

# ALASKA SOLID WASTE NEWS

## Summer Issue

*We rejoice in our gifts...*



Hello to Summer! This is a busy time of year for everyone – in town, with all the projects – and at camps, with all the subsistence activities. Gathering is in full swing and berries are soon here. And if yours is one of the many Environmental Programs that are backhauling, you are busy coordinating with shippers and handlers, and making last minute staging preparations. Perhaps you’re still trying to figure out how you will get that tote of batteries from your shed to the landing. Our programs are always struggling for the right equipment to do the job we’d like. Village programs are constantly gerryrigging.

Creativity comes from surviving and thriving in this land. Where Lower-48 programs look at the latest fancy garbage collection compactor truck, many villages are building carts with leftover wood, and borrowing an ATV to get the waste collected and keep their community safe. Rather than a fleet of heavy equipment to reorganize the dump, many villages hire folks in need of jobs to work tirelessly picking up wastes by hand. It is villages’ strength, determination, spirit, and humor :). It is tough, sometimes grueling, often frustrating work. But it is almost like the

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improvements shine much brighter!. When you have less, the good changes are evident. When you have more, like most Lower 48 and urban communities, the good changes can get lost in all the excess and consumer “stuff” that creates so much waste in the first place. In this newsletter, we visit Kipnuk and how they rocked their Spring Cleanup. We talk about the 2013 CEDP grants that can help villages try out their creative solutions, the YK Delta Backhaul Summit intended to make backhaul there a reality, and much more. We wish you all a happy summer!

## Kipnuk Rocks Their Spring Green-up and Moves Toward An Improved Honeybucket Collection System

Once the snow finally melted this year (yesterday for some of us!), villages around the state started Spring cleanup. Ever wonder how other villages carry out their Cleanup? Or are you looking to organize a Cleanup yourself? The Native Village of Kipnuk carried out a very successful Cleanup and was able to document the process with pictures all along.

Kipnuk is located on the west bank of the Kugkaktlik River in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, 85 miles southwest of Bethel, and four miles inland from the Bering Sea coast. The Tribe is the only community government and they manage the landfill, as well as



provide honeybucket collection services. There are about 670 residents, and some estimates are over 700 people. Because it resides on low-lying wetland tundra, Kipnuk is a "boardwalk" community – meaning nearly all the roads are actually wooden boardwalks, and heavy equipment, cars, and trucks can't be used.

Walter Paul, NIC Brownfield Rep and Curtis Mann, Kipnuk Household Hazardous Waste Grant Coordinator, planned Kipnuk's Cleanup. Before the event started, they asked for, and received, donations for prizes and food from a number of entities, including their tribal corporation store, Coastal Villages Seafood/Region Fund (the regional CDQ), and Donlin Mine. You can access his donation letter here: [http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/kipnuk\\_letters.pdf](http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/kipnuk_letters.pdf). They worked with Mary Fisher from ALPAR to get vests and litter bags, and the Environmental Program paid for shipping. You can contact ALPAR at this link: <http://www.alparalaska.com/wp/>.



### **Community Outreach:**

Curtis used VHF many times in the weeks before the event to publicize it, and presented it to school kids, and at the Council meeting.

**Day 1:** The sign-up was announced on VHF in the

morning again. Volunteers came to the Tribal Office and signed up. Adults signed one list to volunteer as a Supervisor. Kids signed a separate



list as a Cleanup worker. They had 6 adult supervisors and 56 kids the first day!

The Supervisors separated the kids into 5 groups and each group was given instructions about where they should clean. A few more kids saw the action and started joining in. They were welcomed of course, and the adults had these kids



sign up on the list at the end of the day. *A total of 331 bags of litter were picked up in the first day!* That is 5 bags per volunteer!

### **Day 2:** VHF

announcements were made again in the morning. Even more volunteers came the 2<sup>nd</sup> day to sign-up. They had 6 groups with 11 adult supervisors and 76 kids! Again, kids saw other kids cleaning up and joined throughout the day. They picked up another 300 bags that day.



**Day 3:** They got calls from parents saying that their kids were exhausted! A

decision was made to have Day 3 be the last day so that the kids would be motivated to make it just one last day and feel good that they had stuck it through. The final Day 3 count was 11 adults, 61 kids and 404 bags of trash!

The grand total number of bags was 1,035 – equating to about 25,000 pounds of trash transformed from town litter to consolidated landfill waste!

**Continues on page 3**



**Continued from previous page****The Kids get their**

**Reward:** Using a grill borrowed from Coastal Villages Seafood, and hamburger meat and snacks purchased with donations, the Environmental Program

put on a community Barbeque for the volunteers. It was a great way to cap off 3 days of community pulling together. Having adults work with the



kids, instead of just kids by themselves, helped the feeling of community unity and also held to the tradition of learning by showing. Kids enjoyed

themselves and felt proud of what they were doing. They received good attention from the adult supervisors and the adults around the town. We all know that what they learned and gained through the experience will pay off for themselves and their community in the future.



But the kids weren't rewarded with just that. There were some great prizes to the top 6 kids who picked up the most litter – bikes, Nintendo Wii, iPod,

and roundtrip Bethel airfare! And everyone was able to go home with something. There were many t-shirts, toys, jackets, and bags, and in the end the few folks who hadn't won something were given the leftover cases of drinks and food. To see a PowerPoint story with more pictures go to:

[http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/kipnuk\\_cleanup.pdf](http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/kipnuk_cleanup.pdf).

For more information, contact Walter Paul, [kipnuk\\_brownfield@yahoo.com](mailto:kipnuk_brownfield@yahoo.com), 896-5431.

**USDA Water and Waste Grant & Loan Program**

Before we leave Kipnuk, in keeping with the theme of "rocking what you have", we want to mention that Kipnuk has been operating a sustainable honeybucket collection program for many years. Honeybucket hoppers are located throughout town

for folks to use. Technicians drive ATVs (or snowmachines) and haul the hoppers to the lagoon. Their infrastructure, however, is in complete disrepair and in great need of improvement.



The hoppers are cracked and leak, and several can't be used anymore. The vehicles are worn out, and are used for multiple purposes. And private ATVs and snowmachines must sometimes be used. So almost 2 years ago, Kipnuk began the process of obtaining funds to improve their collection equipment. They applied to the USDA Water and Waste Grant (WWG) Program.



This program is a fantastic potential opportunity for communities that are facing substandard waste facilities with significant health risks!

As long as the project is for construction or improvement of facilities (i.e. upgrades), and not operation and maintenance, most Alaska villages are eligible for funding. Instead of the brittle plastic of the old hoppers that cracks within a couple of years of the continual freeze and thaw experienced by hoppers, a new durable plastic will be used by a fabricator in town to make 27 new hoppers. And they will have dedicated vehicles and trailers so that honeybucket cross-contamination can be minimized. As a result, community health risks from disease transmission will be substantially lowered and the community itself will have an improved appearance and quality of life.



The WWG requires a 25% project match (which can be in-kind). It also requires a lot of perseverance and patience by the community because the application process involves dozens of forms and submitted documents. However, at this time, it is probably the main source of funds for Alaska villages in need of larger sums of money for their landfills. A complementary loan program with really good interest rates is also available, and the loan program can be used for the 25% match.

Kipnuk has been working with us (i.e. Zender Group) in preparing its application, and the staff at USDA RD Rural Utilities Services has been responsive, kind, and helpful. You can access a description of the USDA funding programs at: <http://zendergroup.org/docs/usda.pdf>. If you decide the program is for you and you'd like free assistance with the lengthy application process, you may call us at 277-2111, or email [ssebaloz@zendergroup.org](mailto:ssebaloz@zendergroup.org).



Participants at the AFE EJ Summit write out their strategies and ideas

### Solid Waste EJ Project

**Update:** The Tribal Environmental Justice (EJ) Summits at BIA and AFE are over this year. The results are being incorporated into the development of an "Alaska Tribal EJ

Roadmap" or "Framework" document. The volunteer EJ Taskforce members working with Zender staff have the opportunity to comment and edit this document as it is being formed and once the draft is produced. The Roadmap is tentatively scheduled for release in early September. This project is supported by a US EPA Small Environmental Justice Grant.

The "Tribal Voice" documents from both Summits, and the EJ Toolbox, can be found at:

<http://zendergroup.org/ej.html>. Contact Jacqueline Shirley [jshirley@zendergroup.org](mailto:jshirley@zendergroup.org), 952-9973, for details.

**Due July 27th !!!**

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### **Looking to Try Out a Solution to a Community Environmental Problem?**

#### **Then Read This!**

The Community Environmental Demonstration Project Grants (CEDP)—also known as Multi-Media and Fred Hanson Funds—are a funding opportunity for Alaska Tribes to carry out a demonstration project that helps improve the health of their community or environment. Example topics include solid waste, climate change, air or water quality, subsistence protection from pollution, community involvement, etc., etc. As long as the project demonstrates something, it helps Alaska Tribes, and it is environment-related, it is probably eligible. USEPA is providing the grant funds. You may request up to \$30,000. You can read more about eligible projects, download the application, and view past projects at:

<http://zendergroup.org/cedp.html>

Even if this is your first grant to write, you should be able to complete this *Fill-in* Application.

If your internet is down for a long time, you can call us and we can mail a CD to you. Contact Lina Taneva, [ltaneva@zendergroup.org](mailto:ltaneva@zendergroup.org), 444-1197 for questions and assistance.

## CULTURE CORNER



### Yup'ik Grass Baskets and Buckets

During summer and fall, it is a time of harvesting and gathering. Traditional ways of gathering are still used today. The difference is the type of container to gather berries and edible plants and greens in. Typically, today plastic buckets are used in various sizes from tiny buckets to five gallon white buckets. Traditionally, containers were grass baskets and buckets made by Yup'ik women. Strong tapernaq, or seashore grass, was used for weaving baskets.

The traditional Yupik basket is very tightly woven, round in shape with a flat bottom, and a fitted lid. Open baskets are also made, either flat and tray-like or deep-sided and bucket-like. Designs are woven into the sides using dyed grasses. Common motifs include moose, caribou and birds.

Pictured above is a traditional woven burden basket (issran) that was used with a back strap and wooden chest yoke for gathering plant foods and grasses on the tundra. It has woven "eyes" along the rim.

Information obtained in this article is from the following links, where you can learn more:

<http://tundramedicinedreams.blogspot.com/2008/01/yupik-eskimo-crafts.html>

<http://alaska.si.edu/record.asp?id=539>

Picture: Yup'ik Grass bag, Nunivak Island, 1878 – issran malleqtaq "closely-twined grass carrying bag". From Anchorage Museum Smithsonian online collection at: <http://alaska.si.edu/record.asp?id=539>



## Resource Roundup



### One person's waste is another's treasure...

Interested in reducing the amount of hazardous waste in your community and helping folks balance their budgets? A Household Hazardous Waste Reuse Shed may be in your future. Check out our new factsheets to help you get started and design your shed at:

[http://www.zendergroup.org/reuse\\_shed.html](http://www.zendergroup.org/reuse_shed.html).



### My cell phone does that?...

GIS (Geographic Information Systems) uses the amazing digital tools and location devices (e.g. GPS) to reveal multiple ways of looking at your world and sharing it, documenting it, and analyzing it. If you are looking to really build the technical component of your program, or want to know what is possible beyond using your cell phone to record the position of your dumpsite, check out our new GIS factsheet at:

<http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/gis.pdf>.



### Used oil a problem?...

Turn it into a heating solution using our updated used oil burner factsheet. Find out how to buy the right size for your oil waste stream, contacts for villages with successful burner programs, operation & maintenance needs, vendors, safety equipment, etc. Go to:

[http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/oil\\_burners\\_print.pdf](http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/oil_burners_print.pdf)



### Get the Lead out...

Is your village one of many still struggling in getting out your first lead-acid battery backhaul? Check out our updated factsheet at: [http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/battery\\_permit.pdf](http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/battery_permit.pdf). It lists who to call, how to get or borrow a special permit for air shipment, how to package batteries, and what supplies to buy and where to get them.



### Speaking of backhaul...

Get in on the ground floor in establishing a sustainable backhaul plan for the Kuskokwim and YK Delta. If you are not serviced by YRITWC's great backhaul program on the Yukon River, you know how hard it is to backhaul even the smaller materials like batteries, e-wastes, and lights, let alone white goods and other scrap metal. The **Yukon Kuskokwim Backhaul Summit, August 21-22 in Bethel** at the Kuskokwim Campus, will bring together transporters, village reps, and experienced experts to discuss regional backhaul needs and develop an action plan to achieve them. Nelson Island Consortium is organizing the event with support from USEPA "Special Projects" IGAP and in partnership with Kuskokwim Watershed Council. Contact Valarie Wiseman, 907 867 8316, [cyf\\_coordinator@yahoo.com](mailto:cyf_coordinator@yahoo.com).



### After the sizzle is gone...

Ever wonder what to do with used fire extinguishers? It's a question our technical assistance program gets often. We didn't know, but researched it so you don't have to! Check it out at:

<http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/fireext.pdf>



### Time flies...

So keep up with events, funding announcements, and more with our new calendar feature. Instead of just sharing our calendar with you every few months in our newsletter, you can access it now anytime by clicking on the calendar link at the left-hand-side of our home page <http://www.zendergroup.org>. We'll be updating our calendar about every 2 weeks, so you can place a reminder in your calendar to check it!

## Summer Solid Waste Trainings



We have 2 more seats left for our popular **Integrated Solid Waste Planning Course, held August 1-3, in Anchorage**. Attendees are guided through a plan template while typing into a computer laptop. Not only do you develop a plan during class, you learn advanced MS Word and Excel skills, and have an opportunity to share and discuss SWM problems with other villages.



### Our Sustainable Solid Waste Management Course, September 19-21<sup>st</sup> in Anchorage, is filling up, too.

You'll have a chance to hear from several speakers that instruct and discuss different waste topics at a more in-depth level. You'll visit Schnitzer Steel and Total Reclaim to learn about backhauling metal scrap, e-wastes, batteries, and lights. The Gustavus Landfill Operator will speak in-depth about operating a small village landfill with composting, baling, and recycling programs. See [http://zendergroup.org/docs/newsletter\\_jan\\_2011\\_lowres.pdf](http://zendergroup.org/docs/newsletter_jan_2011_lowres.pdf) to learn more about Gustavus. Other topics covered by experts include tribal ordinances, landfill equipment, hazardous wastes, funding, and collection. Go to <http://zendergroup.org/sw.html> to sign up for either course, or email [ssebal@zendergroup.org](mailto:ssebal@zendergroup.org)

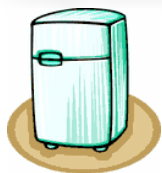
## Calendar of Events and Deadlines

DATE	EVENT/TRAINING	LOCATION	MORE INFO
Aug 1-3, 2012	Developing Integrated Solid Waste Management Plans	Anchorage, AK	<a href="http://www.zendergroup.org/sw.html">www.zendergroup.org/sw.html</a>
Aug 7-9, 2012	7 Generations Training	Nome, AK	<a href="mailto:droehl@anthc.org">droehl@anthc.org</a>
Aug 7-9, 2012	Alaska Tribal Court Development Training	Fairbanks, AK	<a href="http://www.tananachiefs.org/pdf/Save%20the%20Date%20Flyer%20August%20Tribal%20Court%20Conference%202012.pdf">www.tananachiefs.org/pdf/Save%20the%20Date%20Flyer%20August%20Tribal%20Court%20Conference%202012.pdf</a>
Aug 20-23, 2012	Tribal Lands and Environment Forum	Coos Bay, OR	<a href="http://www4.nau.edu/itep/waste/twra_p_tlf12.asp">www4.nau.edu/itep/waste/twra_p_tlf12.asp</a>
Aug 21 -22, 2012	Yukon Kuskowkim Regional Backhaul Summit, sponsored by Nelson Island Consortium and Kuskowkim Watershed Council	Bethel, AK	<a href="mailto:cyf_coordinator@yahoo.com">cyf_coordinator@yahoo.com</a> or <a href="mailto:krwc.executive.director@yahoo.com">krwc.executive.director@yahoo.com</a>
Sep 11-13, 2012	ITEP Climate Change Adaptation Planning	Missoula, MT	<a href="http://www4.nau.edu/itep/climatechange/">www4.nau.edu/itep/climatechange/</a>
Sep 12-15, 2012	Regional Wellness and Governance Conference	Unalaska, AK	<a href="http://www.apiai.org/forms/FLYER.pdf">www.apiai.org/forms/FLYER.pdf</a>
Sep 19-21, 2012	Sustainable Solid Waste Management Training	Anchorage, AK	<a href="http://www.zendergroup.org/sw.html">www.zendergroup.org/sw.html</a>
Oct 16-17, 2012	Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency for Alaska Native Community Development	Anchorage, AK	<a href="http://www.apps1.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/upcoming_events.cfm">www.apps1.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/upcoming_events.cfm</a>
Oct 21-26, 2012	National Congress of American Indians	Sacramento, CA	<a href="http://www.ncai.org/events/2012/10/21/ncai-69th-annual-convention-and-marketplace">www.ncai.org/events/2012/10/21/ncai-69th-annual-convention-and-marketplace</a>
For more details of the events/trainings listed here, and for additional trainings, events, and funding announcements, go to: <a href="http://zendergroup.org/docs/Calendar_July_2012.doc">http://zendergroup.org/docs/Calendar_July_2012.doc</a>			

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS
<p><b>Alaska Native Fund Grants</b>                      Deadline: July 15, 2012  <a href="http://www.alaskaconservation.org/grant-opportunities/alaska-native-fund/">www.alaskaconservation.org/grant-opportunities/alaska-native-fund/</a></p> <p><b>Community Health Projects and Contamination at Land Reuse and Brownfields Sites</b>                      Deadline: July 19 2012  <a href="http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=QRsYPq2bTVYtWh1QD7ss4zfFcbTzQJLpTn3v42S1DNrb8dQwRjwXl2145627009?oppld=177833&amp;mode=VIEW">www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=QRsYPq2bTVYtWh1QD7ss4zfFcbTzQJLpTn3v42S1DNrb8dQwRjwXl2145627009?oppld=177833&amp;mode=VIEW</a></p> <p><b>Community Environmental Demonstration Project Grants</b>                      Deadline: July 27, 2012  <a href="http://www.zendergroup.org/cedp.html">www.zendergroup.org/cedp.html</a></p> <p><b>Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Grants</b>                      Deadline: July 29, 2012  <a href="http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=92653&amp;mode=VIEW">http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=92653&amp;mode=VIEW</a></p> <p><b>US FWS Recovery Implementation Fund</b>                      Deadline: July 31, 2012  <a href="http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&amp;mode=VIEW&amp;oppld=143673">www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&amp;mode=VIEW&amp;oppld=143673</a></p> <p><b>Rural Cooperative Development Grants</b>                      Deadline: Aug 6, 2012  <a href="http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/bcp_rcdq.html">http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/bcp_rcdq.html</a></p> <p><b>Partners for Fish and Wildlife</b>                      Deadline: Sep 28, 2012  <a href="http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=z4qqPRcX9N2S4HL205rLJm897vVR8JyhyVvpJbTpvTzqnY6X6nyCl1368593367?oppld=137933&amp;mode=VIEW">www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=z4qqPRcX9N2S4HL205rLJm897vVR8JyhyVvpJbTpvTzqnY6X6nyCl1368593367?oppld=137933&amp;mode=VIEW</a></p>

### Please Read this Summer Waste Safety Tip!

This last month, a child was found, unharmed, *locked inside a freezer* at a village landfill. He had been in there several hours before a search finally found him. This story could easily have had a very tragic ending. This village took action by turning over all their fridges and freezers at the landfill. This was an easier and quicker method than taking doors off.



Sometimes we are all so focused on the hard tasks, we forget the easy, but important tasks. Make sure that your appliances are safe from children, in-town and at the landfill.

### Elder Wisdom

Washing Your Hands is an Act of Love....

--Dunia Morgan, Kalskag

[Stated during a session at the recent Kalskag Household Hazardous Waste Workshop. Dunia spoke of why she washes her hands -- to 'show her family and community she cares about them'. Hand washing was mentioned by the Public Health speaker to be the primary way to stop the disease risk presented by poor and unauthorized honeybucket and solid waste disposal practices and facilities. ]



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*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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