

ALASKA SOLID WASTE NEWS

Fall Issue

Fall reminds us of the cycle of life.



Hi everyone! This column was written when there was no snow anywhere – now some have it and others don't. Folks living in moderate climates don't fully "get" how we depend on the environment. But without snow it is hard to use snowmachines. And with the cold temperatures – ATV's don't start too well. And it is rough riding- both sno-goes and ATV's are breaking down. Snow insulates and keeps things close to a toasty 32F. Without it, unheated pipes freeze and more energy (\$\$) is needed to keep heated pipes from freezing. Folks revert to honeybuckets if pipes freeze and discard the wastes in the dump. When there is lots of snow the dumpsites are a lot easier to

access. Many villages stop their waste collection because folks can enter the sites easily from all around with their snowmachines. And many folks own snowmachines, but don't own ATV's. With the snow acting as cover, the operator doesn't need to do as much. But if there isn't much snow waste can be a hazard if it isn't consolidated. Some folks wait till winter to put in fences or conduct other excavation work due to summer mucky tundra. But the ground gets concrete-hard without snow and the cold temperatures we're seeing. Plans need to change. It is a good idea to check how people are discarding their wastes at your dump. They might not be using their normal winter practices. Without snow,

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mini-open dumps can form where in places of easier access. With too much snow, pathways can get blocked and folks use alternate sites as well. You can evaluate impacts from an unusual winter before any negative effects get out of hand. Regardless of change, one nice thing winter always brings is the holidays -- We at Zender hope you enjoy this issue, but even more importantly that you and your family enjoy this holiday season.

Success in Solid Waste Funding: Four villages are awarded grants from USDA Rural Utilities.



In August, four villages received good news – their applications for funding assistance were approved by USDA Rural Utilities. The Native Villages of Selawik, Scammon Bay, and Kipnuk received funds for equipment to improve their landfill facility through the Water and Waste Grant Program. The Native Village of Tanacross received funds for a new landfill study through the Pre-Development Planning Grant Program. A total of \$410,000 was awarded. In each case, the primary criteria for eligibility was a need for equipment or a new site or site upgrades that would provide a better solid waste facility and supportive infrastructure for the community. The upgraded or planned new facility will be more

protective of health and environment, and compliant with design-performance regulations. Selawik obtained funding for a new dozer to help construct their planned new landfill. Scammon Bay received funds to pay for collection equipment, 2 burnboxes, and a recycling baler. Kipnuk received funds to pay for honeybucket collection equipment. All of the communities provided at least a 25% match, in-kind or cash, towards their projects – the minimum required through this program. Congratulations to these villages! The amount of paperwork and persistence required for these grant is high, but it paid off for them. If you'd like to learn more about the USDA Rural Utility grant programs that can help you fix up your landfill (or if needed, develop a new site), visit <http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/usda.pdf>.

SWAN is Back!!! The Solid Waste Alaska Network Village-to-Village Messaging Board is On-line.



The Solid Waste Alaska Network (SWAN) website was introduced in YR2003 by Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. Up to that time there was no place for villages to go for appropriate and applicable solid waste information. Through EPA grants, the first slew of solid waste educational materials was developed and placed on line in a user-friendly, culturally hip manner that instantly earned tons of praise from village environmental program staff. Included on SWAN was a village to village message Board that staff used to ask each other questions and get advice direct from the experts – other villages. The message board was really successful and had many regular users. It had a search function for folks to look up tips on subjects they were interested in as well. Well – funding dried up for SWAN back in 2006. Our volunteer efforts kept up the Board and some material development for a couple more years. But without the funding, the computer programming and maintenance needed

was difficult to support. We switched the materials over to Zender's site and began making new ones. The message board was always very important to CCTHITA because of how well it connected villages and led to village-based solutions. CCTHITA has graciously agreed to have Zender host the message board. We're able to monitor it and help with any questions through our technical assistance funding from the USDA RD Utilities Program. All the old messages are still on the board, so that folks can search for village solutions back to 2006. If you are new to solid waste, please visit the board and give it a try. Using the board is very simple. And posting a question just may bring the perfect low-cost solution. If you are an "old-hand" at SWAN, welcome back! We hope that you're able to visit the site and provide your expertise to folks who are looking for an answer. SWAN is free to use and you don't even need to sign up. Just visit <http://members.boardhost.com/SWAN/> today. You can also get there by clicking on the left-hand side SWAN icon on our home page, at www.zendergroup.org.

It's official. Zender is Entering the 21st Century...We're on Facebook!

Lol... Like us! [Click here to go to our page.](#) Facebook is now one more way to get a hold of us – and access some of our materials, staff trips, events, and trainings. We are looking for suggestions too in developing the site to serve villages better!

CULTURE CORNER



Akutaq

Akutaq (a-goo-duk), is a Yup'ik word that means "mix them together". Akutaq is made in many different ways, varying with communities and household traditions. High in protein, fat and antioxidants, akutaq supplies the necessary calories and nutrients for survival during cold winters and hunting trips. It is also delicious! Akutaq has many variations, but is primarily made with berries, fish or meat, and fat and/or oil. Fish, moose, or caribou can be used. Seal oil, fish oil, or vegetable oil is often used, and Crisco (or lard) is common in modern times, as is some sugar depending on berry sweetness. Instant mashed potatoes are sometimes substituted for fish or meat. Stored roots from mouse holes are traditional and are still used.

'The traditional way to teach people to make akutaq is to let them watch and learn. And when we are done making it, we draw a shape of a cross in the middle of the akutaq with our finger. Then we take each type of berry from the akutaq (unless there is only one type of berry) and a pinch of the mixture, and throw it into the fire. When I do that, I have to say, "Tamarpeci nerluci." ... in English it means, "All of you eat."

--Frankie Jordan, Kalskag

One way to make Akutaq (Modern Version):

- Fish (white fish, pike, or any salmon) 3 to 4 pounds
- Crisco/lard or unprocessed animal fat
- Fish oil or seal oil (some substitute condensed milk or vegetable oil)

RACEJT News



The Rural Alaska Community Job Training Program (RACEJT) received 37 applications this year from villages all over the State. RACEJT is a 4-week

intensive training program to become a rural environmental technician. The 20 selected Trainees receive instruction in waste management, Freon Recovery, Confined Space work, CPR/First Aid, HAZWOPER, Forklift Operation, Lighting Retrofit, Spill Response, Water Sample Collection, and Home Fuel Tank Inspection. This year, two weeks of training will be in Anchorage, and two weeks in King Salmon. If you are interested in hiring a trained individual from your region, or would like to see your community residents trained next year for local projects you are planning – visit our RACEJT page. Applications for next year will be due next Fall.

- Sugar (optional - to taste)
- Berries (blueberries, salmonberries, cranberries, etc.) 1/2 gallon to a gallon

Step 1 Gut the fish and chop into four or five pieces - throw away head, tail and guts

Step 2 Place the fish into a large or medium size pot, fill with water until covered, bring to boil and cook until finished, takes about 20 minutes. Cool in the pot so the flavor remains in the fish

Step 3 After the fish is cool put the fish in large mixing bowl once it's cleaned; to clean - take off skin, bones, and squeeze out all the water from the fish with your hands, then break up/crumble fish

Step 4 Take about two large scoops of the fat with your hand and add it to the fish, stir for at least three to five minutes with your hand, or until the fish is mixed in well, add more fat for desired consistency

Step 5 Pour in about ½ cup of your oil, stir until almost creamy and fluffy (add to desired consistency)

Step 6 Add sugar to taste, stir until dissolved

Step 7 Add berries to taste

-- Always keep the akutaq refrigerated

Sources: University of Alaska, Fairbanks; Cultural Atlas: Kalskag

<http://www.ankn.uaf.edu/npe/culturalatlases/virtualmuseum/writings/native%20food/098d22f2-9971-4588-9a87-680b4fe88955.html>, Frankie Jordan and Stephanie Hoffman Virtual Museum, Native Foods; Akutaq; 2006

Resource Circle



Time to chat about backhaul, fish nets, money, and more money! A difference with Alaska villages and urban communities? All shopping has to be done online or phone – and specialty items (the kind that can't be found on Amazon.com, etc.) can be particularly hard to find! No time to endlessly shop around for building your backhaul program? Good news! We developed a new document that conveniently lists common backhaul program supplies and where to get them! Check out: http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/backhaul_supplies.pdf



You can look up the item you are interested in backhauling, and then read the list of common supplies you'll need to package, store, and send them. You can also click on links that will take you to instructions on packing and shipping! Confused about all the backhaul resources and where to find them? We've got the document for you! Click on: www.zendergroup.org/docs/backhaul_resources.pdf to access a new factsheet that organizes all the resources for easy searching!



Are you tired of seeing old fish nets littering your beach or taking up space in the landfill? A new document on recycling fish nets can be found at: http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/fish_nets.pdf. The factsheet tells you where and how to recycle, describes several fish net recycling programs in Alaska communities, and provides additional resources.



It's a sad fact of life that most materials we backhaul won't make any money. But there are some materials that end-destinations will pay for! This can help offset your costs, and if you are lucky enough to score free transportation, you can actually make a small profit to pay for transporting other materials. But different companies pay different prices and have some different requirements. It can take quite a while to research the best place to send your materials. Well rest easy, because we've done months of calling for you (and we mean months!)! Go to:

www.zendergroup.org/docs/recycling_buyback.pdf to see a list of Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Seattle Area companies that recycle either aluminum cans, tin cans, cardboard, glass, paper, or scrap metal. The chart is organized by waste type, and also includes information about whether the company will pick up your materials from the dock, and other information.



Did you miss the Nelson Island Consortium/Watershed Council's Backhaul Summit in Bethel this August? Especially if you are located in Western Alaska on the Kuskowkim, YK Delta, or Coast, this is a great report to check out: www.nelsonislandconsortium.org/docs/summit.pdf It contains summaries of the presentations and discussions, as well as a framework for moving forward in making backhaul in the region a sustainable reality. At the summit, representatives from 21 villages discussed ideas, challenges, and solutions. The summit was facilitated and participants voted on the most pressing issues and then broke into small groups to come up with ways to address those issues. Transporters presented their concerns and their capacities for backhaul.



Looking for funding to build your backhaul program – besides your IGAP funds? We've updated our backhaul funding factsheet at: www.zendergroup.org/docs/backhaul_funding.pdf. It also contains some additional information on getting your backhaul program off the ground.

Looking for funding in general for solid waste projects? (Who isn't?!). We updated our solid waste funding factsheet at: www.zendergroup.org/docs/ISWMPFundingOpps.pdf.

We're Accepting Employment Applications!

Zender is accepting applications for an Environmental Scientist or Environmental Assistant. A college degree in a related field or several years experience in Alaska Village Environmental Programs is a requirement. See <http://www.zendergroup.org/job.html> for information and instructions. All questions & submittals should be through email at hr@zendergroup.org.

Village Spotlight: Unalakleet



This month we visit the Norton Sound village of Unalakleet, 148 miles southeast of Nome, along the coast. Unalakleet has 697

residents and means "from the southern side." Unalakleet has long been a major trade center as the terminus for the Kaltag Portage, an important winter travel route connecting to the Yukon River. The Native Village of Unalakleet has a history of diverse cultures and trade activity. The local economy is the most active in Norton Sound. A traditional Unaligmiut Eskimo subsistence lifestyle is practiced with fish, seal, caribou, moose, and bear part of subsistence activities.

Unalakleet is home to a famous pizza restaurant, the mandatory 8-hour Iditarod rest stop, several well-known Iditarod mushers, and its local ERA office is former host to an Alaska bush pilot reality show. But to solid waste nerds, Unalakleet is best known for its successful solid waste program that centers around an in-town baler and a bale landfill ("balefill") about 3 miles away in the hills ☺.

The Basics:

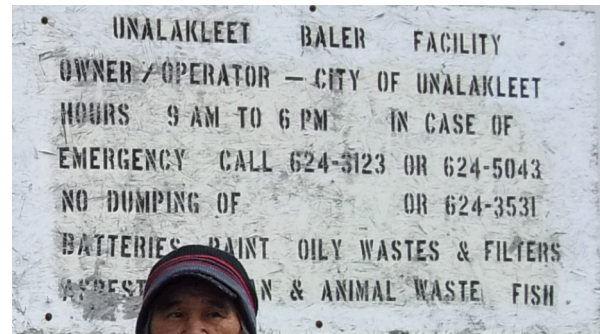


Pete Jackson in front of the baler

The City of Unalakleet employs two full-time workers for their program – The Public Works Director, Henry "Gus" Johnson, and the baler facility operator Edward Peter ("Pete") Jackson. They also

employ a 3rd part-time position sometimes in the

summer, which they say helps with the heavy workload. They have a baler building in the middle of town that also serves as an equipment shed, solid waste garage, and storage facility. The full-size baler is approximately 17 years old and is a 2-ram horizontal Selco model. They bale 7 days per week, twice a day, resulting in 2-3 bales each



Closeup of the Baler Facility sign

day, and about 90 bales each month.

The bales are driven by flatbed truck to the fenced and gated landfill. They are then unloaded by a loader into trenches that are about 20 ft by 40 to 50 ft by 10-12 ft deep. The loader has a forklift attachment, as well as a bucket attachment for other landfill work, such as covering the bales with local gravel. When the weather doesn't permit safe travel up to the landfill (mainly during and just after major storms), the bales are stored in the attached garage storage shed.

Interestingly for a larger community, the City doesn't have a collection program. Residents simply all self-haul their wastes to the baler facility and unload it into one of 3 open dumpsters that are located just outside. A bobcat brings the dumpsters to the baler, and is used to tip the garbage onto the baler conveyor. Pete the operator commented that the baler works well for them. They have only occasional, generally minor, maintenance issues-- especially related to the strapper. Pete's main advice was simply to watch out for metal and batteries – they can basically "throw a

wrench” in the system. But as long as they keep up with the flow of garbage and bale every day, this system works very well for Unalakleet.

The Supplemental - Recycling, Reuse, & Backhaul Program:



Some wastes don't get baled - the City and Tribe work together to have a successful recycling program for household batteries, lead-acid batteries, electronic-wastes, aluminum cans, No. 1 plastic bottles, and ballasts.

The back of the baler, with a new bale pushed out at the bottom.

Unlike many villages, aluminum

cans and plastic bottles aren't collected in just one or two places – they are collected in businesses and offices throughout the community. Individuals also drop them off at the Tribal office for Victoria Kotongan, the IGAP Coordinator, or at a connex located next to her house. She will bag them, place the bags on pallets, and store them in the connex. Airport freight workers stop by the connex and transfer the pallets to the airport. They are then flown free-of-charge in an arrangement made by ALPAR's Flying Cans Program (www.alparalaska.com).

Ballasts and household batteries are brought to Victoria's office or dropped off in a coffee can at the post office. Electronic waste is dropped off at the baler facility. Sometimes it is dumped in the trash dumpsters, and it is sorted out by the operator whenever he sees it -- or other unsuitable material such as aerosol cans, batteries, and liquids. Lead acid batteries are dropped off at the baler facility and kept there too. Victoria arranges for totes to be flown in from Interstate Batteries, and the city workers will package them and send them back via air. E-wastes

are flown out to Total Reclaim Anchorage. But Victoria expects to send a full connex by barge this summer to Total Reclaim in Seattle (which is Total Reclaim-Anchorage's parent company). They are doing well with their recycling program, seeing the following pounds backhauled in the last two years:

Item	YR 2010-11	YR 2011-12
E-waste	1,571	almost full connex is ready
Lead-acid batteries	17,038	9,985
Aluminum cans	751	813
Ballasts	--	250
Household batteries	--	93

Reuse & Reduce:

People drop-off their used oil and antifreeze at the baler facility and also at the City garage (the "City Shop"). The City Shop is heated mostly by a used oil burner, which lowers costs substantially. Used paints are also collected at the baler facility that the City reuses or allows other folks to pick up. Several other miscellaneous hazardous materials that could be later used by the City are also stored there (e.g. leftover cleaners, etc.), as are hazardous materials that don't have another place to go and can't be discarded at the landfill.



Batteries and miscellaneous materials dropped off at the storage/workshop side of the baler facility

There is no community "thrift store", but folks bring their clothes and some other usable items like toys to one of the churches there, and they

distribute to folks who'd like to use them. The landfill has a salvage area that primarily hosts vehicles and vehicle parts. Folks may use the salvage area during landfill open hours.

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Money, Money, Money:

The City of Unalakleet charges \$10/month to all households for their SWM program. The fee does not depend on whether households use the dumpsters.



Residents bringing their trash to the 3 dumpsters in front of the baler facility. These are the only trash collection bins in the city.

bill, their water and sewer gets cut off. Businesses pay a variable rate depending on their size and waste generated... \$35 or \$75 or \$150. The large businesses take their larger waste directly to the landfill and burn their cardboard in a burn box there.



Community Involvement: Unalakleet was nearly litter-free when we passed through in early August. Folks really do make use of the dumpsters at the baler facility to discard their trash. Victoria says they have very good participation in their annual Spring Cleanup. While she does post some flyers and conducts some school outreach, she does not need to do a lot of community outreach. Why? Based on last Fall's interviews of village collection programs, it may be that folks feel the in-town dumpsters are convenient enough to not dump. And they all pay for them anyway. It may be because folks are concerned about littering their streets and homes, especially when so many folks could easily see from the road if someone litters. It may be that folks just like a clean town.

Or it may be just that folks are used to this system – it's been in place for nearly twenty years. A stable solid waste infrastructure has been found to be important to good community participation. Regardless of the reason, it is nice to know that full community participation in

authorized disposal practices is possible-- even if a user fee is used and even if folks don't have house-to-house collection.

If you would like more information about Unalakleet's program, contact Victoria Kotongan at 907-624-3531 or victoria.kotongan@gmail.com, or Gus Johnson at hjohnson183@hotmail.com

Policy Corner



The Draft "Guidance on the Award and Management of General Assistance Agreements for Tribes and Intertribal

Consortia" is out and available for Tribal consultation.

Comments and consultation are due by **February 22, 2013**. What is this document? **It details what is allowable under IGAP in the future, and what the priorities will be.** It is very important to your Environmental Program to read and understand the Guidance. You can read it here:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/oita/tconsultation.nsf/x/E3A0E8CB47255AD585257A8600606C3D?opendocument>

If something will impact your community or tribe in a negative way, your tribe can consult with EPA on a government-to-government basis. You are also able to provide comments. However, feedback from a designated representative of your tribe-- in the form of consultation carries more weight. Your tribe may like the Guidance, be neutral, or not like it. It can respond to EPA in any case. If you download the pdf document at the link, you will see an 87 page technical document. Appendix 1 starts on Page 25. Section E starts on page 51 (or page 27 of the Appendix). That Section describes solid waste program development and implementation that IGAP funds can be used for.

For example, its says that, in general, operation and maintenance of the landfill with IGAP funds is not allowed.

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Calendar of Events and Deadlines

DATE	EVENT/TRAINING	LOCATION	MORE INFO
Dec 10-14, 2012	Financial Management for Rural Utilities	Anchorage, AK	http://www.dec.alaska.gov/water/opcert/trainingcalendar.htm
Jan 10-11, 2013	NPETE Grants Management Training	Seattle, WA	www.petetribal.org or 207-771-9020, ext. 304
Jan 15-16, 2013	NPETE EPA Financial and Administrative Grant Guidance and DBE Training	Kotzebue, AK	www.petetribal.org or 207-771-9020, ext. 304
Jan 16-18, 2013	Zender Group Rural Landfill Operator (RALO) Training	Bethel, AK	www.zendergroup.org/sw.html
Jan 17, 2013	NPETE EPA ½ day Accounting Fundamentals	Kotzebue, AK	www.petetribal.org or 207-771-9020, ext. 304
Jan 23-25, 2013	Esri ArcGIS II: Essential Workflows course for ArcGIS 10	Juneau, AK	http://www.blueskiessolutions.net/training.html
Feb 4-8, 2013	Alaska Forum on the Environment	Anchorage, AK	http://akforum.com/
Feb 22, 2013	Draft IGAP Guidance Comments and Consultation due	---	click here
May 15-17, 2012	Zender Group Water Quality Training	Anchorage, AK	www.zendergroup.org/sw.html
May 21-23, 2013	ONC Natural Resources & Environmental Program: YK Delta Regional Environmental Summit	ONC Multi-Purpose Building in Bethel, AK	Rhea Maxie at rmxie@nativecouncil.org or at 907-543-2608
For more details of the events/trainings listed here, and for additional trainings, events, and funding announcements, go to: http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/Calendar_Dec_2012.doc .			

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS & DEADLINES

ANTHC Tribal Air Quality Cooperative Agreement Deadline: Jan 4, 2013
www.anthc.org/cs/dehe/envhth/ehc/aq.cfm

Environmental Justice Small Grants Program
Deadline: Jan 7, 2013
<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-smgrants.html>

EPA IGAP Grant Funding for FY14
Deadline: January 15, 2013
http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/TRIBAL.NSF/Grants/igap_2014

FY 13 Brownfields State and Tribal Response Grant Funding Deadline: Jan 31, 2013
[http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/proposal_guides/FY13-128\(a\)-Guidance-final.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/proposal_guides/FY13-128(a)-Guidance-final.pdf)

ANA Grants Deadline: Jan 31, 2013
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/foa/view/HHS-2011-ACF-ANA-NR-0142/html>

DEC Brownfield Assessment and Cleanup (DBAC) requests Due: February 28, 2013.
<http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/brownfields.htm#assess>

Continued From Page 7...

And it says that **operation of a trash collection service is not allowed with IGAP funds**. It does allow IGAP to pay for administering these activities – such as paying for the clerk’s time to process the operator’s check...And paying for a program manager’s time to manage the program. There is much more in the document.

For assistance or resources in understanding the document or the consultation process, contact your Regional Tribal Operations Committee reps (Violet Yeaton violety4@gmail.com, Rose Kalistook, rkalistook@nativecouncil.org or Daniel Chythlook, drc0515@yahoo.com . The directions for submitting comments are found at <http://www.epa.gov/tribal/consultation/comments-gbtec.htm> . You can submit comments directly on that site. Remember to provide consultation and comments by **February 22, 2013**.

Fall Elder Wisdom:

All our cultures have unique values. Alaska Native cultures have many values in common too. According to Native Knowledge Network at <http://www.ankn.uaf.edu/ANCR/Values/index.html>, these are:

1. *Show Respect to Others* - Each Person Has a Special Gift
2. *Share what you have* - Giving Makes You Richer
3. *Know Who You Are* - You Are a Reflection on Your Family
4. *Accept What Life Brings* - You Cannot Control Many Things
5. *Have Patience* - Some Things Cannot Be Rushed
6. *See Connections* - All Things Are Related
7. *Take Care of Others* - You Cannot Live without Them
8. *Honor Your Elders* - They Show You the Way in Life
9. *Pray for Guidance* - Many Things Are Not Known
10. *See Connections* - All Things Are Related



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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

ZENDER ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND RESEARCH GROUP