

TSWAN Headlines



Volume 22 Issue 1

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Tribal Green Summit



The first **Tribal Green Summit** was held August 9th through 11th at the Hyatt Olive 8, the first LEED certified hotel in Seattle, Washington by co-sponsors, The Snoqualmie Tribe and the Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network, TSWAN.

“Although Tribal communities have philosophies based in sustainability, many lack exposure to Alternative Energy and Green Building practices and technology,” reports organizer, Cindy Spiry of the Snoqualmie Tribe.

Billy Frank Jr., a Nisqually tribal member and Northwest icon for treaty and fishing rights, and for tribal environmental resource protection, opened the three day event stressing cooperative management of our natural resources.

Yancy Wright, Director of Sellen Sustainability, was keynote speaker. He is a building consultant, panelist and educator known for his pursuit of strategies and designs to achieve sustainable, green, structures which meet or exceed LEED goals.



The Hyatt Olive 8 was chosen based on their green practices, including a green roof which incorporates a herb garden, restaurants based on local foods, green housekeeping practices, and lighting and heating from natural sources where possible. During construction, an impressive 96% of construction waste was diverted through recycling or re-use.



Other topics presented included: resource management, community planning, housing, landscaping, energy efficiency, on-the-ground projects in tribal communities and a tour of the only LEED Certified Transfer Station in the Northwest.

Feedback was very positive from the one hundred attendees. Requests for more of this type of training and events were requested for the future.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE:
 If your tribal environmental programs are supplemented by the EPA Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP), then please take time to review the USEPA’s issued document, “Guidebook for Building Tribal Environmental Capacity,” which pertains to the IGAP program. In the spirit of government to government consultation, the deadline for receiving comments on the Guidebook has been extended for 60 days past the November 30,2011 deadline. TSWAN encourages ALL tribes to carefully review this document and provide comments based on the proposed guidelines, as there may be significant impacts for tribal programs. The link to the document can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/tribal/pdf/2011-0801-guidebook-working-draft.pdf>

Two TSWAN Member Tribes Featured in the Tribal Waste Journal

UMATILLA'S WASTE MANAGEMENT SUCCESS



In the 1990's, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation realized the harm that the open dumping was posing to their environment and health. After evaluating their options, they decided a Transfer Station would be the best solution for the long term effect. Construction began in 1999, ended in 2001 and cost \$1.3 million.

Now, ten plus years and many awards later, Bonnie Burke, Operations Manager for the Tribal Environmental Recovery Facility (TERF), reports that garbage collection service is available reservation wide. Residents may also haul their own items to the Transfer Station. After sorting, items are hauled to an EPA approved landfill. A recycling program started in 2002 now has collection sites at satellite locations around the Reservation at the Mission, the Market, the Longhouse and at the Transfer Station. Collected items are sorted and stockpiled until they can be transferred to other facilities.



On going education and outreach has been a big factor in the success of the Umatilla program. With an emphasis on the health hazards of open dumping, the program reaches out through printed brochures to tribal members, advertising in local venues including the Pendleton Round-Up brochures and email announcements of various waste disposal events. The Earth Day, National Recycle Week and other school programs have gotten the younger tribal members involved and supportive of the recycling goals.

YAKAMA NATION OPEN DUMP CLOSURE SUCCESS LEADS TO AWARD AND PILOT PROGRAM

In 2006, the Yakama were awarded an IGAP grant aimed at building capacity, closing illegal dumpsites, building community awareness, supporting the Solid Waste office and an assessment. Loretta Zammarchi, Solid Waste Planner for the Yakama Nation, says it was not long before they realized the "assessment" of their problems was going to be a top priority. In order to collect the data they really needed, new forms for tracking and identifying long term route needs and a new approach to collecting data were implemented. Jurisdictional issues on their reservation with checkerboard boundaries became a significant issue.

With GPS (Global Positioning System) borrowed from TSWAN, 130 open dumpsites were identified, catalogued, quantified and stored in a GIS (Geographic Information System) data base. With this information, they were able to prioritize their clean-up efforts, budget for costs, monitor and establish "patterns" of sites to establish who/what caused these. Because their grant was for "Planning and Implementation," they were able to access small equipment monies. Zammarchi reports that one of the pieces of equipment they came to appreciate most was their Ricoh Camera which linked GPS/GIS systems together, noting the geographic locations and allowing input of information right in the field. This was a real time savings for workers who no longer had to input the information once they were back in the office. She said the man hours save could easily cover the \$1900 cost of the camera.



In 2009-2010, the Yakama Nation spent much time re-writing their Solid Waste Codes, getting them passed through Tribal Council, and making them enforceable. And, 2010-2011 have been dedicated to Community Outreach, utilizing the principles of Community Based Social Networking (CBSN), a program which emphasizes "sustainability" that Zammarchi had studied in the past. One of the main tenants of this program is to use direct local contact to identify barriers and to implement true behavior change.

This is where Alfrieda Peters, a Yakama Tribal Member entered the Solid Waste Program. After years promoting clean air on tribal lands, Peters was pleased to go out to the Yakama Nation Longhouses and Churches to explain what their tribal Solid Waste Program was doing. Peters explained to the tribal community about the "survey" and why they were doing it. She cautions, "If you are going to do a survey, I suggest less than 36 questions." Otherwise, the spreadsheet is just too large.

Tribal members had a chance to share their concerns and comments. Memorable feedback from one elder was how glad they were to be part of the planning process in deciding the future of the Solid Waste Program.

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Pictured above, Alfrieda Peters says, "How often does a person get to dress traditional for a day at work? I love it!"

TWO TRIBES continued from page 2

Peters gathered information on how tribal members felt about the open dumps. Many reported what they saw as safety and health risks presented by these dumps at fishing, hunting and gathering sites. The new Solid Waste Codes were discussed. New signs were posted at heavily used, illegal sights. Access to the dumpsters at the Longhouses and Churches was restricted from the public. The importance of doing the survey was discussed and forms collected.

Respected tribal elders spoke about their childhoods and how they were instructed by their grandparents to keep the camping areas clean. They reinforced the need to take responsibility and not trash our reservation, a message that the community needed to hear from these elders, Peters reports. And although a goal of signing up 100 new households for garbage pickup had been set, 255 new households were actually signed up. The Yakama Nations' program won an Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC) Award and became featured as a pilot program. ~EW~

Update on Makah Transfer Station Construction



A groundbreaking ceremony took place on August 31, 2011. The Tribal Chairman and Vice Chairman explained the history and importance of closing the Warmhouse Beach Open Dump and the importance of the transfer station.

Most of fill has been placed and compacted for the transfer station, associated roadways, and aprons. The original site surface was proof rolled and inspected. Compaction testing of the compacted fill material has been performed in accordance with the project specifications, and compaction results have been approved after each test. Renovations to the existing maintenance building have begun. The bio-swales for treatment of

storm water have been constructed, and topsoil has been placed. Grass seed and straw have been placed as erosion control measures in the bio-swales. Quarry spalls have been placed for energy dissipation at pipe outfalls into the swales. Construction of the concrete foundations for the lower level compactor room and retaining wall is complete. The wastewater holding tank was installed on October 14, 2011 and has been backfilled. Trenching for the storm water pipes and catch basins has been completed.



The Makah Tribe coordinated with Clallam County PUD to install primary electrical equipment at the site. The existing power pole has been relocated, and preparations are being made to install the main power distribution system. ~Submitted by Marge Sawyer~



TSWAN Executive Board

Interested in learning more about TSWAN and what it can do for your tribe? Want to hear it from a tribal member who is directly involved in our organization? Please feel free to contact any of our Executive Board pictured at right.

We assist our Member Tribes, working to solve their solid waste management issues in Indian Country. Our nationally recognized Integrated Waste Management System Template is available to our membership to help your tribe implement a customized IWMP. Membership is FREE.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, left to right, are:



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Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network



TSWAN

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"We, the members of the Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network, have gathered together to combine our voices to pursue natural resource, cultural and environmental protection for our Communities through solid waste management."
Excerpt TSWAN by-laws

For information on how to become a member Tribe of TSWAN, contact Kami Snowden, TSWAN Executive Director, (509) 235-6007 or write to P. O. Box 505, Cheney, WA 99004. A membership packet will be sent to you. You can also find membership information on our website.

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- TSWAN**
Member Tribes
AVCP
Burns-Paiute
Cheesh-Na
Chehalis
Chignik
Coeur d'Alene
Colville
Eklutna
Grand Ronde
Kalispel
Kootenai
Larsen Bay
Levelock
Makah
Muckleshoot
Newhalen
Nez Perce
Nooksack
Nunakauyarmiut
Port Lions
Old Harbor
Ouzinkie
Quinault
Shoshone-Bannock
Siletz
Snoqualmie
Spokane
Squaxin Island
Sun 'aq
Tulalip
Umatilla
Venetie
Warm Springs
Yakama

IDAHO Stakeholder's and TSWAN Meeting

March 28th ~ Idaho Stakeholder's Meeting

March 29th ~ TSWAN Meeting

Hampton Inn Suites Boise/Downtown

495 S Capitol Blvd

Boise, ID 83702

TSWAN Members please make reservations through TSWAN.
Others wanting to attend may call the hotel directly
At 208-331-1900 and ask for the TSWAN block of rooms.

March 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31