



# EPA Region 7 Communities Information Digest

November 25, 2016

## Welcome to the latest EPA Region 7 Digest!

EPA Region 7's Communities Information Digest provides communities with the latest news about funding technical assistance opportunities, webinars, conferences, and other activities related to human health and the environment.

An \* indicates a new item.

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**November is National Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Month!**



EPA developed this public service announcement to raise awareness and appreciation of critical water and wastewater infrastructure. [Click here to view the video.](#) Discover preparedness tools and resources at [epa.gov/waterresilience](http://epa.gov/waterresilience).

## Headlines

## ***National***

### **\*Executive Order on Establishing a Council on Community Solutions to Align Federal Efforts with Local Priorities and Needs**

President Obama recently signed an Executive Order establishing a Council on Community Solutions, creating a structure for Federal agencies to improve coordination and strengthen partnerships to better serve communities. Building on the best practices from HUD's place-based work, such as the Partnership for Sustainable Communities and Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2), the Council on Community Solutions will help to modernize and streamline Federal efforts to assist communities in addressing the pressing challenges they face.

### **\*EPA "Making a Visible Difference in Communities" Video Series**

EPA is working on-the-ground in communities to help local leaders and residents address local priorities. Watch these videos to learn more about the work underway and how it is making a visible difference in these communities.

### **\*EPA, USDA Announce U.S. Food Loss and Waste 2030 Champions**

The EPA and USDA announced the inaugural class of the U.S. Food Loss and Waste 2030 Champions, U.S. businesses and organizations pledging concrete steps to reduce food loss and waste in their operations 50 percent by 2030. Champions announced today include Ahold USA, Blue Apron, Bon Appétit Management Company, Campbell Soup Company, Conagra Brands, Delhaize America, General Mills, Kellogg Company, PepsiCo, Sodexo, Unilever, Walmart, Wegman's Food Markets, Weis Markets and YUM! Brands.

### **\*EPA Finalizes Increase in Renewable Fuel Volumes**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today finalized increases in renewable fuel volume requirements across all categories of biofuels under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program. In a required annual rulemaking, today's action finalizes the volume requirements and associated percentage standards for cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel for 2017, and for biomass-based diesel for 2018.

### **\*EPA Recognizes Outstanding Food Recovery Challenge Participants**

The EPA recently recognized the accomplishments of 13 organizations and businesses participating in EPA's Food Recovery Challenge. In 2015, more than 800 governments, businesses and organizations participated in EPA's Food Recovery Challenge. Participants include organizations such as grocers, restaurants, educational institutions and sports and entertainment venues, who together kept more than 690,000 tons of food from being wasted. These efforts reduced carbon emissions equivalent to taking approximately 86,000 cars off the road for a year and saved businesses up to \$35 million in avoided waste disposal fees.

### **\*USDA Awards \$9.4 Million for Safer, More Effective Pest Management**

The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) recently awarded \$9.4 million to support 25 research and outreach projects that will help mitigate pests, weeds and diseases on farms and in communities. The awards are made through NIFA's Crop Protection and Pest Management Program (CPPM) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program which have awarded more than \$64.5 million since 2014.

**[\\*Energy Department Announces Partnerships Under New Better Buildings Zero Energy Districts Accelerator to Develop More Sustainable Communities](#)**

As a part of the Obama Administration's effort to cut energy waste in the nation's buildings and facilities, today the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the National League of Cities launched the Better Buildings Zero Energy Districts Accelerator to move the building market toward adopting sustainable practices to help districts achieve zero energy use in buildings.

**[\\*Local Greenhouse Gas Inventory Tool](#)**

The Local Greenhouse Gas Inventory is an online tool that calculates GHG emissions for the residential, commercial, transportation, and waste and water management sectors, among others. The tool includes one module for community-wide inventories and a second module for inventories of local government operations only. The Local GHG Inventory Tool is pre-programmed with default emission factors and system assumptions needed to calculate emissions, or local governments may enter municipality-specific information.

**[\\*FEMA Announces Release of State Mitigation Planning Key Topics](#)**

This document outlines a five-step process states can use to update the mitigation strategy in their state hazard mitigation plans. These steps include validating mitigation goals, evaluating and updating existing mitigation actions, identifying new mitigation actions, prioritizing mitigation actions, and identifying current and potential funding sources. Considerations for linking local and tribal mitigation strategies with the state mitigation strategy are also provided.

**[\\*Energy Department Announces \\$30 Million Investment for Innovation in Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies](#)**

The Energy Department (DOE) recently announced approximately \$30 million in available funding, subject to appropriations, for research and development of low-cost hydrogen production, onboard hydrogen storage, and proton exchange membrane fuel cells to advance the widespread commercialization of fuel cell electric vehicles. Selected projects will leverage national lab consortia launched under DOE's Energy Materials Network (EMN) this past year, in support of DOE's materials research and advanced manufacturing priorities.

**[\\*SunShot Launches New Prize Competition](#)**

The SunShot Initiative launched a new prize competition that aims to expand solar access to all Americans, especially to communities that have been left out of the solar boom. The Solar in Your Community Challenge, informed by our work with the National Community Solar Partnership, aims to spur the development of new and innovative financial and business models that serve non-rooftop solar users and low- and moderate-income communities. The Challenge offers \$5 million in cash prizes and technical assistance to teams across the country to develop projects or programs that expand solar access to underserved groups, while proving that these business models can be widely replicated and adopted by similar groups.

**[\\*Light the Moment with ENERGY STAR Campaign](#)**

You can easily be part of preventing 17 billion pounds of annual greenhouse gas emissions by supporting this call to action. Here's how. Just consider participating in the Light the Moment with ENERGY STAR Campaign.

#### **[EPA Calls for Nominations for 2017 Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Awards](#)**

The EPA announced its call for nominations for the 2017 Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Awards for companies or institutions that have developed a new process or product helping to protect public health and the environment. Nominations for innovative technologies featuring greener chemicals and products, are due to the agency by **December 31, 2016.**

#### **[EPA Presidential Environmental Education Awards for Teachers and Students](#)** **[Applications are due on March 1, 2017](#)**

The award recognizes outstanding K-12 teachers who employ innovative approaches to environmental education and use the environment as a context for learning. Award winners receive up to \$2,500 to continue their professional development in environmental education. Additionally, the teacher's local education agency will receive up to \$2,500 to fund environmental educational activities and programs. Kids can receive the Presidential Environmental Youth Award (PEYA), promotes awareness of our nation's natural resources and encourages positive community involvement.

#### **Available for Comment: [Draft Technical Support Materials for the Final Freshwater Aquatic Life Selenium Criterion](#) **Public comment period closes on December 12.****

EPA has posted for public comment four draft technical documents supporting state and tribal adoption and implementation of EPA's 2016 Clean Water Act section 304(a) selenium criterion.

#### **[EPA Seeks Input on the Gap of Water Quality Standards Coverage in Indian Reservation Waters](#)** **Comments Due by December 28**

On September 19, 2016, Administrator McCarthy signed an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM) requesting public comment on the establishment of federal baseline water quality standards (WQS) under the Clean Water Act (CWA) for Indian reservation waters that currently do not have EPA-approved WQS to protect water quality.

### ***Regional***

#### **[\\*Wichita Receives Honorable Mention for Being a Bicycle-Friendly City](#)**

Wichita, Kansas has been recognized nationally for its ongoing efforts to improve conditions for bicycling. The League of American Bicyclists awarded local government an Honorable Mention designation for working with community partners to create a bicycle-friendly city. The City of Wichita has worked diligently to implement the community's Wichita Bicycle Master Plan. Since the endorsement of the plan in 2013, the City has installed more than 30 miles of bikeways; created the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board; created a plan for bicycle wayfinding; and worked with community partners to secure funding for a variety of bicycling related initiatives.

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# Funding & Technical Assistance Opportunities

[Community Food Projects \(CFP\) Competitive Grants Program](#) November 30

[Building Tribal Capacity for Climate Change Resilience and Public Health Programs](#) November 30

[Call for Proposals: Gathering Input from Tribal Communities to Shape the Next National Climate Assessment](#) December 2

[FY 2017 USDA Farm to School Grant](#) December 8

[Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence \(RBA\)](#) December 8

[Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program](#) December 8

[AIA Sustainable Design Assessment Team](#) December 9

[Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Program Grants](#) December 12

[\\*Photovoltaic Research and Development 2: Modules and Systems](#) December 14

[Kansas Organization of Recyclers Video Contest](#) December 15

[Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies \(FASTLANE\) Grants](#) December 15

[FY17 Guidelines for Brownfields Cleanup Grants](#) December 20

[FY17 Guidelines for Brownfields Assessment Grants](#) December 22

[\\*SunShot Technology to Market 3](#) December 30

[\\*Solar Forecasting 2](#) December 30

[\\*USDA Solid Waste Management Grants](#) December 31

[Freshwater Harmful Algal Blooms – Request for Applications](#) January 4

[FY 2018 Environmental Research and Development Program \(SERDP\)](#) January 5

[\\*HHS Environmental Regulatory Enhancement Program for Tribal Governments](#) January 9

[\\*USDA National Conservation Innovation Grants](#) January 9

[\\*AmeriCorps State and National Grants, Corporation for National and Community Service](#) **January 17**

[Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative](#) **January 19**

[\\*Five Star & Urban Waters Restoration Grants](#) **January 31**

[\\*EPA Environmental Justice Small Grants](#) **January 31**

[\\*USDA Rural Energy for America Program](#) **January 31**

[Environmental Education Grants, Captain Planet Foundation](#) **January 31**

[NOAA Educational Partnership Program Undergraduate Scholarship](#) **January 31**

[NOAA Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship](#) **January 31**

[Endowment for Forestry and Communities Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant \(HWCG\) Program](#) **February 1**

[\\*DOE Deployment of Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Projects on Indian Lands Program](#) **February 7**

[Anticipating the Environmental Impacts and Behavioral Drivers of Deep Decarbonization](#) **February 10**

[\\*Drought Response Program: Drought Contingency Planning Grants](#) **February 14**

[\\*Drought Resiliency Projects](#) **February 14**

[\\*Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer](#) **February 17**

### ***Ongoing Opportunities***

[USDA Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Program Grants](#)

[River Network National Rain Barrel Program](#) **Through June 2017**

[POWER \(Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization\) Grants](#) **Applications accepted on a rolling basis**

[Tribal Climate Change Funding Guide](#) **Regularly updated grants and programs**

[EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program](#)

[USDA Agricultural Conservation Easement Program](#) [Local USDA Service Center](#)

[Apply for a Fruit Tree Planting Foundation Orchard in Your Community](#)

[American Planning Association Community Planning Assistance Teams](#)

[Climate Solutions University Adaptation Plan Assistance](#)

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## Meetings, Conferences, & Events

[Green Lands Blue Waters Conference](#) [November 29-30, Columbia, MO](#)

[Nebraska Conservation Summit](#) [December 7, Omaha, NE](#)

\*[Solar Energy Industries Association Finance and Tax Seminar](#) [December 7-8](#)

[Washington, DC](#)

[Managing Floodplain Development Through the National Flood Insurance Program](#)  
[December 12-15, Lincoln, NE](#)

[Sustainable Foods Summit](#) [January 18-20, San Francisco, CA](#)

[AGU Chapman Conference on Extreme Climate Event Impacts on Aquatic Biogeochemical Cycles and Fluxes](#) [January 22-27, 2017, San Juan, Puerto Rico](#)

\*[Kansas City Urban Stormwater Conference](#) [January 23-24, Kansas City, MO](#)

\*[Kansas Natural Resources Conference](#) [January 26-27, Wichita, KS](#)

[New Partners for Smart Growth Conference](#) [February 2-4, 2017, St. Louis, MO](#)

[2017 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference](#) [February 5-8, 2017, Lincoln, NE](#)

[Climate Leadership Conference](#) [March 1-3, 2017, Chicago, IL](#)

[National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program](#) [March 8-10, 2017, Washington, D.C.](#)

[11th Annual Iowa Water Conference](#) [March 22-23, 2017, Ames, IA](#)

[Children's Environmental Health Network Translational Research Conference: New Challenges](#) [April 5-7, 2017, Arlington, VA](#)

[ASFPM National Conference](#) [April 30-May 5, 2017, Kansas City, MO](#)

[2017 National Brownfields Training Conference](#) [December 5-7, 2017, Pittsburgh, PA](#)

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# Webinars and Conference Calls

## **\*[Capacity Development Program for Public Water Systems](#) November 29, 1:00 p.m. CST**

This presentation will provide background on the Capacity Development program, discuss how asset management can be a tool for building the capacity of water systems, and provide EPA tools available to assist in the implementation of these programs.

## **[DOE Office of Indian Energy Policy Webinar - Tribal Renewable Energy Economic Success Studies](#) November 30, 12:00 p.m. CST**

Learn about successful projects that contributed to over 320 buildings being audited or retrofitted, moved more than 580 MW of renewable energy projects toward development, assessed the potential for more than 4,000 MW of renewable energy generation, and trained more than 170 tribal members on energy topics.

## **[Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Final Rule](#) November 30 & December 5, 1-2:30 p.m. CST**

This webinar will delve into the recent changes to Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and describe in detail: which components of the hazardous waste generator regulatory program were revised; which gaps in the regulations were addressed in this rule; the greater flexibility provided by this rule for hazardous waste generators to manage their hazardous waste in a cost-effective and protective manner; how the hazardous waste generator regulations were reorganized to make them more user-friendly and thus improve their usability by the regulated community; and what technical corrections and conforming changes were made to address inadvertent errors, remove obsolete references to programs that no longer exist, and improve the readability of the regulations.

## **\*[Strengthening Flood Resilience Through Integrated Water Management](#) December 1, 2016, 12:00 CST**

Learn how two different utilities are using integrated water management to tackle flooding challenges and reduce future flood risks in their regions. Speaker include Steve Hershner, Utilities Director, City of Cedar Rapids and Brad Klamer, Senior Planner, Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans.

## **\*[Solar in Your Community Challenge Webinar](#) December 1, 1- 2 p.m. CST**

The SunShot Initiative announced the Solar in Your Community Challenge, a new prize competition that aims to improve solar electricity access to underserved communities across the country. To provide information on how the Challenge works and how you can apply to participate, the SunShot Initiative will be hosting an informational webinar for communities with environmental justice concerns.

## **[Resilience Mitigation Financing](#) December 7, 12-1:30 p.m. CST**

Learn about financing resources for resilience planning and hazard mitigation projects.

## **\*[Access & Awareness Webinar Series from the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental](#) December 8, 12-1:30 p.m. CST**

This webinar will share an inventive strategy that advances health, economic and environmental vitality in overburdened and underserved populations, with a special focus on rural communities. Viewers will gain a better understanding of the Brownfields to Healthfields



approach which remediates and transforms brownfields by increasing access to health care, recreation, healthy foods, renewable resources, education and jobs

**Improving Wastewater Infrastructure in Vulnerable Communities December 8, 12-1:30 p.m. CST**

This webinar will highlight challenges and solutions to providing wastewater infrastructure in some of the most vulnerable communities in America.

**\*EPA Tools and Resources Webinar: Green Infrastructure Modeling Toolkit December 14, 2:00 p.m. CST**

Researchers in EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) have been studying green infrastructure practices and developing models and tools to help communities manage their stormwater runoff and address nutrient impairment. This webinar will present a toolkit consisting of five EPA green infrastructure models and tools, along with communication material, that can be used as a teaching tool and as a quick reference resource for use by planners and developers when making green infrastructure implementation decisions, and can also be used for low impact development design competitions.

**FY2017 EJ Small Grants Request for Proposals Pre-application Assistance Calls**

Planning on applying to the FY2017 EJ Small Grants RFP? Have questions? Call-in to the pre-application assistance calls for the EJ Small Grants RFP. Dial conference call number: 1-866-299-3188. Then input conference code: 202-564-0152# to join the call. All potential applicants nationwide are welcome to call in. See a schedule of the remaining pre-application calls below:

- Tuesday, November 15, 2016: 3:00 p.m. -4:30 p.m.
- Thursday, December 8, 2016 (en Español): 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Thursday, January 12, 2017: 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 24, 2017: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

***On-Going and On-Demand Webinars***

**Communicating Climate Change Scenarios With Decision Makers**

Research hydrologist Dr. Holly Hartmann discusses approaches for communicating with decision-makers on climate change, water management and planning.

**Leveraging Resources for Brownfields Revitalization Webinar**

This previously recorded webinar discusses available tools to assist communities in leveraging resources to address community revitalization goals and challenges. It includes a presentation on Dubuque, Iowa's efforts to leverage its own resources to attract other federal, state, public and private sources of funding and technical assistance.

**EPA Computer Training Helps Water and Wastewater Utilities Build Resilience**

The training covers several topics including: identifying and funding potential hazard mitigation projects, developing and updating an Emergency Response Plan (ERP), coordinating mutual aid and assistance during emergencies, conducting damage assessments, and many more.

**EPA Sensible Steps to Healthier School Environments 10-Part Webinar Series**

Student Curriculum: Recipes for Healthy Kids, and a Healthy Environment

Each 45-minute lesson empowers kids to take steps in their everyday lives to improve the environment for their communities and reduce their environmental risk.

**[LeanPath presents: Five Food Waste Myths to Debunk – Now!](#)**

This webinar will explore five myths about food waste and the facts you need to debunk them in your kitchen.

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