

SUMMER 2009

Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network

TSWAN Headlines



Volume 18, Issue 1

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Umatilla Tribal Environmental Recovery Facility Receives New Automated Truck



Bonnie Burke, Tribal Environmental Recovery Facility Manager for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indians, reports that they have received their first automated garbage truck. This 2010 model, 24 cubic-yard Peterbilt with automated arm will make changes for the better in terms of routes, container placement, worker efficiency with fewer injuries and overall customer service.

“TERF has its work cut out for it in the next few months while we are busy determining the best service to provide our customers,” says Burke. “This vehicle will only be used on paved roads and will be able to pick up in one day what took the older trucks three days.” Bulk mailing outreach is planned.

The truck was funded through a grant from USDA Rural Development of \$192,626 and a Umatilla Tribal contribution of \$64,000. Burke credits Janet Suter of USDA, pictured with Burke, for being instrumental in helping get through the grant application process.



“It takes a lot of steps in the application for USDA grants, but Janet Suter has been a real wonderful lady in helping me all the way,” Burke reports. This is the third USDA grant the TERF program has been awarded.

~EW~

The nights are already getting a distinctive chill to them, letting us know it is time again to start preparing for winter. Here are some ideas to help you winterize!

- ⇒ Clean and replace dirty filters in your furnace.
- ⇒ Use caulking and weather stripping to stop cold air leaks around doors and windows.
- ⇒ Insulate your hot water tank.
- ⇒ Use foam-board insulation on basement windows.
- ⇒ Have your stove and fireplace chimneys cleaned.
- ⇒ If you use heat tapes on pipes, make certain they are not overlapping. This is a real fire hazard!
- ⇒ Check your animals water tanks and prepare for winter too.
- ⇒ Stay warm!

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

Grand Ronde Host June TSWAN Meeting and Tour



The June TSWAN meeting was hosted by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde in Oregon. Lewis Younger addressing the group, is the tribal delegate to TSWAN, and he arranged a bus tour of the facilities on the reservation. The tribal administration building (left) has been designed not only to house their offices, but also as a public meeting space with a large staging area to accommodate all types of tribal programs.

The first stop on the bus tour was the new Cedar Plank House (right) which is currently under construction. When finished, it will hold approximately 300 people and is designed as a traditional ceremonial plank house. Younger explained the tribe had lost their nearly 70,000 acre reservation in 1954 and 6,900 acres were reinstated in 1984.



After thirty years without a home reservation the Grand Ronde have been determined to re-establish themselves in as ideal a way as possible. This has not only meant re-establishing their traditions, but also following a mandate from their members through a Strategic Community Development Plan that is continually reviewed and updated. It emphasizes their commitment to what is best for their members, and also works to be progressive within the local area and state governments. Working within the Polk County building requirements have been a goal for the Grand Ronde.

In addition to their plank house, the tribe has established housing in phases for which members can apply through a process specific to their needs. They are now entering Phase IV and V of this housing program. They also have established Elder Housing which is open to members 55 and older. The Assisted Living units each house six people, providing 24 hour care. The Tribal Health and Wellness Center determines when a person qualifies for such care.



TSWAN also toured the Elder Activity Center (left and right) which provides spacious, windowed meeting spaces, game room, activities area, group dining room, exercise facility, and a sit-around gas fire pit. This makes a very pleasant facility for the Grand Ronde elders.

The Education Center covers tribal educational needs from Head Start to an Adult Learning Center. It also includes a work-out facility and daycare. In addition, monies for educational programs are provided to members who wish to pursue higher education or training programs.



The TSWAN members present are pictured (left) at the Veterans Memorial built by the Grand Ronde Tribes to honor all veterans in all branches of the service from the surrounding five county area. As with all of the facilities we toured, it was beautifully planned and well built.

TSWAN members were impressed by the carefully planned facilities that address so many of the Grand Ronde Tribal needs.
~EW~



Photos courtesy of K. Snowden and L. Hawk

Beyond Biodegradation - Ecological Pioneers

Trellis Earth Products, Inc. of Portland, Oregon, is creating more natural solutions to replace plastics, particularly in the realm of disposable food containers, plastics bags and cutlery. The process is not just a scientific accomplishment – but a movement within common culture to lower our impact on planet Earth. For Indian Nations that embrace environmental consciousness in creative ways, Trellis Earth's products have a role to play in lowering the impact of their consumption and fostering a greater awareness of and respect for nature.

Trellis helped pioneer lower cost biodegradable plastics by replacing some of the petroleum-based plastic with starches that come from sustainable sources, such as corn and tapioca, soybeans and wheat, sugar and potatoes. This may be done with parts of the plants that are not food stocks – like the canes left over during sugar production, called “Bagasse.” Corn is biodegradable and contains the building blocks of polymers (plastics), so together, creates a product with biodegradable qualities. Faster decomposition makes for a lower carbon footprint. With Trellis Earth products, this is possible. And these new products are able to compete on price with conventional plastics products. But, the problem with biodegradability and composting of all kinds is that it creates CO2 emissions. So beyond the headlines of biodegradability, zero waste in landfills is not zero waste if it fills the atmosphere with gasses that cause global warming. The slow burn of biodegradation is easy – it happens through metabolism by microorganisms. And landfills are increasingly disintegrating, creating methane fuel that can be used to generate power when it is burned. It is a long, slow process. On the other hand, burning is the process of biodegradation in fast motion. And although it has bad connotations, burning biomass-based products to replace fossil fuels is a viable carbon footprint reduction strategy.

Using Trellis Earth products provides a waste stream which is a mix of paper (biomass), food scraps (organic materials) and bioplastics – mostly biomass. This waste stream can be collected and -- without sorting -- be ground into scrap with a simple grinder. The grinder feeds a dryer that removes latent moisture quickly in a tumbling tunnel (like a long clothes dryer). The dryer feeds a compressor, called a briquetting machine. This machine reduces a ton of ground up waste to a cubic yard in the form of logs similar to fire logs that you might buy in the store. These can be burned in a power plant or burner house to generate steam or heat. When a power plant burns high BTU waste streams like those above rather than fossil fuels, it is greatly reducing the carbon released into the atmosphere. Heat is captured and converted to energy, waste is diverted from the landfill, heat is not lost in biodegradation, and it reduces fossil fuel consumption.

Reducing the generation of trash and seeing it as a resource to be harnessed is the best approach that will allow us to regain a more natural balance in nature. To demonstrate and promote these improvements, Native American Nations often lead the way, proving that respecting and honoring Mother Earth is the cornerstone of a balanced relationship with our planet and each other.

Submitted by Lawrence Hawk, Sales Representative for Trellis Earth Products ~ lhawk@trellisearth.com ~

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.

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Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network

TSWAN



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TSWAN Member Tribes

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

"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.

Mark Your Calendars

TSWAN MEETING September 16-17th
Lewiston, Idaho
Hosted by the
Nez Perce Tribe
208-799-1000 or 800-232-6830

September 2009

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
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