



EPA Region 7 Communities Information Digest

March 16, 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.

Jump to:

[Headlines](#)

[Funding and Technical Assistance Opportunities](#)

[Meetings, Conferences, & Events](#)

[Webinars and Conference Calls](#)

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Headlines

National

[*EPA's GIWiz: Green Infrastructure At Your Fingertips](#)

EPA's Green Infrastructure Wizard (GIWiz) is an interactive web application that connects communities to a wealth of tools and resources in order to help them better manage stormwater runoff. In just a few clicks of a mouse, users can draw from EPA's scientific research on green infrastructure and stormwater management to identify resources and match solutions to the specific needs of their local environment.

[*EPA and FDA Issue Updated Advice on Eating Fish and Shellfish](#)

EPA and FDA recently jointly issued final updated advice about eating fish and shellfish. This advice is geared toward helping women who are pregnant or may become pregnant – as well as breastfeeding mothers and parents of young children – make informed choices when it comes to fish that are healthy and safe to eat as it pertains to methylmercury. The FDA and EPA's new advice for the first time features an easy-to-use chart that sorts 62 types of fish and shellfish that are sold into 3 categories:

- "best choices" that can be eaten 2 to 3 times a week
- "good choices" that can be eaten one serving a week
- fish to avoid.

The advice recommends 2-3 servings (8-12 ounces) a week of "best choices" fish for adults and 1-2 servings a week of smaller portion sizes for children.

[*DOE Grid Engineering Education Feedback Requested](#) by March 31

You are invited to share your thoughts on the next generation of the Grid Engineering for Accelerated Renewable Energy Deployment (GEARED) program. The deadline for the request for information has been extended to March 31. GEARED is a research, training, and education framework that grows the expertise and preparedness of current and future electric utility sector professionals so they have the knowledge and skills required to operate our country's electric grid with high penetrations of solar electricity. The program

has successfully worked to integrate power systems analysis and R&D into curricula, short course development, and continuing education at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels.

[*EPA Report: Life Cycle Inventory \(LCI\) Data-Treatment Chemicals, Construction Materials, Transportation, On-site Equipment, and Other Processes for Use in Spreadsheets for Environmental Footprint Analysis \(SEFA\)](#)

Since the USEPA launched its green remediation program, metrics such as impacts, outcomes, and environmental burdens of remediation actions have been difficult to assess. This report estimates environmental emission factors (EmF) for key chemicals, construction and treatment materials, transportation/on-site equipment, and other processes used at remediation sites.

[*USDA Seeks Project Proposals to Protect and Restore Critical Wetlands](#) due April 24

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced they are investing up to \$15 million in technical and financial assistance to help eligible conservation partners voluntarily protect, restore and enhance critical wetlands on agricultural lands. Restored wetlands improve water quality downstream and improve wildlife habitat, while also providing flood prevention and recreational benefits to communities. Funding will be provided through the Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership (WREP), part of the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), a Farm Bill conservation program.

[National Brownfields Training Conference 2017 Now Accepting Proposals](#) Due March 17

Submit an abstract for Brownfields Conference sessions or presentations. The conference will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, December 5 -7, 2017.

[Apply for a 2017 Green Power Leadership Award](#) Due March 24

The annual Green Power Leadership Awards are competitive awards that recognize outstanding commitments and achievements in the green power marketplace. EPA's Green Power Leadership Awards recognize the country's leading organizations that—through their green power procurement, innovation, and

overall strategy—have helped advance the green power market. The application period for the 2017 Green Power Leadership Awards will close on March 24.

[*First LEED Certification for Transit Worldwide Launched](#)

The U.S. Green Building Council and Green Business Certification Inc. announced a new LEED green building rating system pilot designed to address the unique needs of transit systems around the world. Delhi Metro Rail Corporation will be the first metro in the world to pursue the pilot.

Regional

[*USDA Announced Funding to Improve Rural Electric Infrastructure in Nine States](#)

USDA recently announced they are making loans to electric cooperatives that will help continue to deliver safe, reliable and affordable electricity to rural residents, business and institutions in nine states. Projects are being financed in Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. In Kansas, the Twin Valley Electric Cooperative will receive \$8 million to build or improve 44 miles of line. The loan includes \$41,800 for Smart Grid projects. In Missouri the Gascosage Electric Cooperative will receive \$10.2 million to build or improve 50 miles of line and make system upgrades. More than \$224,000 will be invested in Smart Grid projects.

[Call for Presentations: 2017 Growing Sustainable Communities Conference](#) **Due March 19**

Submit your application for consideration as a presenter at the 10th Annual Growing Sustainable Communities Conference, scheduled to be held at the Grand River Center in Dubuque, Iowa, on October 3 and 4, 2017. All presentations should include case studies of sustainability focused projects involving municipal governments, educational or health care institutions, non-profit organizations, and/or high-profile commercial initiatives that significantly impact local economies, ecologies and/or address issues of resiliency, social/cultural vibrancy or equity.

[↑Back to Top](#)

Funding/Technical Assistance Opportunities & Due Dates

[DOE SunShot Prize: Solar in Your Community Challenge](#) is open to teams working to develop a portfolio of solar projects in their communities or create new solar programs that extend solar access to LMI households and nonprofits. **Due March 17**

[FTA Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program](#) is open for Tribes to support planning, capital, and, in limited circumstances, operating assistance for tribal public transit services. **Due March 20**

[*Tribal Colleges Research Grants Program](#)

This program was designed to assist 1994 Land-Grant Institutions (Tribal Colleges) in building institutional research capacity through applied projects that address student educational needs and solve community, reservation or regional problems. **Due March 21**

[*National Park Service Tribal Heritage Grants](#) available to Federally recognized Indian tribes for cultural and historic preservation projects. **Due March 24**

[USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Grants](#) fund innovative projects designed to strengthen market opportunities for local and regional food producers and businesses. **Due March 27**

[USDA Local Food Promotion Program](#) supports the development and expansion of local and regional food business enterprises to increase domestic access to locally and regionally produced agricultural products. **Due March 27**

*[Children, Youth, and Families at Risk \(CYFAR\) Sustainable Community Projects](#) provides funding to improve the quality and quantity of comprehensive community-based programs for at-risk children, youth, and families supported by the Cooperative Extension System. **Due March 29**

[USDA Rural Energy for America Program](#) helps agricultural producers and rural small businesses reduce energy costs and consumption and help meet the Nation's critical energy needs. **Due March 31**

[USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#) assists locally driven, public-private partnerships that improve the nation's water quality, combat drought, enhance soil health, support wildlife habitat and protect agricultural viability. **Due April 21**

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](#)

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

↑ [Back to Top](#)

Meetings, Conferences, & Events

[Solar Power Finance & Investment Summit](#) March 21-23, San Diego, CA

*[Composting Programs and Tribal Food Sovereignty](#) Mar 21-23, Tucson, AZ

*[Climate Studies Diversity Project: 5th Course Implementation Workshop](#) [May 21-26, Silver Spring, MD](#)

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

[Coal Combustion Residuals Conference](#) & [Coal Ash Landfill Management Course](#) March 28-29 & 30-31, Atlanta, GA

*[USDA Training: Preparing for Climate Change in Forested Watersheds](#) April 4-5, Keene, NH

[2017 LOCUS Leadership Summit](#) April 24-25, Washington, D.C.

*[Tribal Underground Storage Tank "Boot Camp"](#) Apr 25-27, Pala, CA

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

*[National Tribal Forum on Air Quality](#) May 1-4, Tucson, AZ

[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

*[Water Quality Standards Academy \(WQSA\)](#) Washington, DC May 8-12

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

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

[Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Green Infrastructure Conference](#) May 31- June 2, Detroit, MI

*[IITEP Training: Climate Change Adaptation Training](#) June 6-8, Albuquerque, NM

[American Water Resources Association Summer Specialty Conference](#) June 25-28, Tysons, VA

[Native Youth Community Adaptation and Leadership Congress](#) July 9-15, Shepherdstown, WV

[Earth Educators' Rendezvous](#) July 17-21, Albuquerque, NM

[2017 Community Involvement Training](#) August, Kansas City, MO

*[Tribal Lands and Environment Forum \(TLEF\)](#) August 14-17, Tulsa, OK,

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

[2017 Growing Sustainable Communities Conference](#) October 3-4, Dubuque, IA

*[Governor's Conference on the Future of Water](#) November 8-9, Manhattan, KS

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

[↑Back to Top](#)

Webinars and Conference Calls

*[Clean Energy States Alliance \(CESA\) Webinar- Solar+Storage for Low- and Moderate-Income Communities](#) March 16, 1:00 p.m. (ET)

As part of its Sustainable Solar Education Project, CESA is hosting a webinar for states and municipalities on solar+storage for low- and moderate-income (LMI) communities. The webinar will explain how solar+storage can benefit LMI residents and will describe a variety of policy tools for doing so, including grants, rebates, utility procurement standards, financing support, opening markets, and soft cost reductions.

***[Cheap and Cheerful Stream and Riparian Restoration: Beaver Dam Analogues as a Low-cost Tool](#) March 22, 12:00 p.m. (EST)**

Participate to learn how beaver-assisted restoration techniques can be applied as a low cost alternative for restoring riparian areas. Presenters: Joe Wheaton, Ph.D., Professor, Utah State University, Logan, UT and Jeremy Maestas, USDA NRCS West National Technology Support Center, Portland, OR.

***[Effects of Drought on Recreation and Wilderness](#) March 22, 2:00 p.m. (EST)**

This webinar will explore how researchers, resource managers, and industry professionals are assessing and addressing the impacts of drought on recreation and Wilderness opportunities and experiences.

***[Low-Income Solar, Part 1: Lessons Learned from Energy Efficiency Programs](#) March 23, 1-2:00 p.m. (ET)**

In this webinar, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory researcher Ian Hoffman will discuss low-income energy efficiency, including how programs can be tailored to different segments of the low-income population. After considering the demographic composition of low-income populations, Ian will discuss different ways that energy efficiency has been delivered to different segments of the population, including those in multifamily vs. single-family housing, as well as what obstacles have been encountered and what new solutions are proposed.

***[Post-Disaster Temporary Housing: Urban Planning Considerations](#) March 23 1-2:00 p.m. CST**

In cooperation with the American Planning Association (APA), the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) presents the March 2017 Planning Information Exchange (PIE) webinar. After large scale disasters, the mission of temporary housing is critical. Much has changed since Katrina - one of the largest temporary housing operations in modern history: the technology to construct temporary housing, considerations for resiliency, the development and use of the National Disaster Recovery Framework, and a more integrated approach to disaster recovery.

***[ENERGY STAR Webinar Portfolio Manager 101](#) March 28, 1 PM (ET)**

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](#) **March 29, 1 PM (ET)**

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.

[*DOE Webinar: Federal & State Policy: Advancing Tribal Energy Partnerships](#) **March 29, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (MT)**

A number of federal laws and regulations can affect tribal energy activities and partnerships, so developing energy resources through partnerships can be complex. Attendees will learn about circumstances where state government regulatory responsibilities, services, and infrastructure benefits can impact communities (tribal and nontribal alike), and which federal requirements could impact energy projects on tribal lands depending upon the type of project, location, and size, among other considerations.

[*EPA and USDA Forest Service Webinar- The Clean Water State Revolving Fund: Flexible Funding for the Urban Tree Canopy](#) **March 29 from 1:30-3:00 p.m. (EDT)**

Since its inception, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program has provided over \$118 billion to projects nationwide, making it EPA's largest source of funding for water quality. While the CWSRF has traditionally funded publicly-owned treatment works, it can also fund green infrastructure including tree planting and land acquisition for water quality improvement and protection. Attendees will learn about how the CWSRF can be used as a funding source for green infrastructure and urban forestry projects—a cost effective way to reduce combined sewage flooding problems.

[*ENERGY STAR Webinar Portfolio Manager 301](#) **March 30, 1 PM (ET)**

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.

***[Low-Income Solar, Part 2: Using the Tools of Low-Income Energy Efficiency Financing](#) March 30, 1-2:00 ppm. (ET)**

As states seek to increase the adoption of solar among low-income households and communities, many states are considering employing financing tools that have been used for low-income energy efficiency. In this webinar, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory researcher Greg Leventis will review low-income energy efficiency financing products and discuss how different financing products can address different barriers to low-income energy improvements.

***[Webinar on The 500 Cities Project: Local Data for Better Health](#) March 30, 2-3:00 p.m. (ET)**

Local governments need population health measures at small geographic area levels for multiple purposes, such as public health intervention, resource allocation, and health policy formulation. Such data however is typically unavailable. The 500 Cities Project provides small area estimates at the city and census tract levels for a select set of population health measures through a dedicated website that allows users to view and explore the maps and data for the largest 500 cities in the United States. Through this webinar, you will better understand the burden and geographic distribution of health-related variables and you will learn how to use this data in planning public health interventions.

***[Introduction to Sustainable Remediation](#) April 18 & 19, 12-1:30 p.m. (CST)**

Sustainable City Network and NWETC will present an online training course for any personnel who investigate, remediate, regulate, or monitor environmentally contaminated sites. Sustainable remediation integrates the "triple bottom line" of sustainability, the environmental, social and economic aspects, into cleanup projects. The course will illustrate sustainable remediation with case examples describing its practices during the investigation, remediation, operations, and monitoring of hazardous site cleanups.

***EPA Webinars: Just Add EPA WaterSense to Your Energy Efficiency Efforts**

[April 5, 2017 1:00 p.m.\(EDT\)](#)

[September 13, 2017 1:00 p.m. \(EDT\)](#)

If you're just focusing on energy, you may be leaving money on the table. Join EPA to learn how to incorporate water into your energy management activities by assessing your facility's water use and identifying areas of water waste. Find out what it takes to make your building more water-efficient from simple, low-cost changes to larger-scale improvements and how WaterSense tools can help you start maximizing your savings and building performance.

***EPA WaterSense Wednesday Showcase Webinars**

[May 10, 2017 1:00 p.m. \(EDT\)](#)

[November 8, 2017 1:00 p.m. \(EST\)](#)

Join EPA to hear a case study from an ENERGY STAR partner who has had success in reducing water use. The speaker will share their journey of benchmarking water use and roadblocks they overcame along their journey to conserve water. Find out how to implement best practices for water management in your sustainability plan to save both water and energy.

***EPA WaterSense Sanitary Fixtures and Equipment Webinars**

[June 14 2017, 1:00 p.m. \(EDT\)](#)

[October 11, 2017 1:00 p.m. \(EDT\)](#)

Water use in restrooms and laundries can account for nearly 50 percent of water use within a facility. Join EPA to learn about water-efficient operations and maintenance practices and retrofit and replacements options that can help reduce water and energy use in public and private bathrooms and commercial laundries. Find out how using WaterSense labeled and ENERGY STAR qualified products in these areas can significantly reduce your facility operating costs.

***[Webinar: Seeking Savings Indoors and Outdoors with EPA WaterSense](#) July 12, 2017 1:00 p.m. (EDT)**

Join EPA to learn about water use profiles of typical commercial facilities and areas where water is often wasted. Find out about free WaterSense tools and resources available to help facility managers and building owners identify potential water savings including water-efficient products and practices to save water during the operation and maintenance, renovation, and construction of commercial buildings. Come away with tips and project ideas to proactively manage water use and maximize building performance with water, energy, and cost savings.

On-Going and On-Demand Webinars

[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's, Iowa, 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, 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.

[↑ Back to Top](#)

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