, the abandoned building is no longer a dangerous place for "hang-out" nor an "eye-sore".

Lessons Learned
- More wood could have been salvaged if a drying process was included.
- There is no need to worry about re-seeding the area. The native grasses flourished once again at the project site.

Zender Environmental

Community Environmental Demonstration Projects

Funding and technical support provided by Zender Environmental through the Community Environmental Demonstration Grant Program. Grants were small US EPA-funded, Alaska-based projects for innovative, locally-led ways to better the health of tribal members and their environment. The Community Environmental Demonstration Grant Program was made possible with the Alaska Tribal Multi-Media Grant from the US EPA.

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GAKONA VILLAGE COUNCIL

To work together in unity and faith for a better tomorrow... and a stronger people.

Turning Plastics into Heating Oil:
Native Village of Gakona Tests Feasibility

The machine

Demonstration in neighbor village

Challenge: Recycling plastics locally to reduce waste in landfill and the cost to haul plastics to a recycling facility.

Project Objective

The Native Village of Gakona piloted in the village a machine that converts plastic wastes to oil. The goal was to help the community move forward in increasing participation in the recycling program and reducing the amount of non-biodegradable waste entering their landfill.

Results

- Demonstrated recycling machine in 9 villages.
- Converted about 54 ½ pounds of recyclable plastics into 33 pints of oil; a little over four gallons.
- The machine uses on average 1 kilowatt per hour of electrical energy.
- Process time to convert is 3 ½ to 5 ½ hrs.

Benefits

Getting plastic out of the waste stream is a common issue of concern for rural communities throughout Alaska because it gets burned and emits toxic fumes into the community. Backhauling plastic is not always cost-effective because it does not generate any revenue and shipping costs are high. Educating the community in why and how to keep plastic out of household trash is also a common challenge. This project links plastics recycling with the production of a valued commodity – fuel – which in villages averages about $7-10/gallon.

Lessons Learned

- Research the volume of materials needed to make the machine useful.
- Research how much plastic your community generates.
- Plan and budget for spare parts and shipping.
- Be very careful during transport of machine.
- People truly appreciate recycling efforts.
- Need to make recycling program as "user-friendly" as possible.
- When temperature drops, recycling participation drops.

- **Find information about the projects that were managed by ANTHC and RurAL Cap:**
- Search online for ANTHC demonstration projects or go to http://anthc.org/what-we-do/community-environment-and-health/tribal-capacity-and-training/community-environmental-demonstration-projects/
- **Find information about the projects that were managed by Zender Environmental:**
- Search online for Zendergroup cedp or goto www.zendergroup.org/cedp.html