

# ALASKA SOLID WASTE NEWS

## Evening Returns Issue

*A hard day's work is nearly done.*



Hi Everyone- This has been an unusual summer. Fish arrived, and plants bloomed, out of sequence in some places. And in most of Alaska, it has been cold and wet. But it is certain that summer is ending. In Anchorage, we know that before the first leaf turns because geese start flying overhead. As the tourists in their windbreakers head south too, and downtown's reindeer sausage stands start to close, hillsides outside the city become dotted with berry pickers and their white buckets. Construction becomes a bit more frenzied. Each village and city in

Alaska has its own telltale signs. For solid waste, summer season's end means barge supplies & backhaul must wait till next year for most of Alaska. But in villages where commercial fishing and firefighting are a primary income source, it becomes easier to find workers for some of those planned IGAP projects. It's still before freeze-up, so a lot is accomplishable. That unheated and unlit storage shed/connex can still be cleaned out and wastes organized without the project becoming a major "survival expedition".

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And you still have time to comb through your salvage area and town to separate and stage wastes before snow covers them. If you do stage some scrap metal, be sure to check out page 9 of this issue. Turn that metal to art, and you might just finance your whole program! If not, you can read some more about setting user fees on page 2. For some inspiration, read about New Stuyahok's program. They've got a fee system that works for them, and some great program features. We at Zender hope you all have a good end of season and look forward to seeing you at the Fall conferences and workshops!

# USER FEES: How and Why to Set the Fees You Need

In Issue #4 we explored the different types of collection programs that Alaska Villages have. In Issue #5, we summarized the ways to collect fees and the range of fees that villages have. This article is another story in our collection program mini-series. We look at how to set your user fees.



### Why Have User Fees?

Whether to have user fees isn't always straightforward. Fees can often discourage folks from using the service. In most of our villages the biggest reason

to have a collection program is to protect community health by keeping folks away from the dump. See <http://zendergroup.org/docs/collection.pdf> for the full list of waste collection program advantages. So if folks don't use the collection service, you essentially "shoot yourself in the foot".

Another problem villages face with fees is that the tribe or city ends up in the unwelcome place of enforcing the fee. And without a strong enforcement program, they can end up with more folks disregarding local governmental authority.

So why bother with fees at all? Reasons include:



**Community pride & ownership:** When folks contribute money or time to something, they feel more invested in the results. It is how you feel

when you've saved and saved for that special headphone set, snow machine, winter coat, or birthday party? You really care about that item – often more than if it had come easy.

The same goes for the community landfill. If folks pay to help keep their community clean, they may tend to notice wastes more, care more about its upkeep, and encourage others to pay. Even a \$5 fee can be enough to make people feel they want to use and support the service.



**Financing your program and the future program of your dreams:** Of course, fees can help pay for your solid waste program. In fact, they can pay for future improvements that you want to make. If your community really wants to have a metal scrap backhaul,



paying fees that can go towards backhaul supplies and freight is a way for the community to make it happen.

**Money makes for more money:** A number of funding agencies and other sources look very favorably on programs that pay for themselves, or at least attempt to. They equate fees with community interest and with investing funds in something that will be maintained and sustained. In fact, USDA's Water and Waste grants – which are the primary grant source now of bigger landfill improvements-- require user fees. If you are considering a USDA grant, it is best to start now with planning user fees and a way to introduce them that will work.

**IGAP's future:** Every community that we've had at our solid waste management trainings uses IGAP funding for at least part of their SWM program. Like most grant programs, IGAP may not be a set-in-stone funding source for eternity. How easy it is to use funds to pay your waste collectors and operator, or to pay for program activities like backhaul, may change. See page 10 for an example of draft policy changes.



### Tips on Introducing User Fees

Every community is different. When researching village collection programs we found that some



communities had a pretty easy time in implementing their fees, and others really struggled, and are still struggling, to convince folks to pay. But these tips seem to be true – whether in Alaska Villages or in a big city:



**Educate the community why you need the fee.** Explain your budget. How much does it cost to operate your collection program and landfill maintenance?

**Educate the community on what their own waste contribution is:** Let them know how much of the waste stream is theirs, and how much are other entities. If they

realize you are trying to set fees on a reasonably fair basis, you might get further. Typically, residents aren't charged the full proportion of their generated wastes. Businesses, grant funds, bingo, project tipping fees, equipment rental fees help to supplement residential contributions. To assess your waste stream, go to <http://zendergroup.org/wastecount.htm> for resources, or call us for help.

**Phase it in.** Studies in the lower-48 show that slowly introducing the fee in stages can help folks get used to paying. Village fees range from about \$10 to \$50, mostly averaging between \$15 to \$25 per month. If your fees are on the high end, try a 2-stage process. It's been shown that most folks get used to paying solid waste fees within one year.



**Survey it!** It can help to get folks' ideas of what they'd be willing to pay. And whether they think that some households should get a different rate. For example, Elders, low-income, and small households are often, but not always levied a lower rate. It all depends on what your community thinks is fair. If house-to-house works best for getting opinions and

educating folks, then try that. If a community meeting can work just as well, you can also survey folks there (even a show of hands can help). See <http://zendergroup.org/survey.html> for sample surveys and survey help.

**Make it official.** After you've held lots of community meetings, and obtained as much agreement with your fellow community members as possible, the general thought is to place your user fee schedule into an ordinance or resolution. See <http://zendergroup.org/ordinances.htm> for an



example resolution and user fee schedule.

If you don't have a mandatory program, you don't need a resolution. You are offering a service that folks can either pay for or not. ***But voluntary fee collection programs have a big downfall:***

You may end up with a lot of self-haulers. And self-haulers expose themselves to landfill risks, and they increase health risks and landfill maintenance needs for the community. Still, if you cannot convince the Council to set a mandatory schedule, starting with voluntary program can be a great alternative.



### Setting Your Fees

We developed a user fee worksheet at [zendergroup.org/docs/user\\_fees.xlsx](http://zendergroup.org/docs/user_fees.xlsx).

The workbook separates out residential



waste fees, business/institution fees (e.g. school, offices, store), and landfill self-haul/special waste fees. You'll enter the fees (if any) for the different

categories. You'll enter the number of households and entities that will pay that fee. The workbook will automatically calculate your total revenue. If that revenue doesn't match what you need, you'll need to change your budget plan.

The workbook assumes that 100% of the households and entities will pay. If you think you'll only get a 50% payment rate (a common success rate), you should enter a value that is half of your households to see the actual revenue that will be generated. The instructions are

color-coded per column. There is also a definition sheet you can look at that describes your different options.



The main trick to the workbook is to make sure you enter ONLY one of the 4 “Basis Types” into the Pink Column E titled “Fee Basis”. It is easiest just to copy and paste either “per week”, “per year”, “per month”, or “per unit” from the list given in pink writing to the right of the page. If you don’t

enter one of these exactly, you’ll get an error. And you should also enter only a number value in the fee column. **It sounds more complicated than it is.** Most folks at our training are able to use the workbook right away. **Rather than reading details about how to use this workbook, we recommend spending some time entering different numbers and different categories.**

The second tab on the workbook should print out the user schedule formatted for regular size paper. Just click on the tab and the go to “print”. So any time you change your fees, you can just use the workbook, and print out the new schedule.

**Types of residential fees:** As mentioned, you don’t need to charge all households the same fee. You can charge Elders, low-income households, and 1-2 person households a lower price. You can charge households further from the landfill a higher price. It is up to your community to decide what is fair. You can also charge based on the general amount of garbage generated. Maybe you want to charge per garbage bag, or per can. This kind of fee is called a “Pay As You Throw” system.



**Pay As You Throw/Unit Pricing:** Nationally, “Pay As You Throw” (or “PAYT”) fees result in about a 17% reduction in waste generation. And they are a great encouragement to folks to recycle. In the workbook, paste “per unit” (without the quote marks) into the Fee Basis, and then describe for your own reference the unit you’ll be charging. That might be per bag, per can, per dumpster, or per pound, etc.



**Entities charged:** You’ll need to know which entities in town you are charging, if any, and their fees. Again, setting your fees is not your first step. Ideally, you have done your homework in assessing entity waste and educating them on the fees you need.

**Waste items charged:** Folks often forget that they can charge per item dropped off at the landfill, or per item picked up by staff and brought to the landfill (“will call”). You can also charge self-haulers a fee for using the landfill. It works best if you have a locked facility, but if you don’t, you might still think of a way to assess the fee.

**Other Revenue Generators:** Besides assessing a fee to residents and businesses, you can set a fee structure for construction projects. Go to [zendergroup.org/docs/cand.pdf](http://zendergroup.org/docs/cand.pdf) to read about construction project wastes and see a sample waste contract. Other sample construction waste ordinances are at [zendergroup.org/ordinances.htm](http://zendergroup.org/ordinances.htm). You can calculate the approximate tons of project wastes each year at [zendergroup.org/docs/calc\\_c\\_d.docx](http://zendergroup.org/docs/calc_c_d.docx).

What are other revenue sources? Bingo, equipment rental, potlucks, game nights, city revenue sharing, taxes, and IGAP have all been used by villages to help keep their SWM workers paid.



It takes a village to support a collection program. And it’s the village that reaps the benefits.

Additional resources for setting user fees can be found on our collection program page. In particular, check out our sample SWM program budget ([www.zendergroup.org/docs/TEMPLATE\\_7\\_2.doc](http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/TEMPLATE_7_2.doc)) and the ANHB guide at [www.zendergroup.org/anhbguide/4.pdf](http://www.zendergroup.org/anhbguide/4.pdf). These resources will help you determine how much revenue you’ll need to pay for your program.

If you’d like assistance in setting user fees or planning how to implement them, give us a call at 277-2111, or email Simone Sebalo, our technical assistance preprogram manager, at [ssebalo@zendergroup.org](mailto:ssebalo@zendergroup.org).

## Village Spotlight: New Stuyahok



In this issue, we turn to the Bristol Bay area to the community of New Stuyahok. New Stuyahok is a Yup'ik community of about 500 residents, located on the Nushagak River about 52

miles northeast of Dillingham.

As with many of our remote communities that have city and tribal governments, the city owns and operates the landfill, and also runs the collection program. They employ 3 part-time solid waste staff. The Tribe provides recycling, community education & outreach, grant leveraging, and environmental health expertise that is used by the community in adopting and implementing solid waste policies. They employ 1 part-time SWM staff to help with recycling. The two collaborate on backhaul activities. The arrangement works well for New Stuyahok, where we “sat down” over the phone with Peter Gumlickpuk, who has been the IGAP Director for over 5 years.

### Collection Program



New Stuyahok began their collection program a few years ago. In the beginning, people brought trash to the city office and then, for no charge, the city hauled it to the landfill. Through attending

solid waste trainings and conferences, Peter learned about the importance of fees in sustaining the collection program. He was convinced his community would benefit by implementing a user fee. He presented the idea to the city council, along with education about why a collection program was necessary, and how to introduce a fee.

Once the council was convinced, it was very hard when they first charged for collection. People really complained about paying. Peter used community meetings to educate folks about how tracking contaminants from the landfill back to homes can

cause family members to get sick. He also explained that they needed the fee so that the operator could continue having a job. But these public meetings were difficult. Very few people would come unless there were door prizes available, and there wasn't always money for door prizes. So Wassillie Chunak Jr., IGAP Assistant, wrote newsletters that highlighted why collection is good for community health.

The fee started at \$10 per month, but they have been able to raise it to \$20 per month. For anyone who doesn't pay in advance, they can pay \$5 per bag on trash day. Peter noted that the higher the fee gets, the more efficient and well run the collection program gets.

Collection normally happens twice each week – on Mondays and Fridays. The city



employs 2 trash collectors. They alternate working every 2 weeks. So first, one of them collects on both Monday and

Friday for 2 weeks, then the other collector works for 2 weeks. This way, two folks are employed, and there is someone trained to do the job if one of them is sick. On trash day, a VHS announcement reminds folks to leave their trash out for pick up. The city makes a list of everyone who has paid, and the collector uses a 4-wheeler and trailer to pick up trash from those homes. Unlike many villages, *New Stuyahok has a really high participation (and payment) rate for their trash collection.* Very few folks self-haul their waste.

### Landfill

Part of having a successful collection program is restricting access to their landfill. They have fencing around the whole landfill and if it is

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not trash day, the gate is padlocked. There are signs with the hours of operation and a warning for people to stay out. There is one city-paid operator who works every Monday and Friday (the same days as trash collection). Trash self-haul by residents is allowed when the operator or waste collection staff is present – on Mondays and Fridays. Self-haulers are charged \$1 - \$5 per bag. Over the month, this fee



works out to more than the monthly cost of collection. With the 0.4 FTE operator and the two 0.2 FTE collectors, the city pays for 0.8 FTE staff time to run their collection and landfill program. Collection

and self-haul fees are able to cover city staff time.

New Stuyahok's facility is a trench and fill landfill, with burn box operation. The city has two burn boxes that they purchased from Tok Welding. The burn boxes are operated in tandem. One fills up and is burned, and then the other is filled. And ashes are emptied into a trench and compacted. All regular household trash, including non-burnable trash, goes in the trenches. For special wastes, such as The tires, white goods, oil drums, aluminum, batteries, and other recyclables or materials that can't be trenched, the operator separates these out when possible and places them in one area of the landfill. A d6 dozer is used to compact and consolidate wastes once a month, and a 580 tractor is used to keep the roads clear so the waste collector (and any self-haulers) have clear access.

A salvage area is also set aside inside the landfill fence for wood scrap, vehicle parts, and other miscellaneous useful items. Folks can come in to salvage only during open hours. As with many villages, since there isn't a hardware store in town, Peter mentions many people use the salvage area like a Wal-Mart.

### Construction Wastes

One of the topics Peter has learned about over the years and shared with the city council is construction project waste and what control a community can have over them – such as ordinances and waste contracts. A result is that the City Mayor, Randy Hastings, verbally notifies all the project contractors before they come to the community that construction

wastes are not accepted at the landfill. So far, this method has worked well for them. New Stuyahok has not had problems with non-compliance.

### Recycling

The Tribe coordinates and pays for recycling and backhaul. In addition to Peter working on recycling, IGAP pays for a part-time recycling staff person. New Stu recycles aluminum cans, fluorescent lights, E-wastes, and lead-acid batteries. Residents call the Tribe and they come to homes to pick up the materials and transport them to a connex for storage and staging. Lights and batteries are sent to Dillingham. The Tribe has to pay the barges for backhaul, so the lead-acid battery program stalled and has only recently started again. Electronic waste is recycled each year with Total Reclaim. Peter works with different barge services to accomplish the recycling. Sometimes Crowley will run a barge and sometimes they are able to work with local barges in Dillingham. They usually do E-waste backhaul in the fall time. Peter notes that carrying out a backhaul gets easier after the very



first time. But it is still time consuming every year to call the barges to get the best rates and figure out the schedule. The timing is important

because the backhaul is stored at the Dillingham city dock, and New Stuyahok gets charged if the backhaul sits there for more than 90 days.

New Stuyahok is also trying to restart a Freon removal & recycling program. Large appliances such as freezers, stoves, and washers (i.e. "white goods") have not been backhauled yet, but the community is planning a backhaul in 2013 in conjunction with Ekwook and Koliganek. They will be barging to Seattle. Peter applied for and received a Special IGAP Project grant to jointly coordinate and plan the backhaul.

Household hazardous waste is set aside and given to the trash collector separately. The trash

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collector brings it to a connex for storage. Peter would like to start a reuse center for paint and cleaning products. There was some community support for the idea, although that has died off while he looks into grants to build the facility. To read about reuse centers, visit: [http://zendergroup.org/reuse\\_shed.html](http://zendergroup.org/reuse_shed.html).

The recycling work is a collaborative effort with the city. Peter is the main point person, and City landfill employees, Philip Christopher Sr., John Oyaluk and John Wonhola, also work in the recycling program. The City provides the heavy equipment when needed to move around materials.

A large part of Peter's work in the recycling program is educating residents on the available recycling options. Even though folks can get their recyclables picked up for free, Peter thinks it is hard to convince people to recycle because to do it you need "to be



proactive". It also costs the Tribe money to recycle, and he wants to research any ways the community could make money on recycling certain items.

**Public Education and Outreach**

The Tribe is responsible for public education. Peter serves as the environmental health expert for the city in making policies for electronic waste, lead acid batteries, and white goods. Peter notes that the education process is slow, but steady. He gives a report to the council at every meeting and he always tries to educate them on something new.

Educating the community is a challenge though. Many of the public meetings have very low attendance. People will attend if there are door prizes, but the Tribe doesn't always have money for prizes. Peter finds that conducting house-to-house surveys is more effective, but it is also more time consuming. One strategy that has worked is educating the city council members and then passing ordinances. For example, a few years ago Peter went to council meetings and talked about chemicals and dioxins from trash burning, and how it affects the plants and the health of the people who are burning trash. The city then wrote an ordinance to ban all barrel burning

from households. Anyone caught burning trash within city limits will get a fine. The ban has been working well. Peter thinks it also works well because people seem to listen to what the mayor says. You can access the burn barrel ordinance at

<http://zendergroup.org/ordinances.htm>.

**Environmental Priorities Survey**

New Stuyahok has an annual meeting every year to talk about long-range community planning. For the 2006 to 2010 plan, the community decided to hire a consultant to help determine what environmental issues were most important.

The consultant hosted a big meeting with city council members, the Native Corporation, and the community. For two days they all worked together to identify and prioritize concerns. Then the consultants wrote a draft and brought it back to the community. They got feedback from community members and did more revisions until the community was satisfied.

The top concerns were environmental equipment, subsistence resource protection, environmental improvement, air and water quality, hazardous waste, land use, and developing an integrated solid waste management plan. Peter has used some of these concerns to incorporate into funding requests, again interest at Council meetings.

**Success and Struggles**

Peter emphasizes that education and persistence



have been the keys to his successes. It happens slowly, but people begin to listen over time if you keep educating them.

Education was mentioned in every topic discussed in the interview. Change takes time, but the hard work has paid off for New Stuyahok.

One of Peter's proudest accomplishments is getting the burn boxes for the community. They didn't have one at the landfill and getting them was inspiring. Besides the white goods backhaul

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Special Project, he also recently got funding approved to start again the recycling of lead-acid batteries and lights.

For challenges, Peter says that finding grants is the hardest for him. Second to that, it is convincing people to come to public meetings and provide input. He hasn't given up though, and he plans to try different outreach methods.

### **Advice and Goals**

Peter has worked as an IGAP environmental coordinator for a long time and he thinks that keeping good records is some of the best advice he could give to a new staff person. If you keep track of your files and you have good records from year to year then you will succeed. He recommends looking at the IGAP work plan to get caught up on what needs to be done.

Peter said that working alone can be frustrating so it is important to work with other villages and IGAP coordinators so that you can collaborate on environmental issues. He has working relationships with Ekwok, Dillingham, Koliganek, Clark's Point, Levelock, and Aleknagik. For example, he saw that another village had a good Memorandum of Understanding for their Tribal employee who



worked at the City, so he borrowed it to draft a similar one for New Stuyahok.

One of his big goals is to keep seeking more grant funding to improve the environmental program.

He would like to do more recycling and find ways to earn money from recycling. Peter also mentioned that mining companies are looking to mine in the area and he wants to address this issue. There are five different salmon species in the area and he doesn't want the mining to threaten the salmon.

Finally, Peter mentioned that networking is his goal. He said that networking with environmental coordinators from different villages is important, as well as networking with EPA project officers. He also networks with people at conferences like AFE to build relationships to work on environmental issues.

Peter graciously offered to have folks contact him with any questions. You can reach Peter at 1- 907-693-3242 or E-mail ([petergum2010@hotmail.com](mailto:petergum2010@hotmail.com)).

## CULTURE CORNER



### Athabascan Hunting Knives

Athabascan hunting and fighting knives were originally made of bone or from native copper nuggets. Later knives, like this Ahtna example, were shaped from iron obtained in trade. Every man carried a knife at his side in a beaded or quill-embroidered sheath. The blade of this knife is fluted and has a double spiral on the hilt; the handle is wrapped with tanned skin. Athabascan used both heat treatment and stress-hardening as methods for controlling strength and edge-hardness. They used these knives in a utilitarian manner. Some were attached to long staffs and used in hunting bear or were used to wound a moose or caribou driven into the water, where a hunter could paddle near the animal and stab it with his dagger. On reaching shore, the wounded animal would be dispatched with bows and arrows or other weapons.

*Old people...said it was really hard without the knife, a long time ago. So caribou ribs, one side is sharp, you know? They said they cut meat with that [before metal].*

—Trimble Gilbert, 2004

There are actually online instructions on how to make an "Athabascan style knife" using a steel bar, hammer, and furnace. Interested? See: [http://www.ehow.com/how\\_7760303\\_make-athabascan-knife.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_7760303_make-athabascan-knife.html)

Sources: Sheldon Jackson Museum, Sitka, AK, <http://alaska.si.edu/record.asp?id=392>, John Witthoft and Frances Eyman "Metallurgy of the Tlingit, Dene, and Eskimo" *Expedition Magazine*, 1969.



## Dillingham Trash as Artwork?? You Bet....



Dillingham residents recently had a unique opportunity to recycle some of the scrap metal in their landfill while at the same time creating beautiful works of art!

Pat Walsh, an art teacher, teamed up with Tom Eveslage, a welding instructor, to offer a special topic class this past May at the UAF Dillingham Campus. The 4-day Metal Art Fabrication Course was held over a long weekend, and had nine attendees with various skill levels. No previous experience was necessary.



Prior to the instruction, participants met at the landfill to gather art supplies. Techniques used to mold and sculpt the metal scraps into artistic pieces included welding to fuse metal pieces, plasma-cutting to cut out shapes, drilling to bolt pieces together, and grinding to add

texture. As the class got underway people shared their materials and ideas-- creating results that were built from the everyone's thoughts and enthusiasm.

The class worked with some pretty tough materials that were not very easy to bend and shape. But with the tools provided, they were able to sculpt them into very creative and intricate designs.

The nature of the class allowed for a lot of room for creativity. The whole process was very free-flowing and ideas and materials were



tried as they came to mind. The result was a layering of different objects to bring a piece together. When

asked where she got her inspiration, Walsh stated, "Sometimes a piece would jump out at you and sometimes you would move things around and the piece would take on a life of it's own."



This course is proof that innovative thinking can turn trash into treasures. Discarded items at the landfill are now adding beauty to

their surrounding environment. An added benefit is that for participants with no previous experience, their welding techniques improved significantly by the end of the course.

It is amazing what happens when you give people a place to work and access to tools! Their creativity blossoms. The course received so much positive feedback in the community that another one is being planned for the fall. For more information about the course contact Pat Walsh at [akplaces@alaska.net](mailto:akplaces@alaska.net).

## Calendar of Events and Deadlines

DATE	EVENT/TRAINING	LOCATION	MORE INFO	FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS
Sept 13-14, 2012	Solid Waste Management in the Field. For AVCP Region, hosted by AVCP	Anchorage, AK	Simone Sebalo: <a href="mailto:ssebal@zendergroup.org">ssebal@zendergroup.org</a> , 1 866 325 0069	<b>Rasmuson Foundation</b> Accepts proposals throughout the year <a href="http://www.rasmuson.org/index.php">http://www.rasmuson.org/index.php</a>
Sept 18-20, 2012	ANA Project Planning and Development Training	Anchorage, AK	<a href="http://www.anaalaska.org/">http://www.anaalaska.org/</a>	<b>Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund</b> Deadline: Sept 19 <a href="http://www.akssf.org">http://www.akssf.org</a>
Sept 19-21, 2012	Sustainable Solid Waste Management	Anchorage, AK	<a href="mailto:ssebal@zendergroup.org">ssebal@zendergroup.org</a> <i>You will be Waitlisted.</i>	<b>Partners for Fish and Wildlife</b> Deadline: Sept 28, 2012 <a href="http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=z4ggPRcX9N2S4HL205rLm897vVR8JyhyVvpJbTpvTzanY6X6nyC!1368593367?oppld=137933&amp;mode=VIEW">http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=z4ggPRcX9N2S4HL205rLm897vVR8JyhyVvpJbTpvTzanY6X6nyC!1368593367?oppld=137933&amp;mode=VIEW</a>
Sept 25-27, 2012	ANA Project Planning and Development Training	Dillingham, AK	<a href="http://www.anaalaska.org/">http://www.anaalaska.org/</a>	<b>Historic Preservation Project Grants</b> Deadline: Sept 30, 2012 <a href="http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/grant/akdev.htm">http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/grant/akdev.htm</a>
Oct 16-17, 2012	Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency for Alaska Native Community Develop.	Anchorage, AK	<a href="http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/upcoming_events.cfm">http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/upcoming_events.cfm</a>	<b>EPA Climate Leadership Awards</b> Deadline: Oct 12, 2012 <a href="http://www.epa.gov/climateleadership/awards/index.html">http://www.epa.gov/climateleadership/awards/index.html</a>
Oct 16-18, 2012	Rural Alaska Landfill Operator Training (RALO)	Anchorage, AK	<a href="http://www.akforum.org/training.html">http://www.akforum.org/training.html</a>	<b>NOAA Marine Debris Funding</b> Deadline: Nov 1, 2012 <a href="http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/funding/welcome.html#crp">http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/funding/welcome.html#crp</a>
Oct 15-17, 2012	First Alaskans Institute Youth and Elders Conference	Anchorage, AK	<a href="http://www.firstalaskans.org/">http://www.firstalaskans.org/</a>	<b>EPA Brownfield Assessment and Cleanup Grants</b> Deadline: Nov 19, 2012 <a href="http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/grants/epa-oswer-oblr-12-07.pdf">http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/grants/epa-oswer-oblr-12-07.pdf</a>
Nov 6-9, 2012	Alaska Tribal Conf on Environ Mngmnt (ATCEM)	Anchorage, AK	<a href="http://www.atcemak.com/">http://www.atcemak.com/</a>	
Dec 5-7, 2012	Integrated Solid Waste Management Planning	Anchorage, AK	<a href="mailto:ssebal@zendergroup.org">ssebal@zendergroup.org</a> Filling up.	
Jan 16-18, 2013	RALO: Rural Operator Landfill Training	Bethel, AK	<a href="mailto:ssebal@zendergroup.org">ssebal@zendergroup.org</a> Filling up.	
For more details of the events/trainings listed here, and for additional trainings, events, and funding announcements, go to: <a href="http://zendergroup.org/calendar.html">http://zendergroup.org/calendar.html</a>				

### SWM Policy Corner

Do you know about the new EPA draft policy that can affect **what SWM activities are eligible to fund under your IGAP?** You can access the policy at: [www.epa.gov/wastes/wyl/tribal/pdftxt/awptribalswmmanagement.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/wastes/wyl/tribal/pdftxt/awptribalswmmanagement.pdf). In general, the policy moves Tribal IGAP spending away from solid waste activities that are not financially self-sustaining. For example, that *might* include using IGAP to pay for backhaul fees, yearly landfill cleanups, or paying waste technicians to collect trash or organize/manage the landfill. **There is a webinar discussing the policy on September 12, 2012** from 10am -11:30am Alaska Time. You need to register. Go here to register: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/783056570>.

If your tribe needs more time to review the deadline. An authorized tribal representative can email a request for an extension to the OSWER Assistant Administrator, Mathy Stanislaus at: [agencywideplan@epa.gov](mailto:agencywideplan@epa.gov)

### Elder Wisdom

"It's the parents we need to talk with and to listen to. They know their kids better than any school ever will."

-Sidney Huntington, 91, born in Hughes 1915.

Source: Project Jukebox at: <http://jukebox.uaf.edu/RavenStory/htm/sh.htm>



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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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