



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Pacific Southwest, Region 9



*Serving Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, the Pacific Islands, and 148 Tribes*

Tribal Section, Land Division  
March/April 2015

75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105  
800-EPA WEST • [www.epa.gov/region9/tribal](http://www.epa.gov/region9/tribal)

## U.S. EPA PACIFIC SOUTHWEST TRIBAL SECTION NEWSLETTER



*Touring the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians' Reservation, Administrator McCarthy and Environmental Program Director Kelly Ferguson discuss the Tribe's drought-resistant landscaping, which incorporates many traditional plants valuable to local basketweavers.*



*Chairman Vincent Armenta speaks with the Administrator about the Tribe's programs.*

### **EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy Visits Santa Ynez Chumash Reservation**

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy met tribal leaders and staff in March at the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians' reservation to discuss the tribe's deep commitment to environmental protection and to learn more about the tribe's recent work with the EPA.

The visit to the Santa Barbara County reservation included tours during which McCarthy saw firsthand the tribe's sustainability and restoration efforts, including the demonstration garden and nursery.

McCarthy heard from Santa Ynez Chumash Environmental Office Director Kelly Ferguson on the numerous environmental and conservation efforts. They included pollution prevention, solar energy programs, water-quality monitoring, resource conservation, climate mitigation, zero-waste community events and the Chumash Casino Resort's food waste diversion program.



## GOVERNMENT GRANTS

◆ **Tribal Cooperative Landscape Conservation Grants (\$8 million):** The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is funding tribal projects that address climate change adaptation and ocean and coastal management planning.

*DEADLINE:* Friday, April 24, 2015. Submit applications online at [climate.funding@bia.gov](mailto:climate.funding@bia.gov) or by mail to: Helen Riggs, Deputy Bureau Director, Office of Trust Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1849 C St. N.W., MS-4620-MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240.

*CONTACT:* Helen Riggs, [climate.funding@bia.gov](mailto:climate.funding@bia.gov) or (202) 208-5770.

◆ **AmeriCorps Indian Tribes Grants:** The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is awarding AmeriCorps planning and program grants. Planning grant award recipients will get up to \$75,000 for 12 months to develop an AmeriCorps program. Funding priority areas are disaster services, economic opportunity, education, veterans and military families, and healthy futures. Program grant award recipients will hire AmeriCorps members to work to strengthen communities. For more information, see <http://go.usa.gov/3xAHW>.

*DEADLINE:* Wednesday, April 29, 2015. For information about applying, see <http://go.usa.gov/3xAFY>.

*CONTACT:* [americorpsgrants@cns.gov](mailto:americorpsgrants@cns.gov) or (202) 606-7508.

◆ **Rural Energy for America Program Grants (\$78 million):** The U.S. Department of Agriculture is awarding grants to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to reduce energy costs and consumption. The two types of grants are:

- renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements assistance grants; and
- energy audit renewable energy development assistance grants.

Renewable energy assistance grants fund buying and installing renewable energy systems and making energy-efficiency improvements. Eligible systems include wind, solar and renewable biomass. Audit assistance grants are available to state, tribal or local governmental units. For more information, see <http://go.usa.gov/3aGjV>.

*DEADLINE:* Applications are accepted year-round, but deadlines for FY 2015 are Thursday, April 30, 2015, and Tuesday, June 30, 2015. Apply at <http://go.usa.gov/3xHxh>. The Funding Opportunity Number is RDBCP-REAP-RES-EEI-2015.

*CONTACT:* Contact your state rural development energy coordinator for more information on this program: Don Hollis (Arizona), [don.hollis@or.usda.gov](mailto:don.hollis@or.usda.gov) or (541) 278-8049, ext. 129; Steve Nicholls (California), [steven.nicholls@ca.usda.gov](mailto:steven.nicholls@ca.usda.gov) or (530) 792-5805; Mark Williams (Nevada), [mark.williams@nv.usda.gov](mailto:mark.williams@nv.usda.gov) or (775) 887-1222, ext. 116.

◆ **Renewable Energy Project Development Assistance:** Now in its third round, the Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) program provides federally recognized tribal governments and other tribal entities with on-the-ground support to accelerate clean energy projects. Since December 2011, START has helped 21 tribal communities advance their clean energy technology and infrastructure projects — from solar and wind to biofuels and energy efficiency. For more information about the program, visit <http://go.usa.gov/3ayfd>.

**DEADLINE:** Friday, May 1, 2015. For information on applying for technical assistance, visit <http://go.usa.gov/3ayfF>.

**CONTACT:** Submit questions to [STARTsupport@nrel.gov](mailto:STARTsupport@nrel.gov) or [IndianEnergy@hq.doe.gov](mailto:IndianEnergy@hq.doe.gov).



## WEBINARS

**Pointers on Requests for Proposals:** The National Clean Diesel Campaign has just issued a Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Tribal Competition Request for Proposals for up to \$1 million. To provide more details about the competition, EPA is hosting a webinar in April. Topics include:

- history of the DERA Tribal Competition application process;
- tips on grants;
- answers to grant and general DERA competition questions.

Topics to be considered for discussion are diesel-related pollution issues, e.g., truck stops, school buses, and diesel engine/vehicle retrofitting. For more information, visit <http://go.usa.gov/3aEQT>.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 1, 2015, 12 p.m., Pacific Time.

**REGISTER:** Call-in number, (866) 299-3188; call-in code, (202) 343-9534; Adobe Connect link, <http://ow.ly/Kafam>.

**CONTACT:** Rosalva Tapia at (202) 343-9534 or [tapia.rosalva@epa.gov](mailto:tapia.rosalva@epa.gov);  
Connie Ruth at (734) 214-4815 or [ruth.connie@epa.gov](mailto:ruth.connie@epa.gov).

### **Meth Labs: What to Do and What to Know:**

EPA is hosting a webinar on the problem of methamphetamine labs on tribal lands.

This webinar will present information on how to protect yourself and the public from the hazards of and potentially lethal exposure to methamphetamine and/or drug labs on tribal lands.

The presentation will show visuals of functioning meth labs and provide ways to identify such scenes and safe ways of responding.



*Typical chemicals and equipment found in meth labs. Photo from <http://region6.epa.gov/intranet/6dra/accreports/fy07accreport.pdf>*

Speakers are Kami Snowden, Executive Director, Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network; Danny Joe Stensgar, Coleville Confederated Tribes (Washington state); and Jeff Kershaw, Detective, Washington State Patrol.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, March 31, 2015, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Pacific Time.

**REGISTER:** Visit <http://ow.ly/KaHZI>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the webinar.

**CONTACT:** Kathy Rafferty [rafferty.kathy@epa.gov](mailto:rafferty.kathy@epa.gov).



## **TRAININGS & MEETINGS**

**ABCs of Recycling and Composting.** The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals is accepting applications for those interested in attending “Recycling Strategies for Tribes” and “Composting Strategies for Tribes.” The course on recycling will emphasize creating and operating recycling programs and businesses. The composting course will highlight developing business plans, designing facilities and the science of composting.

### **WHEN & WHERE:**

- Recycling Strategies for Tribes, May 19 to May 21, 2015, Spokane, WA
- Composting Strategies for Tribes, June 16 to 18, 2015, Minneapolis, MN

**COST:** Free, including cost of lodging, but participants will be responsible for travel expenses.

**DEADLINE:** Monday, April 27, 2015, for the recycling course and Monday, May 25, 2015, for the composting course.

**CONTACT:** To get an application, email Todd Barnell at [todd.barnell@nau.edu](mailto:todd.barnell@nau.edu).

**Tribal Energy Program Review.** Tribes are increasingly turning their attention to energy efficiency and renewable energy. This conference is a forum for tribes to meet and share information. The agenda includes an overview of the Tribal Energy Program and presentations on weatherization and energy technologies. For further information, visit <http://go.usa.gov/3rvq5>.

**WHEN & WHERE:** Monday, May 4, 2015, to Thursday, May 7, 2015, Denver, CO.

**COST:** Free.

**REGISTER:** Advance registration is recommended. To register, visit <http://go.usa.gov/3rvrm>.

**CONTACT:** [contact\\_tribal@ee.doe.gov](mailto:contact_tribal@ee.doe.gov).

**Spring RTOC Meeting:** The Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) spring meeting is coming up soon in San Francisco. The agenda is packed with work groups, working sessions and presentations of diverse topics, including UST and LUST funding opportunities, an update on the drinking water total coliform rule and engaging tribal nations in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's regulatory processes. Updates also will cover the NTOC report, the strategic plan and the Tribal Caucus Report.

**WHERE:** EPA Regional Office, 75 Hawthorne St., San Francisco.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, May 12, 2015, to Thursday, May 14, 2015, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**REGISTER:** <http://go.usa.gov/3afPW>.

**CONTACT:** Mariela L. Lopez, [lopez.mariela@epa.gov](mailto:lopez.mariela@epa.gov) or (415) 972-3771.



## ODDS & ENDS

**Think About Taking the Plunge:** Tribal-owned hotels can sign up for the WaterSense® H2Otel Challenge. Sponsored by EPA, the program helps hotels save water, energy and money by providing free tools, tips and training. Hotel operators and facility managers will learn how to make the most of EPA's free resources to "ACT": Assess, Change and Track water use in the hospitality sector.

**REGISTER:** Visit <http://go.usa.gov/3a5R3>. Enrollment ends Monday, June 1, 2015.

**CONTACT:** <http://go.usa.gov/3a5XH> or the helpline, (866) 987-7367.