

# ALASKA SOLID WASTE NEWS

## Spring Issue

*In spring breathes life....*



The light brings a change in hunting, fishing, and social events. Birds and salmon come back and overland trips and visits recede. Basketball is over. Congrats to all the tournament teams and the Port Lions Girls (1A), Aniak Boys (1A), Skagway! And speaking of winter activities CONGRATS TO JOHN BAKER!!! And to Peter Kaiser (8<sup>th</sup>), Mike Williams(13<sup>th</sup>), Jr, Robert Nelson (19<sup>th</sup>), and Paul Johnson(34<sup>th</sup>). The averaged finish for Western Alaska was 15<sup>th</sup> compared to 33<sup>rd</sup> for the rest of 62 teams!! Now here's the connection to solid waste (you knew we would come up with something!). Besides companionship and

transportation, dogs determine a big part of your organic wastestream. With dogs are dog yards. More dogs – less food scraps, more dog poop. Less dogs in your village – more food scraps, less dog poop. Either way – it's perfect for our feature spring story on composting! Our spotlighted village this time is Fort Yukon – where their backhauling is a great reminder in planning for summer barge, and their used clothing store is a nice complement to spring cleaning. We've also got some new resources we talk about and summaries of AFE sessions. Check out our calendar in the back, and

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finally read more about sled dog traditions in our culture corner. We're dedicating this issue to the strong people in our lives – whether it's Robert Nelson continuing on despite a dislocated shoulder, loved ones battling cancer, or Japanese plant workers trying to stop radiation leakage, our world is better for them. There are heroes everywhere and they inspire us.

## Spring into Spring with Composting!

When is a better time to start composting and gardening in your community than spring?

Composting starts with organic wastes, breaks them through natural "decomposition", and then returns the end-product to the earth from which it originated.

The soil is replenished with important nutrients it needs to support plants.

Tiny, tiny bacteria,

worms, and other critters too small to see are the workers for decomposition. For these "microbes" to work well at breaking down organic materials, the compost needs three parts "brown" materials (e.g. shredded paper, cardboard, or bark/wood chips, etc.) and one part "green" materials (e.g. food scraps, seaweed, fish waste). Most villages have a pretty good amount of organic wastes. Based on waste assessments completed by 8 rural Alaska villages, the residential waste stream consists *by weight* of around 33% food scraps, 15% paper and 12% cardboard. Once dogs are fed their food scraps, composting the rest of the organic material saves landfill space, and the great food nutrients are kept in the circle of life to create more plant life. Additionally, when buried in landfills without air, organic materials release methane gas as they break down. Methane is a primary "greenhouse gas" — like carbon dioxide, it contributes to global climate change (it won't



*Composting in Gustavus*

affect your village's climate). All you need to start a compost program is a source of green and brown wastes and a good location for a compost pile. It's as easy as 1) Collect 2) Stir and 3) Let cook. For specifics on how to create a successful compost pile, and lots of compost and gardening resources, go to <http://www.zendergroup.org/compost.html>.

With the community garden session at February's AFE at standing room only, there is a lot of interest here. Several communities around the state are already composting their waste and even using it as fertilizer in their greenhouses. Below are some current examples of composting and gardening:

### Cordova

The Copper River Watershed created a homemade tumbler using a model adapted from B & W Organics. Sawdust from a local sawmill and fish waste from a cannery create a nitrogen-rich product that is sold to local gardeners. At Cordova's high school, the students compost their cafeteria's food scraps and use them in an experimental methane digester science project. The plan is to use the cold-loving microbes found in Eyak Lake's mud to turn the scraps into cooking fuel.

### Akiak

Akiak school has a compost program where they raise rabbits! Each household separates food waste into three groups; dog scraps, rabbit scraps, and worm scraps. The dogs eat the meat, skin, fish, and bones.

The rabbits eat the vegetable leftovers. Rabbit poop is added



*Collecting the eggs from the Igiugig hen house!*

to the rest for the worms to breakdown into compost. The rabbit poop and compost provide excellent fertilizer for their vegetables and herbs grown in the community. Recycled coffee and food cans

are used for plant pots. Old skiffs will be used to create outside family gardens for homes. A greenhouse is being built by the kids - who are using the high school shop class. Because the community realized it was a great project to get everyone involved, the



*Cordova Teens compost their lunch scraps*



*Building the greenhouse provides job skills!*



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project is partially funded by the Alaska State Division of Behavioral Health.

**Igiugig**

Igiugig has a similar program with chickens! Through a combination of funding sources including EPA IGAP, AK Food Coalition and AK Marketplace, they compost leftover food scraps and chicken poop to help their plants grow in their community greenhouse. They started with a plastic-covered greenhouse and now have a permanent structure. IGAP staff supplies the composting buckets and village residents and local lodges bring their compost to a centralized location. They are still working out bear issues with their outside compost piles, but the vermi-composting (using worms) stays indoors and is very successful. Selling the potatoes grown to the lodges is planned.

**Garden Longer!** You might have noticed a kind of short growing season in Alaska ☺. But even if you don't have money yet for a conventional greenhouse building, there are ways you can grow longer than the warm weather. Through their Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)



*NRCS can help fund a "high tunnel" system, shown above*

offers cost sharing on a Seasonal "High Tunnel" System, which is a polyethylene

(plastic) covered shelter with no electrical, heating, and/or mechanical ventilation



*Nikolski's kit plus shipping to Dutch Harbor cost about \$16,000*

requirements (see picture). It covers the crops to extend the growing season. Contact Helen Denniston at (907) 761-7717 for more information.

After a lot of research, **Nikolski** opted out of the conventional high tunnel greenhouses offered by NRCS, and used funding from AK Marketplace to build a 26' geodesic dome greenhouse from a kit. This structure can better withstand the high winds and snow loads common to the community. The greenhouse is

heated passively via a blank water tank and two small solar panels that operate a fan and vents. The tribe now employs a full-time person to work there, and they have help from many community volunteers. Food is distributed for-free to the community.

**Dog Poop and Compost:** You can compost dog poop. But you *must* compost it separately from compost used to grow food. Dog poop compost can be used only for flowers, ornamental plants, and soil-



building. That's because dogs are so similar to humans, there are a few illnesses that dogs and humans can transfer between each other. Alaska has a very short growing season. So if the vegetables have started to grow, a slight risk exists that the food could be contaminated still when ready to eat.

The examples above are only a handful of the many composting and gardening projects in villages. If you are interested in starting your own project, keep in mind that every composting/gardening project is different based on your local resources, climate, and desired use of the compost product. You'll need to experiment. But the good thing about compost is that anyone can try it – just separate out some organics in a bucket or a pile or barrel and start investigating! And you can start gardening even before your compost finishes. There are several agency programs to help you. For "how-to" and resources, see updated and expanded compost document at:

<http://www.zendergroup.org/compost.html>.

Community photos in this article are courtesy of Igiugig IGAP and Connie Fredenburg, Nikolski. If you'd like to contact these communities directly, call us at 277-2111 and we'll put you in touch.



*Kids learn too (Nikolski-top, Igiugig-bottom)*

**Late Breaking Opportunity.** New beginner's class for remote Alaska Native Villages to grow food. **April 20<sup>th</sup>**. See <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/ags> today!

## Alaska Forum on the Environment (AFE) Highlights

One reason why we are crazy about the field of solid waste is that it relates to so many things. After all, you're not just managing garbage, you're managing people – or at least their disposal habits, politics, and priorities. Because funding is difficult, you need to look out for ways to leverage solid waste projects with other projects to create win/win situations. So to be an effective solid waste manager and planner, you need to know about a lot of related issues. At AFE our staff attended several tracks that relate to solid waste and we want to share our notes.



### First up, **Environmental Justice.**

Environmental Justice (EJ) is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. *A federal law directs federal agencies to consider how their activities would negatively impact the health and environment of minority communities, including Tribal Communities.*



At AFE, the EJ track was in two parts. The Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (IWG EJ) first presented their current activities on coordination efforts and what strategies they are

working on to address environmental justice issues. Specifically, they told us how they will solicit increased public and Tribal input into their action plan(s). The multiple federal agency presence at the AFE was one step towards meeting this goal; a goal set at the first "White House Forum on Environmental Justice" held this past December in Washington D.C.



In Part 2, the IWG EJ listened to environmental concerns from Tribal

communities. Also present at this session was Winona Wilson of the EPA who was tasked to bring Alaska's concerns directly to Lisa Jackson, the EPA Administrator. Elders, Tribal Leaders and Tribal Environmental Staff voiced their EJ issues and recommendations. Here are just a few issues raised: "Consider social and economic impacts on individual families", "Resource extraction threatens traditions", and "Alaska Tribes need to be at the table where decisions are made in regards to subsistence". Some recommendations were: "Communities need to see action as a result of their participation", "Ensure that all communities have clean air, water, food, and adequate sanitation systems.", and "Government agencies need to better streamline their processes and coordinate services internally and externally." The full list of Issues and Recommendations voiced by Tribes, as well as resources to learn more about EJ, is in our new

EJ doc at:

<http://www.zendergroup.org/ej.html>



Next, **Climate Change.** There were 15 climate change-related sessions. The

Institute of Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) talked about their planned Tribal Climate Change training and technical assistance. Several sessions included Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Alaska Native perspectives on climate change, with people sharing their community's experience. Read all these session notes at:

<http://www.zendergroup.org/climate.html>

. On the last day of AFE, Dr. Michael Smith from ICF International led a full day training on incorporating climate change planning in the NEPA process. If you'd like a copy of his AFE presentation, you can email him at this address: [michaelsmith@icfi.com](mailto:michaelsmith@icfi.com)



In most sessions, several people expressed an interest in a better understanding of the science of

climate change. We developed a "Climate Change 101" document explaining the basics, at [http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/Climate\\_Change\\_101.pdf](http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/Climate_Change_101.pdf). With all Alaska villages feeling the impacts of climate change, several questions were raised about possible funding opportunities for adaptation or mitigation. In this list of resources:

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**AFE Highlights****Continues from previous page**

<http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/CCresources.pdf>, we compiled several funding opportunities, as well as links to websites on the science and impacts of climate change in Alaska and around the world.

Finally, **Environmental Education and Outreach**. There was an amazing focus on environmental education at AFE. Not to mention a huge turn out in youth participation! There were a lot of different angles of environmental

education, such as youth engagement opportunities and education programs. Some other topics were outreach and



communication strategies; “Drum Beats” – a continuing education program; great curricula and activities such as

Telida’s “Alaska Next Generation” and Project WET; “7 Generations” training (back by popular demand!). Also some new websites to check out, such as Alaska Environmental Exchange, developed for

Alaska-based environmental networking - <http://alaskaee.com/index.htm>. Environmental education differs from community to community. Whether you’re just getting started or you’re seasoned in the area of environmental education, there are a great number of education tools from which we can learn. We’ve highlighted several of them from AFE in a handout along with other helpful resources. Check it out at [http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/env\\_ed!](http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/env_ed!)

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## Resource Circle

Ok, now for a roundup of some cool solid waste resources. First up, **Telida IGAP’s** awesome solid waste education curriculum for school kids at



[www.AKNextGeneration.org](http://www.AKNextGeneration.org). If you’re looking for ideas on school presentations and

activities that are appropriate to Alaska villages, look no further! Activities are broken into different age groups and provide math and science lessons at the right level. Speaking of education, we need to put in a plug for the video “**the Story of Stuff**”, at [www.storyofstuff.com](http://www.storyofstuff.com). It’s not new, but I have to say it captures why waste reduction & reuse & safe handling are so important. It is a simple cartoon-type video that discusses the impact on the earth and local peoples of the mining needed to make things, the impact of the factories making the things, and then the impact on the earth and local peoples of the things being discarded. Check it out to see if it might help you in getting your community involved in waste reduction. On the home page, click on the blue square labeled “stuff”. You can also view their new waste videos on electronics, cosmetics, and water bottles.

**Operators and Enforcement**. When we get the same requests from several tribes, we develop fact sheets and/or compile existing resources so that

they are easier for folks to find. Our web programmer has been busy! At

[www.zendergroup.org/operator.html](http://www.zendergroup.org/operator.html), is a new page



just for landfill operators that contains safety information, operational guidelines, landfill checklists, etc. The safety gear

factsheet there is newly updated and expanded. Have you checked out our waste ordinance page lately? At [www.zendergroup.org/ordinances.htm](http://www.zendergroup.org/ordinances.htm) we’ve added more sample village ordinances, and many, many more resources on why and how to develop them.

**Including the Kitchen Sink...**

Miscellaneous new resources include an emergency response plan page at: [www.zendergroup.org/erp.html](http://www.zendergroup.org/erp.html), a climate change page at:

[www.zendergroup.org/climate.html](http://www.zendergroup.org/climate.html), and

updated and expanded documents on freon removal and compost:

[www.zendergroup.org/docs/Freon\\_removal.pdf](http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/Freon_removal.pdf) and

<http://www.zendergroup.org/compost.html>. New

documents were compiled on Environmental

Justice: <http://www.zendergroup.org/ej.html>, and

Environmental Education:

[http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/env\\_ed](http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/env_ed).

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## Village Spotlight: Fort Yukon

Fort Yukon is a Gwich'in village of approximately 580 residents, located at the confluence of the Yukon and Porcupine rivers, about 145 air miles northeast of Fairbanks.

Fort Yukon has been implementing their IGAP program since 1996 and have been operating a successful recycling and backhaul program since that time, which has resulted in the reduction of solid waste in the village. The IGAP is managed by Clayton Tackett, who graciously shared his story. Fort Yukon backhauled a total of 66,000 lbs this year and 45,000 lbs last year!

### Community Recycling Activities

Gwichyaa Zhee IGAP operates an aluminum can recycling program, in which cans are shipped free of charge via Frontier Airlines, Warbelow's Air, or Wright Air to Fairbanks. Once there, K&K Recycling picks up the cans and sends the money back to the tribe. The can money is used for the IGAP backhaul program. When the can recycling program was first started, Clayton worked with local



*Wastes are segregated at the landfill in preparation for backhaul. It makes it easier for folks to salvage parts as well.*

businesses and residents to donate bikes, which were awarded to households that collected the greatest number of cans for recycling!

**Batteries, Vehicles, White Goods** Gwichyaa Zhee IGAP also accepts and picks up car and household batteries, which are stored in a covered staging area until they are barged by Crowley in the summer time. In addition to batteries, Fort Yukon also backhauls cars (with the oil removed) and all white goods. Clayton is EPA certified in Freon removal so he makes sure all the refrigerant is removed before white goods are put on the barge.

**Hazardous Fluids** Hazardous waste, such as anti-freeze, gear oil, hydraulic oils, and break fluid, is also collected and backhauled.

**E-Wastes** Fort Yukon has an e-waste recycling program, as well. The regional clinic, the tribal offices building, the local school, and the military base have all agreed to drop off e-waste at the backhaul staging area, where it is put on pallets and shrink-wrapped in preparation for the barge. It is backhauled to



*Used oil is poured through a splash guard into the burner – which heats the tribal office.*

Nenana, along with cars and white goods, at 10 cents/lb, where the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council picks it up and sends it to Seattle.

**Used Oil** Clayton also collects about 250 gallons per month of used oil, which is used to heat the tribal offices. Residents who have used oil call Clayton and he picks it up for use in the used oil burner.

**Efficient Lights** Fort Yukon has mostly switched to compact fluorescent light bulbs and the IGAP department collects used bulbs from the school and households. Clayton uses pre-labeled compact fluorescent light bulb boxes to send to Total Reclaim in Anchorage.



*Two connexes support a roof that shelters hazardous waste as well as program workers.*

**Glass** The IGAP department has been collecting and stock piling glass, with the hope that they will be able to obtain a glass crusher soon and

be able to reuse the glass in the community.

### Waste Reuse and Reduction

Fort Yukon also operates a thrift store for clothes and other items. The Center is managed by GA

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(General Assistance) workers and, counting its previous location, has been in operation for many years. The Center itself is heated through waste reduction by using a wood pallet stove. When residents have donations (clothes, shoes, toys, video tapes, etc.), they call and request a pick-up. All donations are free! It is very common for people to recycle the fabric and other materials and use them for lining parkas or beaver hats. The Center is actually a social gathering place for some folks now. It is also a popular place before the annual Carnival!

**Bags and Styrofoam** Fort Yukon banned both plastic bags and Styrofoam. There was a lot of education and some folks weren't happy at first. But everyone uses canvas bags now and the town and dump are a lot cleaner. Their ordinances are at <http://zendergroup.org/ordinances.htm>.

### Community Involvement

Every spring, the community holds a Spring Clean-up event. All residents who have recyclable items fill out forms and describe when and where vehicles, TV sets, and other heavy items can be picked up by IGAP. During this event, the City of



*The "Clothes Recycling Center" uses wood pallet heat...*

Fort Yukon donates \$1,000, which is used to get youth involved – when kids help in the Spring Clean-up, they get \$1/a bag! About once a week, Clayton shares recycling tips with the community on the radio station. Gwandak Public Radio (KZPA 900) broadcasts from there! Also, during the annual Carnival, he sets up a booth with information on recycling for the community. This summer, he plans to purchase two bikes with carts for kids to ride around town and collect aluminum cans. They get exercise and he gets help!

### Landfill Management

The City of Fort Yukon has a twice-weekly collection service. Trash is then taken to the

landfill and buried. Household collection is free because Fort Yukon charges their businesses by the bag and also can use city tax money. But like every community, Fort Yukon has solid waste problems they are working on. Residents do not carry out any trash separation. They leave the trash out and ravens get in and scatter it. Despite collection



*Toys, books, movies, and more are exchanged here.*

service, some residents and businesses still self-haul and burn trash at the landfill, even though there is no burnbox. To address some of these issues, the City is considering free collection service only for residents who separate their trash and recycle. The

thought is that folks will carry out more responsible disposal practices while reducing the wastestream.

For more information on Fort Yukon's program, you can contact Clayton Tackett at [clayton.tackett@fortyukon.org](mailto:clayton.tackett@fortyukon.org), 662-2581.

## The Spring Idea Award

Intelligent concepts abound in villages, but the award goes to the Native Village of Newtok for a system design to collect honeybucket waste with a Cowater Alaska flush haul tank and vacuum. The collector goes

door-to-door for each household's wastes. The vacuum is attached to a honeybucket lid so it is sealed, and the waste is vacuumed into the tank. This way, there is no need for honeybuckets to be carried to the hoppers, eliminating possible spillage onto village roads or residents. Also, spillage and splashing from the hoppers is eliminated in-transport to the lagoon.

Newtok's goal has improved public health by eliminating the need for their residents to haul honeybuckets and by reducing exposure to spilled wastes. For more information, contact: Phillip Carl at [newtokigap@yahoo.com](mailto:newtokigap@yahoo.com).



## Resource Circle

(Continued from page 5)

**Money!** And if you are interested in funding ☺, be sure to check out our step-by-step guidance for USDA grants and loans at <http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/usda.pdf>.

This source of funding is probably the primary state or federal agency avenue to upgrade your site or, if needed, construct a new landfill. Their “PPG” and “SEARCH” grants even fund the planning needed to efficiently construct a sustainable and safe solid waste facility that protects the environment and community health.

**Don't Take it for Granted.** Have any of you tried out the online free tribal training for grant management?



We checked out their resources, and grant management curriculum and it was really helpful. So if you do have any spare time and want to brush up on your reporting skills – check out National “PETE”

(National Partnership for Environmental Technology Education). They have webinar live trainings in May and June, as well as a study-on-your-own tutorials. Go to [www.petetribal.org](http://www.petetribal.org) and click “online training” at the top of the page.

**An Earful.** Want to have a say in EPA's solid waste policies? Their Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) has a monthly question and you can always submit comments to

<http://blog.epa.gov/oswerforum/>.

**Time for Air.** Does everyone know about the monthly Tribal Air Workgroup calls? They have great



discussions and presentations. If you're interested in waste burning, landfill road dust, diesel emissions, etc., this group is a good place to start. To join, contact Rose Kalistook at: [rkalistook@nativecouncil.org](mailto:rkalistook@nativecouncil.org)

or call her at: 907 543-2608 x244.

**Honeybuckets not in the museum yet?** If that is your case, then you probably know that the folks that used to make hoppers and trailers stopped doing so. It has been really difficult to find replacements. So we've also been hunting down vendors that make and sell honeybucket hoppers and trailers. If you need new hoppers or trailers, contact us at 277-2111, and we'll give you our results. Perhaps the least cost method is to find used hoppers. Goodnews Bay has good condition hoppers available for folks needing any. Contact Peter Julius, Tribal Administrator, at 967-8929.

Finally, we want to mention our own free technical

## CULTURE CORNER



### Dog Sledding: Another Native people's invention, natch.....

This is a beaded łajj ts'at , Gwich'in for “dog blanket”. The colors and jingling sounds of the dog blankets worn by the team of a chief or wealthy villager announced the entrance to a village for New Years, a wedding, feast, or other big event. Blankets weren't worn on the trail– drivers stopped to dress their dogs when they came within hearing distance of a settlement. Dog blankets gained popularity in Interior around the late 1700s, with Interior dogs used not for sleds, but for pack animals and hunting mostly before then. Dogsleds were used much earlier in northern coastal areas, being first used about 1,300 years ago by Canadian Inuits. Before Russian contact in 1732, both Yup'ik and Inupiaq peoples in the Bering Strait region had already adapted their qayaqs to travel overland with dogs. The sleds were most likely made of whale and caribou bones, with runners of frozen char fish tied end-to-end and wrapped in animal hide, glazed with water, and with it all lashed together with sinew. Harnesses were fashioned of seal skin as were the “tug” lines. Coastal Eskimo Dogs, and the Alaskan Interior Village Dogs are descended from pre-Columbian dogs which crossed the Bering Straits as early as 14,000 years ago or before. The dogs were fully domesticated and primarily descended from Asian wolves, although some studies show some dogs evolved from or mixed with local Alaska wolf populations. Besides the poop/food wastes/compost link, dog sledding relates to solid waste because sleds reduce the use of gas and oil for snow-machine travel.

*Photo taken from the online database of the Smithsonian Center collection at the Anchorage Museum. Read and see more at <http://alaska.si.edu/record.asp?id=259> . Sled dog history from these websites: [http://www.sleddogcentral.com/features/little\\_wolf/laskans.htm](http://www.sleddogcentral.com/features/little_wolf/laskans.htm) (Stephanie Little Wolf, author) <http://www.tworiversak.com/sleddoghx1.htm> (Star Dog Historical Freight Dogs).*

## Calendar of Events and Deadlines

DATE	EVENT/TRAINING	LOCATION	MORE INFO	FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS
Apr 18-23	YRITWC: Hazardous Waste Technician Training	Fairbanks, AK	<a href="http://www.yritwc.org/Departments/Backhaul.aspx">http://www.yritwc.org/Departments/Backhaul.aspx</a>	<b>EPA 2011 Environmental Education Regional Grants</b> Deadline: May 2, 2011 <a href="http://www.epa.gov/education/grants.html">http://www.epa.gov/education/grants.html</a>
Apr 26-28, 2011	7 Generations Training	Good News Bay, AK	<a href="mailto:droehl@anthc.org">droehl@anthc.org</a>	<b>USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) for the Community Connect Grant Program</b> Deadline: May 3, 2011 <a href="http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_commconnect.html">http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_commconnect.html</a>
May 2-3, 2011	Developing Integrated Solid Waste Management Plans	Anchorage, AK	<a href="http://www.zendergroup.org/sw.html">www.zendergroup.org/sw.html</a>	<b>EPA Renewable Energy Feasibility Studies on Contaminated Properties</b> Deadline: May 20, 2011 <a href="http://www.epa.gov/renewableenergyland/">http://www.epa.gov/renewableenergyland/</a>
May 4-6, 2011	Sustainable Solid Waste Management	Anchorage, AK	<a href="http://www.zendergroup.org/sswm.html">http://www.zendergroup.org/sswm.html</a>	<b>Health Impact Project</b> Deadline: May 20, 2011 <a href="http://www.healthimpactproject.org/">http://www.healthimpactproject.org/</a>
May 10-12, 2011	Rural Alaska Landfill Operators (RALO) Training	Anchorage, AK	<a href="http://www.akforum.com/training.html">http://www.akforum.com/training.html</a>	<b>EPA Hazardous Waste Management Grant Program for Tribes</b> Request period: Spring 2011 <a href="http://www.epa.gov/indian/calendar/conferences.htm">http://www.epa.gov/indian/calendar/conferences.htm</a>
May 24-25, 2011	Tribal Grant Guidance	Bethel, AK	<a href="http://petetribal.org">http://petetribal.org</a>	<b>EPA Tribal Solid Waste Management Assistance Project</b> Request Period: Spring 2011 <a href="http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/wycd/tribal/finance.htm">http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/wycd/tribal/finance.htm</a>
May 24-26, 2011	Identifying Hazards and Developing Solutions in Rural AK	Anchorage, AK	<a href="http://www.akforum.com/training.html">http://www.akforum.com/training.html</a>	
June 14-16, Jul 12-14, Aug 15-17	7 Generations Training	Gakona/ Kiana/ Klawock, AK	<a href="mailto:droehl@anthc.org">droehl@anthc.org</a>	
August 2011	Integrated Solid Waste Management Planning	Anchorage, AK	<a href="http://www.zendergroup.org/sw.html">www.zendergroup.org/sw.html</a>	
Aug 23-25, 2011	2011 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum	Green Bay, WI	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/indian/calendar/conferences.htm">http://www.epa.gov/indian/calendar/conferences.htm</a>	
<b>For more details of the events/trainings listed here, and for additional trainings, events, and funding announcements, go to:</b> <a href="http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/Calendar_mar_2011.doc">http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/Calendar_mar_2011.doc</a>				

assistance for anything related to solid waste. We've got experts for almost any solid waste problem. For example, if you have concerns related to climate change and solid waste, contact our own climate change scientist, Lina Taneva at [ltaneva@zendergroup.org](mailto:ltaneva@zendergroup.org). For help with community involvement, contact Shawna Trumblee: [strumblee@zendergroup.org](mailto:strumblee@zendergroup.org). If you'd like help with agency collaboration, networking, and policies, contact Jacqueline Shirley: [jshirley@zendergroup.org](mailto:jshirley@zendergroup.org). Help with recycling and composting: Autumn Bryson: [abryson@zendergroup.org](mailto:abryson@zendergroup.org). And our staff has much more waste expertise – contaminants, health, risk exposure, logistics, brownfields, grant management, capacity building, etc. Give us a call at 277-2111 or email Simone: [ssebal@zendergroup.org](mailto:ssebal@zendergroup.org).

### Spring Elder Wisdom:

We are all here for the universe ... Everything changes except the land we live on, and when that changes, we must accept it ... When Mother Nature shows us she's angry, that changes all of us. My Grandmother taught me long ago that you become a human being when you learn to accept, when you learn to let go. We are here for the universe."

- Rita Blumenstein, born in Tununak



**Thank you USDA!** This material is based upon work supported under a grant by the Utilities Programs, USDA. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Utilities Programs.

*The mission of Zender Environmental Health and Research Group, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, is to assist underserved communities in developing programmatic capacity and community resiliency in environmental health issues. Visit us on the web at [www.zendergroup.org](http://www.zendergroup.org)*

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