



# EPA Region 7 Communities Information Digest

January 9, 2017

**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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## January is National Radon Action Month



Testing is the only way to know if your home has radon. [Radon is a naturally occurring, colorless, odorless gas](#) that can be found in homes across the U.S. Exposure to radon in indoor air is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Easy to use do-it-yourself radon test kits are affordable and available online and in many home improvement stores. [Learn how to test your home](#) and make 2017 a safer and healthier year for your family.

## Headlines

### ***National***

**[\\*The EPA Invites Nominations for the Environmental Financial Advisory Board \(EFAB\) Deadline for nominations is February 10.](#)**

Members of the EFAB provide advice and recommendations to EPA on a wide range of issues including: reducing the cost of financing environmental facilities; identifying approaches specifically targeted to small community financing; developing new and innovative environmental financing approaches and supporting and encouraging the use of cost-effective existing approaches; and increasing the total investment in environmental

protection of public and private environmental resources to help ease the environmental financing challenge facing our nation.

**[\\*EPA Releases Final Analysis of Metals Released from Gold King Mine in the Animas and San Juan Rivers](#)**

The EPA recently posted the final fate and transport report for the Gold King Mine (GKM) release. The report focuses on understanding pre-existing river conditions, the movement of metals related to the GKM release through the river system, and the effects of the GKM release on water quality. The research supports EPA's earlier statements that water quality in the affected river system returned to the levels that existed prior to the GKM release and contamination of metals from the release have moved through the river system to Lake Powell.

**[\\*EPA Launches Online Water Quality Standards Tools for Tribes](#)**

EPA has published a set of online tools to assist tribes in establishing Clean Water Act-effective water quality standards (WQS). These tools are designed to help simplify the application process for tribes to be treated in a similar manner as states (TAS) and streamline the development of tribal WQS. The tools are another step toward achieving EPA's goal of closing a longstanding gap in Clean Water Act protections. Currently, fewer than 50 of over 300 tribes with reservation lands have WQS effective under the Clean Water Act.

**[\\*EPA Releases Informative Document on Dam Removal](#)**

EPA has released a document to assist non-government organizations, state and local officials, and private landowners in making decisions regarding the removal of obsolete dams. The document describes the impacts of obsolete dams on water quality and public safety, the permitting requirements for removal of these dams, and potential sources of funding that may be available to support dam removal. The document does not change existing policy on dam removal.

**[\\*Energy Department Partners with Department of Agriculture for Integrated Biorefinery Optimization](#)**

The Energy Department (DOE) and the Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA) jointly announced \$22.7 million today to support the optimization of integrated biorefineries (IBR). DOE is providing majority funding with up to \$19.8 million and USDA-NIFA is providing up to \$2.9 million in funding.

**[\\*Energy Department Launches New Manufacturing USA Institute Focused on Recycling and Reusing Materials](#)**

As part of the Manufacturing USA initiative, today the Energy Department announced its new Reducing Embodied-energy and Decreasing Emissions (REMADE) Institute, which will be headquartered in Rochester, New York and led by the Sustainable Manufacturing Innovation Alliance. REMADE will leverage up to \$70 million in federal funding, subject to appropriations, and will be matched by \$70 million in private cost-share commitments from over 100 partners.

**[\\*Now Open for Public Comment: Climate Science Special Report](#)**

The U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) seeks public comment on the draft of its Climate Science Special Report (CSSR). This special report provides an update to the physical climate science presented in the Third National Climate Assessment released in

2014. The draft CSSR provides updated climate science findings and projections, and is an important input to the authors of the next quadrennial NCA (NCA4), expected in 2018.

**[\\*MyPlate, MyWins Helps Americans Turn Resolutions into Real Solutions for Healthy Eating in the New Year](#)**

USDA's Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP) recently launched a New Year's campaign to help Americans turn their resolutions into real solutions for healthy eating in 2017. This campaign is supported by new and existing *MyPlate*, *MyWins* resources available on [ChooseMyPlate.gov](http://ChooseMyPlate.gov), which are designed such that Americans can decide where to start on the journey to healthy eating.

**[\\*Energy Department Announces Six Projects for Pilot- and Demonstration-Scale Manufacturing of Biofuels, Bioproducts, and Biopower](#)**

The Energy Department (DOE) recently announced the selection of six projects for up to \$12.9 million in federal funding, entitled, "Project Definition for Pilot- and Demonstration-Scale Manufacturing of Biofuels, Bioproducts, and Biopower." These projects, required to share the cost at a minimum of 50%, will develop and execute plans for the manufacturing of advanced or cellulosic biofuels, bioproducts, refinery-compatible intermediates, and/or biopower in a domestic pilot- or demonstration-scale integrated biorefinery.

**[\\*Energy Department Announces Up to \\$7 Million for the Co-Optimization of Fuels and Engines](#)**

The Energy Department (DOE) recently announced up to \$7 million for eight universities to accelerate the introduction of affordable, scalable, and sustainable high-performance fuels for use in high-efficiency, low-emission engines. Under the Co-Optimization of Fuels and Engines (Co-Optima) initiative, DOE's Bioenergy Technologies Office and Vehicle Technologies Office are collaborating to maximize energy savings and on-road vehicle performance, while dramatically reducing transportation-related petroleum consumption and harmful emissions.

**[\\*How Cities Are Tackling Aging Water Systems](#)**

Flint, Michigan, has shone a spotlight on the decrepit state and lack of investment in the U.S.'s water infrastructure, but the city isn't alone in facing these challenges. A new policy brief from the Brookings Institute breaks down how cities with large drinking water utilities are financing their water systems, and what challenges they're facing.

**[\\*Climate Change and Populations of Concern](#)**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed eight communication kits that summarize key points from the U.S. Climate and Health Assessment that was released earlier this year by the U.S. Global Change Research Program. Climate change affects the health of all Americans, but as with many threats to our health, certain populations are at greater risk. Older adults may be more vulnerable to the impact of climate change because of where they live and may be more sensitive to health threats and less able to adapt to a changing climate.

**[\\*Climate Change Impacts by State](#)**

As our climate changes, every state will become warmer. Aside from rising temperatures, the impacts of climate change are likely to be very different from state to state. Increased rainfall intensity will cause more flooding in some states, while increasingly severe droughts may threaten water supplies in other states. Farms and forests will be less productive in some states, but warmer temperatures may extend growing seasons in others.

**[\\*New Report “Smart City Challenge: Lessons for Building Cities of the Future”](#)**

A little over one year ago, Smart City Challenge was launched, asking mid-sized cities across America to share their ideas for the creation of an integrated, first-of-its-kind smart transportation system using data, applications, and technology to help people and goods move faster, cheaper, and more efficiently. Over 75 cities competed for the resources to connect and deploy new technologies, and now those applications and a wealth of data is available to the public in a new comprehensive report, *Smart City Challenge: Lessons for Building Cities of the Future*.

**[\\*USDA Announces Retailer Volunteers for SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot](#)**

USDA recently announced the seven retail firms selected to take part in a pilot designed to enable Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants to purchase their groceries online. The two-year pilot is slated to begin this summer. Online purchasing is a potential lifeline for SNAP participants living in urban neighborhoods and rural communities where access to healthy food choices can be limited.

**[EDRA Great Places Award Program](#) **Applications due January 31****

The Environmental Design Research Association, in partnership with Project for Public Spaces, presents the 19th Annual Great Places Awards. Great Places Awards recognize work that combines expertise in design, research and practice; and contributes to the creation of dynamic, humane places that engage our attention and imagination.

**[EPA Presidential Environmental Education Awards for Teachers and Students](#)  
**Applications 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. Youth can receive the Presidential Environmental Youth Award (PEYA).

## ***Regional***

**[\\*PACE Debuts in KC to Close Funding Gap in a Redevelopment Project](#)**

A new financing tool, Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) funding, is helping redevelopers convert a former paper warehouse in Kansas City's Crossroads Arts District to apartments. The Walnut Terrace apartments will be at 1721 Walnut St.

**[\\*EPA Rebates Will Fund Cleaner School Buses in 12 Region 7 Communities](#)**

The EPA recently awarded more than \$7.7 million to replace or retrofit 401 older diesel school buses. The funds are going to 88 school bus fleets in 27 states, each of which will receive rebates through EPA's Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) funding. The new and retrofitted buses will reduce pollutants that are linked to health problems such as asthma and lung damage. Twelve Region 7 communities will receive rebates: Bondurant, Lawton, and Sioux City, Iowa; Emporia, Sublette, and Ottawa, Kansas; Jamestown, Louisiana, Sullivan, and Wheaton, Missouri; as well as Arlington and Wahoo, Nebraska.

### [\\*EPA Gives \\$3.8M to Help 19 Communities Plan New Uses for Former Brownfield Sites](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has selected 19 communities for approximately \$3.8 million in funding to assist with planning for cleanup and reuse of Brownfield sites as part of the Brownfields Area-Wide Planning (AWP) program. Each recipient will receive up to \$200,000 to engage their community and conduct planning activities for brownfield site reuse. The grants will help communities plan improvements such as housing, transportation options, recreation and open space, education and health facilities, social services, renewed infrastructure, increased commerce and employment opportunities. The City of Burlington, Iowa and the Resource Conservation and Development for Northeast Iowa, Inc., Postville, Iowa were among the communities selected.

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## Funding/Technical Assistance Opportunities & Due Dates

[HHS Environmental Regulatory Enhancement Program for Tribal Governments](#)

January 9

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

[2017 Kinship Conservation Fellows](#) January 16

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

[National Forest Foundation Matching Awards Program](#) January 17

[Center of Excellence for Chemical Alternatives Assessment](#) January 17

[Corporation for National and Community Service \(CNCS\) 2017 AmeriCorps State and National Grants](#) January 18

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

[\\*Indian Tribes and Intertribal Consortia for Nonpoint Source Management Grants,](#)

[EPA](#) January 25

[Partners for Places Round 10 Grant Cycle](#) January 30

[\\*CERCLA 128\(a\) State Implementation Support Grants](#) January 31

[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

\*[2017 Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program](#) February 1

\*[Small Grants Program, Center for Health, Environment and Justice](#) February 1

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

[Groundwork USA Program Funding and Technical Assistance](#) February 1

[Cliff Bar Foundation Small Grants](#) February 1

[Complete Streets Consortium Series Technical Assistance](#) February 2

[Center of Excellence for Chemical Alternatives Assessment](#) February 3

[EPA's People, Prosperity and the Planet Award Program](#) February 3

[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

[DOE Scaling Up the Next Generation of Building Efficiency Packages Program](#)  
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

[FTA Zero Emission Research Opportunity \(ZERO\) Program](#) February 21

\*[FY2017 Brownfields Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant](#)  
February 24

[EPA Presidential Environmental Education Awards for Teachers and Students](#)  
March 1



[Using a Total Environment Framework \(Built, Natural, Social Environments\) to Assess Life-long Health Effects of Chemical Exposures](#) **March 2**

[HHS Impacts of Climate Change on Oceans and Great Lakes Program](#) **March 7**

## ***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**

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

[Solar in Your Community Challenge Regional Workshop](#) **January 18, Chicago, IL**

[Solar in Your Community Challenge Regional Workshop](#) **January 19, Madison, MI**

**\*[Superfund Radiation Risk Assessment Course](#) **January 21, Bethesda, MD****

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

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

[California Climate Change Symposium](#) **January 25-26, Sacramento, CA**

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

[Healthy Soils for Healthy Waters](#) **February 1, Denver, CO**

[\\*Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities](#) February 1, St. Louis, MO

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

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

[2017 Collegiate Sports Sustainability Summit](#) February 15-18, Gainesville, FL

[USDA 2017 Agricultural Outlook Forum](#) February 23–24, Arlington, VI

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

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

[\\*RemTEC](#) March 7-9, Denver, CO

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

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

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

[15th Annual Climate Prediction Applications Science Workshop \(CPASW\)](#) May 2-4, Anchorage, AK

[\\*APA National Planning Conference](#) May 6-9, New York, NY

[\\*International Trails Symposium](#) May 7-10, Dayton, OH

[National Adaptation Forum](#) May 9-11, St Paul, MN

[\\*2017 International Conference on Ecology and Transportation](#) May 14-18, Lake City, UT

[California Resource Recovery Association \(CRRRA\) 2017 Conference](#) August 20-23, San Diego, CA

[Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Conference](#) August 30, 2017, Madison, WI

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

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## Webinars and Conference Calls

[\\*ENERGY STAR Webinar: Portfolio Manager: Ask the Expert](#) January 11 & 18 11:00 a.m. CST

Every Wednesday, ENERGY STAR holds a live webinar that gives all Portfolio Manager users an opportunity to ask their questions directly to EPA experts in an open forum.



**[\\*DOE Webinar: Efficiency Treasure Chest: How Cities, Manufacturers, and Retailers Are Unlocking Energy Savings in Warehouses and Distribution Centers](#) **January 10, 3 p.m. CST****

Hear how Better Buildings partners are addressing energy use in warehouses and distribution centers and gain ideas for you to take back to your buildings.

**[\\*DOE's Solar in Your Community Challenge](#) **January 10, 12 p.m. CST****

This webinar will provide an overview of Solar in Your Community Challenge, a DOE-sponsored contest to support innovative and replicable community-based solar business models and programs that will bring solar to underserved communities.

**[\\*Using Adaptive Grazing to Improve Soil Health in Grazing Ecosystems](#) **January 10, 1:00 p.m. CST****

Adaptive management strategies are often employed in successful grazing land operations to adjust for uncertainty in ecological systems and processes. Livestock can be used as a tool to achieve specific resource objectives.

**[\\*Fisheries - Responding to Drought and Water Challenges](#) **January 11, 1:00 CST****

“Coldwater Fisheries and Climate Adaptation Case Studies in the Western and Eastern United States.” Multiple presenters including Nat Gillespie, Assistant National Fish Program Leader, Dan Isaak, Research Scientist USFS.

**[\\*EPA Webinar on Climate and Health Resources](#) **January 11, 3:00 p.m. CST****

EPA will be hosting a webinar to discuss the multiple climate and health related resources available on their website. These include communication kits and factsheets for populations of concern, state-by-state information and factsheets, and new reports like the Extreme Heat Guidebook and Climate Change Indicators.

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

This webinar will discuss the nondiscrimination requirements of federally-assisted programs and activities related to emergency and disaster management as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and subsequent events, the Federal government learned many critical lessons about how recipients of federal financial assistance engaged in emergency management activities can more effectively ensure that all members of the community receive access to information and services.

**[\\*EPA & Antioch University New England Webinar: Regional Collaboration for Resilience: How to Build Effective, Sustainable, Cross-Jurisdictional Climate Collaboratives](#) **January 12, 11:00 a.m. CST****

Participants in this webinar will learn how communities can collaborate at the regional scale to successfully advance climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. Cross-jurisdictional collaboration among municipal, county, and regional administrators; emergency managers; planners; public works personnel; leaders of business, community-based, health, education, and philanthropic institutions; and other stakeholders can successfully strengthen resilience and avoid maladaptive responses.

**[\\*Image Matters: How to successfully manage your city's visual identity in a pro-growth environment](#) **January 12****

Learn how to establish and perpetuate a civic brand that attracts homebuyers and stimulates growth in this free webinar featuring regular SCN contributor Grant Hayzlett, president of

National Sign Plazas, Inc. This session will explain the sociology that drives the homebuyer experience and provide an update on the 2015 SCOTUS ruling governing sign ordinances.

**[\\*Designing Publicly Supported Solar Loan Programs](#) **January 12, 12:00 p.m. CST****

This webinar will provide an overview of the Clean Energy States Alliance's new best practices guidebook on designing publicly supported residential solar loan programs. Report author Travis Lowder of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory will present.

**[\\*Co-Location of Solar and Agriculture: Benefits and Tradeoffs of Low-Impact Solar Development Approaches](#) **January 12, 12:00 p.m. CST****

Site preparation costs for utility-scale solar projects are expected to account for 20% of utility-scale photovoltaics installed costs in 2020. Reducing these costs via low-impact development can lead to cascading reductions in other environmental-related costs and risks. Learn about NREL's Innovative Site Preparation and Impact Reductions on the Environment (InSPIRE) study and state-based approaches to co-locate agriculture and solar photovoltaics.

**[Writing and Monitoring Grazing Plans: Available tools, site specific planning and the economics of southern forage management](#) **January 17, 1-3:00 p.m. CST****

Participants in this webinar will learn what content should be identifiable within the grazing plan, monitoring plan, and other economic considerations of forage management.

**[Sustainability With Trees: Community Canopy Project](#) **January 19, 12:00 p.m. CST****

This webinar will explore how distributing trees through a community canopy project can fit with your sustainability efforts, help maximize energy efficiency and engage homeowners within your community.

**[\\*New LEED Pilot Credit: How Economic Analysis is Making the Case for Sustainable Design](#) **January 23****

This webinar will describe the new LEED Pilot Credit - Informing Design Using Triple Bottom Line Analysis – and how you can earn it. This new pilot credit requires calculating the triple bottom line (TBL) value of LEED credits, which can be a complicated process.

**[\\*ENERGY STAR Webinar: Portfolio Manager 101](#) **January 24, 12:00 p.m. CST****

Learn about EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager tool. Attendees will learn how to: navigate Portfolio Manager; add a property and enter details about it; enter energy and water consumption data; and generate template performance reports to assess progress.

**[\\*ENERGY STAR Webinar: Portfolio Manager 201](#) **January 25, 12:00 p.m. CST****

Continue to learn about EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager tool with a deeper dive into more advanced functionalities such as: editing property data; correcting and updating property use details; using the data quality checker; and sharing property data.

**[\\*State of the Voluntary Green Power Market](#) **January 25, 12:00 p.m. CST****

EPA's Green Power Partnership Program(GPP) will host a webinar examining the state of the green power market within the United States. This webinar will focus primarily on the voluntary market, through which consumers and institutions voluntarily procure renewable energy for all or part of their electricity needs.

**[\\*ENERGY STAR Webinar: Portfolio Manager 301](#) **January 26, 12 p.m. CST****

With a good background on the basic functionality of EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager tool, learn about some advanced features including: using spreadsheet upload templates to

update property data; setting goals and targets to plan energy improvements for properties; creating custom reports; and using the Sustainable Buildings Checklist.

**[\\*ENERGY STAR Webinar: Benchmarking Water/Wastewater Treatment Facilities in Portfolio Manager January 26, 12:00 p.m. CST](#)**

Learn how to track the progress of energy efficiency efforts and compare the energy use of wastewater treatment plants to other peer facilities across the country. Attendees will learn how to measure and track energy use and carbon dioxide emission reductions in water and wastewater treatment plants to establish baseline energy use, prioritize investments, set goals, and track improvements over time.

**[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:

- 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 webinar discusses available tools to assist communities in leveraging resources to address community revitalization goals and challenges, including 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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