

Winter 2009–2010

Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network

TSWAN Headlines



Kami Snowden, Executive Director for TSWAN, made a presentation during the poster session of the **2010 Conference on Environmental Justice, Air Quality, Goods Movement and Green Jobs** recently in New Orleans, LA. The abstract for the poster presentation was a discussion on ***Methamphetamine: Threatening the Health and Environment of Tribal Communities***. The health effects to humans are devastating, if not deadly. The environmental effects are quite the same. By-products of meth

production leave environmental devastation and, in some cases, are deadly to the environment. Conference attendees were provided information on what methamphetamine is, how it can be manufactured, where it can be manufactured, how it impacts human health and the environment, and for this track, how meth has infiltrated and is damaging our tribal communities. To quote one conference attendee, "I've heard of meth, but I had no idea what it really was or how damaging and dangerous it was. Thank you for bringing this subject to this forum."
~ Kami Snowden ~

E-Waste Recycling of Interest to TSWAN

E-Waste Recycling has become a great issue in the past few years as more of the world expands their technological capacities and use of computers, monitors, copiers, cell phones, televisions, etc. Washington State passed some of the strictest e-waste recycling requirements in the United States in February of 2009. This was in an effort to curb the alarming build up of toxic waste from ending up in the landfills and incinerators. High levels of dioxins, phthalates and other toxins are present in locations like Ghana, India and China where these items are torn apart and recycled. These locations are usually in the villages of the lowest income peoples who are trying to eke out a living by recovering the 90% of computers and other e-waste which can be recycled. While recovering things like glass, plastic and metals, the release of lead, mercury and other toxins impacts their health and safety, becoming a toxic waste in their villages, soil or water supply.

Washington State has information available on e-waste at www.ecy.wa.gov. You can read the Department of Ecology standards, and find recyclers in your area listed there. Or you may call 1-800-RECYCLE, or go to www.1800recycle.wa.gov to find your local recyclers. They also suggest REUSE of electronics and recommend www.greenerchoices.org as a place to get information on donating used electronic equipment that is still working. You may want to consult the "Consumer Reports Electronics Reuse & Recycling Center." However, they warn that you must first know how to get the software that will "CLEAN" the information off your equipment before you donate or recycle it. They say short of destroying a hard-drive, the right software is really the only way to clean a computer, and recommend visiting www.techsoup.org as the place to find information on various "data-eradication" methods.

The Basel Action Network, or BAN, is a 501(c)3 charitable organization based in Seattle, WA that has been involved in E-Waste for many years. They recommend the E-Stewards program which has a certification process for recyclers. Once certified, these are considered to be the best places to responsibly recycle e-waste. You may find further information on BAN at www.BAN.org. You can also link to the E-Steward program information from their webpage at www.e-stewards.org. E-Stewards has a very nice listing on "certified" e-waste handlers. They list four in Oregon, five in Washington, one in Alaska, and none in Idaho. At www.e-stewards.org/local_estewards.html you may click on the individual handlers to get listings of their various locations near you. Some of them have quite a number listed. Please take the time to go and check out some of these organizations. You will be able to link up with the recyclers that are doing a good job of disposing of electronic waste in a responsible manner.
E. Welk

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Inside this issue:

Certified Meth ID Trainings Offered	1
E-Waste Recycling of Interest to TSWAN	1
Coeur d'Alene Solid Waste Programs	2
Variety of TSWAN Trainings Offered	2
TSWAN Hires Program Coordinator	3
Environmental Management Sustainability Template Tested	3
TSWAN Officers	3
Calendar of Events	4

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TSWAN, UW and WSP offering FOUR 16-Hour **Mobile Meth Lab ID on Tribal Lands** Trainings.

- * National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Certification.
 - * Travel Scholarships of \$250 are available to members of federally recognized Tribes.
 - * No Cost for Class.
- Contact TSWAN for further information and dates.

WE encourage TSWAN members to participate in this publication by submitting announcements, events and programs. Email:

ksnowden@tswan.org
ewelk@tswan.org

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

Coeur d'Alene Tribe ~ Environmental Programs Office Solid and Hazardous Waste Activities

During the Summer and Fall of 2009, the Tribal Environmental Programs Office successfully completed several solid waste management activities in conjunction with grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Integrated methods for managing solid wastes, in environmentally friendly ways, are rapidly becoming more important on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation and surrounding areas. To this end, we kicked the year off with the purchase of six compost bins (12 cubic feet each) to be used for "backyard" composting demonstration projects. Two of these bins were placed behind the Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC) for use by the community gardening project and the ECLC and one bin was placed at the Tribal School. A fourth bin was to be located at the Worley elementary school but the school was closed due to structural damage. This bin will be located at the Plummer Middle School in March 2010. Two brief composting workshops were conducted by the University of Idaho Agriculture Extension Agent and Environmental Programs Office staff at the ECLC and educational materials were distributed that discussed proper composting techniques, mixtures, and uses.

On August 21, 26, and 27 the Environmental Programs Office, in partnership with the Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network (TSWAN) held community solid waste workshops in Plummer, Tensed/DeSmet, and Worley. The workshops were deliverables for both our EPA and USDA grants and provided general information on recycling, source reduction, composting, and substituting environmentally friendly chemicals for more toxic commercial varieties for cleaning, pest control, and other uses. While only two people participated at the Tensed/DeSmet workshop, we had twelve at Plummer, and thirty-two at the Worley longhouse. According to the evaluation forms completed by workshop attendees, the presentations were well received. The evaluation forms also indicated that there is a great deal of interest in our communities for handling solid wastes more effectively.

In August of 2009, the Environmental Programs Office contracted with Cascade Design Professionals, with URS Corporation, and Maul, Foster, and Alongi as subcontractors to complete the final task for our USDA solid waste grant, a further assessment of "green" hotel practices that could be implemented at the Hotel/Casino/Golf Course complex. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe and Hotel/Casino/Golf Course management have been very proactive over the past two years in implementing numerous recycling, chemical management, and energy/water conservation programs at the complex and this task should provide additional recommendations. The assessment is now in progress and will be completed in March 2010.

The final EPA solid waste grant activity for the summer was held on August 11, 9am-1pm and August 12, 9am-1pm at the secondary parking lot of the Tribal Wellness Center. This was a household hazardous waste clean-up event that was free of charge to Reservation residents, and, to our knowledge, was the first time such a collection event had been held on the Reservation. During the two days of the collection, residents brought in over **12,000 pounds** of toxic chemicals including, pesticides, PCB's, used oil and anti-freeze, old paints, solvents, e-waste, lead batteries, and fluorescent light bulbs.



Phillip Services Corporation, an environmental management company from Spokane, provided containers for all wastes, collected the wastes, labeled them, and then transported them for final disposal. Depending upon the type of waste, they were landfilled, incinerated, recycled, or used for fuel for electrical generation. The total cost for the clean-up exceeded \$13,000. We now have the satisfaction of knowing that the chemicals collected will not end up in the Reservation environment.

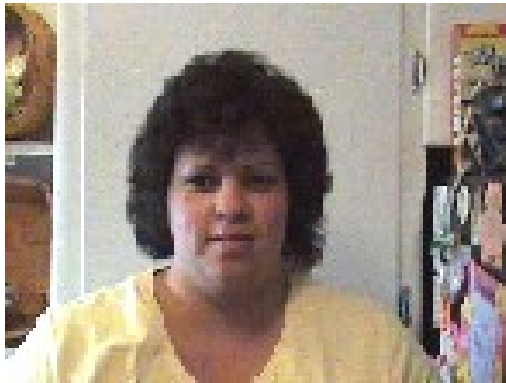
Submitted by Bill Denton, Coeur d'Alene Tribal Environmental Health Specialist

TSWAN Happenings

The September TSWAN meeting was hosted by the Nez Perce in Lewiston, Idaho in conjunction with the Tribal Leaders Summit. TSWAN thanks the organizers of both events for making this possible. TSWAN members also enjoyed a guided tour of the Nez Perce Museum near Lapwai, arranged by the TSWAN delegate from the Nez Perce Tribe, John Wheaton.

In late September, TSWAN executive director, Kami Snowden and TSWAN Circuit Rider, Anne Bailey, presented the first of two **IWMP Template Trainings** at the Tulalip Resort and Casino. The two-day trainings provide hands on training for people using the TSWAN Integrated Waste Management Plan Template. Those attending were able to leave with a document applicable to their specific tribal data and needs. The second template training was offered in December, at the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Casino in Worley, Idaho preceding the **December TSWAN meeting**. Nominations for TSWAN officers were held at the December meeting and elections will take place at the **March, 2010 meeting to be hosted by the Snoqualmie Tribe** at their tribal casino facility. A **16-Hour Class, Mobile Meth Lab I D on Tribal Lands** will precede the TSWAN March meeting.

TSWAN Program Coordinator



TSWAN recently hired an in-house Program Coordinator. In the current recruiting market, many able applicants were interviewed. Anne Bailey, former circuit rider for the TSWAN tribal members, was hired to handle this new position. Anne says, "As program coordinator, I will be responsible for providing technical assistance for program planning, implementation of programs, and special projects as needed. I will also be developing and providing training. I will continue to attend quarterly meetings and help TSWAN with its needed sustainability."

One of the main projects that Anne will be working on is an Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan template for the Alaskan villages. Anne thinks this is a long over due project and hopefully will help solve some problems that are faced in Alaska. Anne says, "I am very excited about this challenge and look forward to the opportunity to develop and help implement this template."

TSWAN Unveils Strategic Planning For Environmental Management Template

What exactly is Strategic Planning for Environmental Management and what is the purpose of making this into Template form?

TSWAN set out, with the help of SparrowHawk Consulting Company in Tumwater, WA, to come up with tools that all tribes can use to put make environmental strategic planning easier with a user friendly process. The process uses strategic analysis and choice, implementation and evaluation, and a testing process. This Template was designed to use with or without the TSWAN Tribal Integrated Waste Management Plan Template. The Sustainability Test Instrument assesses tribal strategies, action plans, and resources to achieve success.

The template can help sustain and improve tribal environmental management systems and practices beyond the limits and changes in funding sources, tribal administration, organizational structures, and policy. After working through all of the processes, with input from many stakeholders, a completed plan "...will provide detailed strategies to address a broad set of strategic environmental management sustainability objectives that are cutting edge."

Several member tribes volunteered to use the Strategic Planning template and provide feedback as part of the testing process. Thus far, they are all impressed with the template and are in the process of gathering data from all the departments that have input to their environmental plans. Please contact Kami Snowden at TSWAN for further information on this Template.

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 to help your tribe implement a customized IWMP. Membership is FREE.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, left to right, are: Ron Wassillie, Treasurer; Danny Joe Stensgar, President; Bonnie Burke, Secretary; and Steve Pendleton, Vice President.



Danny Joe Stensgar, President
Colville Confederated Tribes
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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.

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](#)
- [Quinalt](#)
- [Ouzinkie](#)
- [Shoshone-Bannock](#)
- [Siletz](#)
- [Snoqualmie](#)
- [Spokane](#)
- [Sun 'aq](#)
- [Tulalip](#)
- [Umatilla](#)
- [Venetie](#)
- [Warm Springs](#)
- [Yakama](#)

TSWAN March, 2010 Meeting

Hosted by the Snoqualmie Tribe
When: March 17th & 18th, 2010
Where: Snoqualmie Casino, 98065
Time: 8:30 am to 4 pm

- ◆ Board Elections to be held
 - ◆ Special TSWAN Delegate Dinner March 17th, 5:30 p.m.
 - ◆ Please make your room reservations through TSWAN before our February 16th deadline! Thank you!
- 16 Hour Meth Lab ID on Tribal Lands Certification Training
March 15th & 16th in Snoqualmie. Call for information.**

March 2010

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			