

Fall 2008

Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network

TSWAN Headlines



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Inside this issue:

Spokane Tribe Installs Transfer Station Scales	1
Snoqualmie Casino Opens With Recycling	2
Eklutna Clean-Up Day A Success	2
Colville's Introduce Recycling Program	3
TSWAN Meth Training Real World Application	4-5
TSWAN Officers	5

Spokane Tribe Installs Transfer Station Scales

Installation was recently completed on truck weight scales at the Spokane Tribe's solid waste transfer station at Wellpinit, Washington. The scales will accommodate out-going, over the road container loads as well as customer traffic at the station.

Funded through a USDA Rural Development grant, and constructed by Powell Scales NW, the weight scales are one of the last needed components to prepare the transfer station for operation. Tentatively, operations are planned to commence in spring 2009.

Submitted by David Ernst, Spokane Tribe



Workers prepare the ground and build forms for the truck weight scales at the Spokane Tribe's solid waste transfer station near Wellpinit, Washington.

Opening is tentatively planned for spring of 2009.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TSWAN has issued an RFP for the Development of a Strategic Plan for Environmental Management Sustainability.

The deadline is December 15th, 2008. Please see full RFP on our webpage: www.tswan.org.

We encourage members of TSWAN to submit any announcements or articles they would like published in the TSWAN Newsletter. We WELCOME your participation in this publication and hope you will share your successes and events with us. Email:

ksnowden@tswan.org
Or
ewelk@tswan.org

This newsletter is made possible through a grant by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Snoqualmie Tribal Casino to Recycle and Compost



The Snoqualmie Tribal Casino officially opened November 6th, 2008. With the opening of the casino, the Snoqualmie Tribe recognized a need to begin developing a Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) to minimize the amount of waste that would be generated from a such a large project.

As part of the Tribe's SWMP, the Snoqualmie Casino will be recycling the canola oil that will be used in the restaurants. The fryer oil will be recycled into bio-fuel and then used in the Casino's shuttles.

The Casino will also be starting a composting program. Food scraps from the restaurants, along with landscape debris and other allowable material will be separated and sent to Cedar Grove Composting to be converted into compost. The Snoqualmie Tribe hopes to expand the composting program to off reservation tribal businesses and offices in the future.



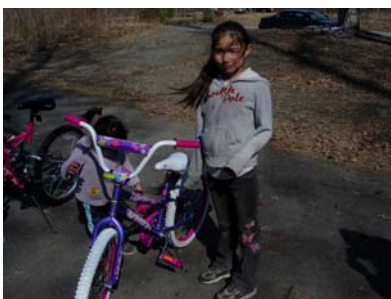
The Casino and all other tribal businesses and offices will also be recycling mixed recyclables such as glass, plastic, cardboard and aluminum in their Solid Waste Management Program. Submitted by Cindy Spiry, Snoqualmie Tribe.



EKLUTNA CLEAN-UP DAY



On May 3rd, the Native Village of Eklutna hosted their Annual Clean-Up Day. Twenty-Four tribal and community members and three Native Village of Eklutna staff attended. After completion of the clean-up, there was a picnic at the Village Playground. As an incentive for the children of the Tribe, bicycles were given in return for tickets that were handed out per bag of trash collected. The Native Village of Eklutna hosts their Clean-Up Day in conjunction with the Municipality's Anchorage Clean-up Week. The event was a great success. Submitted by Heidi Shepard, Native Village of Eklutna.



Colville Confederated Tribes Introduce Recycling Program

The Colville Confederated Tribes' Recycling Pilot Project began in March 2008. The project was initiated through the Environmental Trust Department with funding from the Colville General Assistance Program (GAP). Funding was directed to address one solid waste priority on the Colville Indian Reservation. The recycling pilot was conceived and was an initial step towards implementation of areas of the Tribes Draft Integrated Waste Management Plan. The purpose of this project was to eliminate office paper and cardboard from the waste stream with the goals of:

- collect data
 - decrease tipping fees for the transfer stations
 - decrease fuel costs associated with tipping fees
 - educate the tribes' on recycling
 - initiate momentum for recycling in tribal government programs (primarily in Nespelem)
- this would be a voluntary project for tribal/government employees

The Recycling Pilot Project's goals were to reduce the solid waste at the Nespelem Transfer Station by sorting paper and cardboard from the collection at the Colville Tribes' Agency Campus. The reduction of waste from the transfer station provided decreased tipping fees to the Okanogan Landfill, and the collection of data for the SWAC (Solid Waste Advisory Committee) to use in the development of the Integrated Waste Management Plan and an opportunity to educate reservation people on the benefits of recycling.

Bins were distributed throughout the tribes' agency and outreach areas. The bins ranged from 7.5, 12 and 33 gallon capacity and distribution totaled 406 bins. Along with the plastic bins, two metal containers were purchased. The metal containers will be donated to the Colville Tribes Solid Waste Department for use at the transfer stations. These metal containers will provide the opportunity for recycling reservation wide.

After a month into the recycling pilot project, the Solid Waste Program Manager, Danny Joe Stensgar, decided that along with paper, cardboard should be added to the pick up due to the overwhelming amount deposited into the transfer stations. Adding this commodity proved to be beneficial at the Nespelem transfer station. A total of 8-9 loads averaging 2,700 pounds were hauled out of the transfer station to be recycled at Coulee Recycling.

During the recycling pilot project, the reservation wide communities were offered a variety of education. The Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network's (TSWAN) Executive Director, Kami Snowden, visited the Inchelium School to educate grades k-12th on the importance of recycling and saving energy. The Solid Waste Enforcement Officer, Bass Williams, and his assistant, Rob Perisian, educated the public and youth about recycling and illegal dumping using a traditional Native American approach. Numerous educational pamphlets, flyers and handouts were given out at various tribal functions.

Over the four month period a total of 406 recycling bins (69- 33 gallon, 90-12.5 gallon and 247- 7 gallon) were distributed to the CCT Agency Campus Programs. A donation of 20,000 bins, having an estimated cost of \$105,200, was donated by Microsoft for distribution to reservation homes. These bins will also be distributed to schools during education presentations that will be conducted throughout the 2008-2009 school year. A total of 6.75 tons (13,500 pounds) of cardboard and 4.445 tons of paper (8,890 pounds) were diverted from the Tribes' solid waste stream.

Due to the overwhelming demand and momentum for recycling, the Colville Business Council passed a resolution on September 18, 2008 to fund a Tribal Recycling Program budget. This budget will include the purchase of equipment, i.e. forklift and baler, warehouse renovations, supplies and a recycling program manager position. The program will not only serve the CCT Agency but the reservation wide population. This program will receive supervision from the SWAC committee chair, Pete Palmer, and membership in order to continue implementation of the Colville Tribes' drafted Integrated Waste Management Plan.

Submitted by Cindy Marchand, Colville Confederated Tribes.

TSWAN Meth Lab Training Benefits Tribal Employees

"My recent training in Seattle, 'Assessing Mobile Meth Labs,' came at a crucial time in providing information that I could disseminate to help the Hazmat Team in our department," writes John Wheaton of the Nez Perce Tribe in Lapwai, Idaho.

Dogs and chickens were at the scene, both in and out of the house. Individuals arrested stated they were sorry for cooking the meth, and said they had made a total of 16 batches. On at least one occasion the owner of the property stated he could smell something strange in the air, perhaps meth cooking. According to the owner, the two individuals arrested moved out of the mobile home and into a nearby shed. According to the Chief Officer, individuals arrested stated they had not cooked any meth recently.



All the buildings had open doors and windows and appeared to be well ventilated. The Tribal Hazmat team carefully entered the buildings, took photos, but didn't touch anything. No chemical odors were noted. The mobile home was still full of personal effects, furniture, clothes, canned food, etc., and was very cluttered. A spray can of brake cleaner and a corroded-looking TV remote control was observed adjacent to the microwave. A glass jar with what may have been red stained coffee filters was also in the kitchen, looking very much like red phosphorous. The bathroom was apparently functional, with water in the toilet. An outside water faucet was functioning. The kitchen had a small propane stove with an attached 5-gallon propane bottle.

Some potential remaining meth lab evidence, and possible dangerous or hazardous waste, was observed on the property. Approximately nine 5-gallon propane tanks were observed outside the mobile home. Some blue/green corrosion was observed on at least one tank; these tanks may have been used to transport anhydrous ammonia and should be considered hazardous with potential to rupture. A plastic trash bin near the tanks contained brake cleaner cans, acetone, and wasp and hornet spray, which was commonly found all around the property. In the bedroom, pesticides and other chemicals were observed on a shelf above the bed. On the south side of the house, latex glove trash and dust masks were observed on the ground.



A 4-inch black plastic waste water pipe was observed exiting the mobile home on the south side of the building, and a 6-inch black plastic vertical riser pipe with screw on cap, perhaps a septic system inspection pipe, was observed on the north side of the building. The distribution of visible waste water pipes suggested that the septic tank is on the south side, but buried under soil in the front yard and that the drain field is on the north side. It would be beneficial to obtain as-built septic system plans from IHS.

THE CONCERN IS CLEAN-UP

The EPA was notified and is willing to clean up the site, but has noted that it would be highly expensive and the meth lab was considered too small for the cases they typically deal with.

The land is trust land, co-owned by the Nez Perce Tribe, along with individual ownership. There is an official resolution adopted by the Tribe which allows individuals to allege that a public nuisance exists and needs immediate attention. The Tribe would have to coordinate with Tribal Police, Water Resources, Land Services and other regulatory agencies. The resolution would be based on the information gathered

Meth Training Benefits cont.

at the recent drug bust and the statement by one of the suspects to the police that chemicals had been dumped in the toilet and into the septic system, there is reason to believe that the area in and around allotment, where the Nez Perce Tribe is co-owner, may be contaminated with the chemicals used in the manufacture of methamphetamine. The toxicity of such chemicals on the interior surfaces of the meth lab may pose an immediate danger to the current residents and visitors to the property. Chemical contamination of the aquifer, from the drain field may migrate downward, violate drinking water standards, and potentially contaminate neighboring wells.

As you can see, we still have our work cut out for us here in the Nez Perce Water Resources department. Fortunately, our staff has been diligent in taking training on dealing with meth labs and recognizes the dangers. With this training, we can educate the public and protect ourselves in assessing meth lab hazards. As the interim Utilities Planner, I plan to learn as much as possible about hazardous waste. Any toxins that may contaminate water systems, ground soils, or be disposed of improperly becomes an issue of prevention as well as clean-up.

Submitted by John Wheaton, Nez Perce Tribe.



TSWAN was pleased to receive feedback from the training, "Assessing Mobile Meth Labs," which we offered in June, 2008 in conjunction with the University of Washington's Northwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety, and the Washington State Patrol Drug Task Force. We hope to repeat this training in March, 2009. For information Please contact:

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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 listed below and 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, as are the services of our Circuit Rider, in helping your tribe implement your own customized WMP. Membership is FREE.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, left to right, are: Ron Wassillie, Treasurer; Danny Joe Stensgar, President; Bonnie Burke, Secretary; and Steve Pendleton, Vice President. After March, 2008 Elections, all officers retained their positions.



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Makah Tribe
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Newhalen Tribal Council
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Newhalen, AK 99606
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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 in the pursuit of natural resource, cultural, and environmental protection through advocacy of responsible solid waste management for all Native Americans".

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.

TSWAN Member Tribes

- AVCP
- Cheesh-Na
- Chehalis
- Chignik
- Coeur d'Alene
- Colville
- Eklutna
- Grand Ronde
- Kalispel
- Kootenai
- Larson Bay
- Levelock
- Makah
- Muckleshoot
- Newhalen
- Nez Perce
- Nunakauyarmiut
- Port Lions
- Old Harbor
- Quinault
- Shoshone-Bannock
- Siletz
- Snoqualmie
- Spokane
- Sun 'aq
- Tulalip
- Umatilla
- Warm Springs
- Yakama

Mark Your Calendars

TSWAN December 4th & 5th Meeting
Candlewood Suites
Lacey, Washington
For reservations: 1-360-491-1698
[Www.cwlacey.com](http://www.cwlacey.com)

Communication Forum with State/Federal Agencies



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	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			

