

EPA Region 10's
Tribal Solid and Hazardous Waste Program
Advancing Lasting Improvements in
Tribal Waste Programs

WA Department of Ecology,
Waste2Resources

March 2018 Meeting

March 15, 2018



Artist: Riley Ablowaluk, Teller, Age 5, Age 10,
"Recycling Man"

Region 10 Tribal Waste Team



Gabriela Carvalho
Grants, Contracts,
Budget, Backhaul
Alaska Program



Angel Ip
Tools, Training, Data,
Technical Assistance,
Research, Health
Impacts,
Coordination

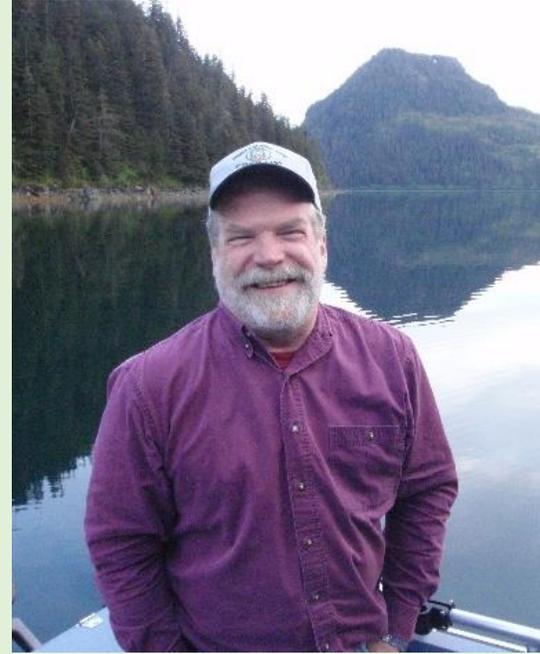


Vicky Salazar
Our Manager!
Manager, Tribal Programs,
Diesel, and Indoor Air
Unit, Office of Air and
Waste

Region 10 Tribal Waste Team



Rick McMonagle
Tribal waste liaison
for ID, OR, and WA,
trainer, on-the-
ground technical
assistance



Ted Jacobson
Tribal waste liaison
for AK, trainer, on-
the-ground
technical assistance

Today's Goals

Learn about:

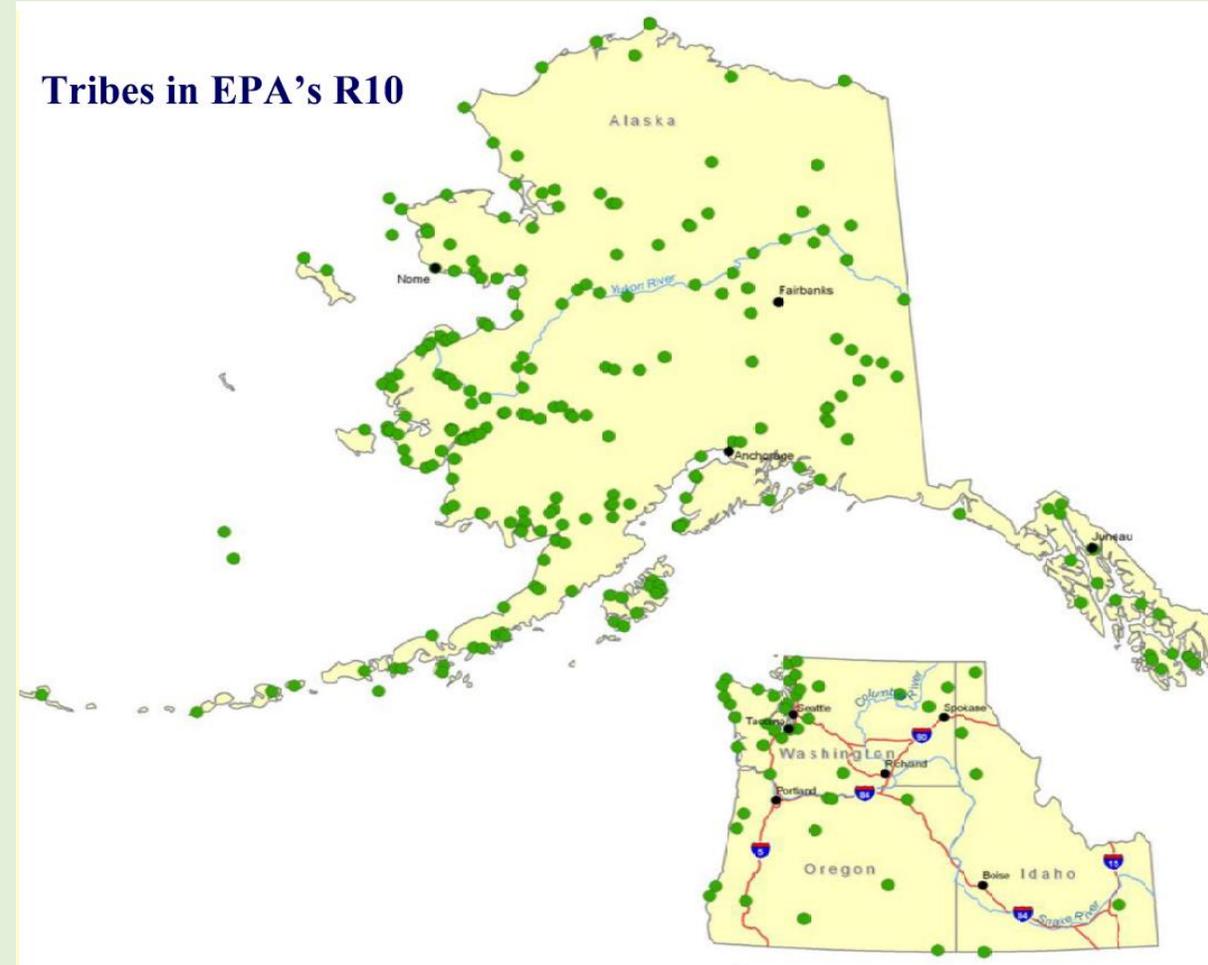
- What we do
- Tribal solid waste challenges and opportunities
- Coordination, collaborations, training, on-the-ground technical assistance, solid waste plan review & development
- Priority initiatives:
 - Backhaul Alaska
 - Rural Alaska Health Impacts Initiative

Discuss:

- What are opportunities to collaborate with each other and with Tribes in Region 10?

271 Federally Recognized Tribes in Region 10

- Alaska, 228 Tribes:
 - Mostly rural unlined landfills
 - Tribes often work with local cities for joint services
- Mix of scenarios in Lower 3 states, 43 Tribes:
 - Tribe runs full program and landfill/recycling facilities
 - Tribe collects, disposal in off-reservation facilities
 - Collection/disposal services provided by non-tribal utility



What We Do

Support Tribes as they work to develop improved and sustainable waste management programs through:

- Strengthening the partner network
- Technical assistance
- Tools and training
- Grants, funding and contracts

Partner Networks

- Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network (TSWAN)
- Solid Waste Alaska Taskforce (SWAT)
- Interagency Coordination Meeting on Waste Challenges in Rural Alaska
- Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC)
- Northwest Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities
- Sustainable Materials Management Networks and Waste 2 Resources
- And more...

FY 2017 Grants

Kawerak (GAP)

- \$100,000 to develop village training curriculum for the backhaul program

Birch Creek Tribe (Hazardous Waste Grant)

- \$68,374 to inventory HW sources, complete a community wide hazardous waste assessment and develop a hazardous waste management plan

Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network (Hazardous Waste Grant)

- \$54,000 to deliver three training courses for tribal staff working in waste disposal facilities on hazardous waste identification, proper storage and manifesting of materials.

Support for AK, ID, OR, WA Tribes

- **Coordination:** Work with Tribes and agencies to mitigate illegal landfills, materials management, tire recycling, etc.
- **Training:** Match staff with requested assistance
- **On-the-ground technical assistance:** Tribal visits to assess needs and status of solid waste programs

Support for AK, ID, OR, WA Tribes

- **Information and Tools:** Contacts, funding opportunities in public and private sector, reply to requests for information
- **Solid waste plan review & development:** Assist Tribes with Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan reviews and revisions
- **Annual review of EPA Tribal Environmental Plans (ETEPs):** Determine priority solid waste needs and issues

Common Requests from Tribes

- Site visits, assessments and technical assistance
- In-person training for environmental staff and Tribal leadership
- Grant writing assistance
- Assistance on developing waste inventories and integrated solid waste management plans
- Resources / Tools / Information on a variety of solid and hazardous waste topics with specific requests for more:
 - Funding
 - Training
 - Opportunities to work with professional networks



Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network (TSWAN) 2016 Top Tribal Waste Issues

1. Illegal dumping on Tribal lands
2. Insufficient community education and outreach
3. Current facilities and equipment not meeting needs
4. Inadequate staffing and high turnover
5. Need more funding



Artist: Rebekah Oguiluk, Teller, Age 12, Grade 7

Top Waste Training Needs for Tribes

1. Asbestos
2. Operations of hazardous waste and transfer stations
3. Develop/update integrated solid waste management plans
4. Water quality and soil sampling
5. Operating Heavy Equipment in a Landfill (OHEL)
6. Solid Waste Utility Management



Artwork from
Tununak's Youth to Work Program
Youth Ages 14-17 in Grades 7-12

Educational Tools for Assistance Providers and Waste Program Managers in Rural Alaska

- **SWAT Guide** to Solid Waste Management in Alaska
- Solid Waste Program **Budgeting** for Alaska Tribal Communities – A Beginner's Guide
- **Roadmap** for funding sustainable solid waste programs in rural Alaska
- **Trail map** step-by-step guide for improving solid waste management program
- **Baseline** report on waste backhaul costs
- **Framework** for operating a statewide backhaul program



Artist: Cathy Okbaok, Teller, Age 11, Grade 6

Indian Health Service and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Memorandum of Understanding

Purpose: Improve Open Dump Data, Solid Waste Projects and Programs in Indian Country

Focus Areas:

- Improve open dump inventory data in Operation and Maintenance Data System (OMDS)
- Collaborate on open dump assessment training for OMDS reporting
- Assessments and reporting on Tribal waste management programs
- Collaborate on the development and delivery of training
- Encourage Tribes to clean up and close open dumps

Priority Initiatives

BACKHAUL ALASKA

A self-sustaining waste removal program for rural Alaska



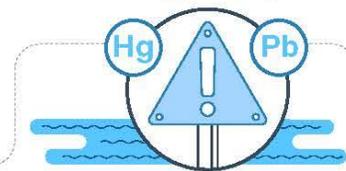
Why Backhaul?

There is no safe disposal place in Alaska for hazardous waste.



Infants born near high hazard landfills can be over

4x more likely to have certain birth defects.



Mercury and lead in unlined landfills can flow to nearby water bodies.

Backhauling electronics, light bulbs, and lead-acid batteries keeps the most hazardous materials out of landfills.



35% of rural Alaska residents are unemployed.

Backhaul typically employs

1-3 people

part time year-round, and up to

3 more

temporary workers during the backhaul event.

What is Backhaul Alaska?

A program that will coordinate the hauling of hazardous materials out of rural Alaska communities through:



Control Tower: coordinates transportation logistics between haulers and villages and be the single point of contact for backhaul in Alaska.



Network of Coordinators: communicates between villages, regions, and statewide to ensure the program runs smoothly.



Uniform Training Program: ensures that hazardous wastes are packaged in a safe, uniform way that reduces liability and risks to transporters and end destinations.



Commodity Brokering: ensures that the program obtains the highest revenue for recycled materials to offset backhaul costs.



Bulk Supply Purchasing: provides villages with supplies needed for backhaul storage and transportation at reduced prices.

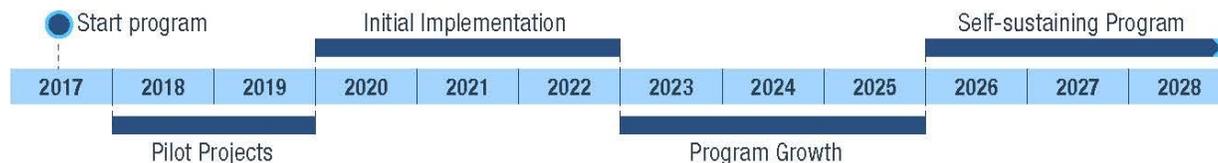
How does the program work?

Backhaul Alaska will backhaul waste cheaper and more efficiently because:

- Each region has a single point of contact for their communities
- Each community is trained in streamlined and uniform protocols
- Every rural waste generator contributes to the program
- Innovative efforts to reduce local waste are encouraged
- A “control tower” optimizes material transport and price brokering
- Transporters and recyclers spend less time and incur less liability risk

In time, Backhaul Alaska will operate as a full management service for any entity generating waste in rural Alaska.

When is implementation complete?







Health Impacts of Waste in Rural Alaska Initiative

Participants

- **Tribal**: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council
- **Non-profit**: Alaska Forum, Rural Community Assistance Corporation, Zender Group
- **Research**: Sustainable Earth Research
- **Government**: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, California Air Resources Board, Indian Health Service, EPA Region 10



Artist: Talisa Komok, Teller,
Grade 2, Age 7
"Keep our river clean"

Health Impacts of Waste in Rural Alaska Initiative Needs/Challenges



Health Impacts of Waste in Rural Alaska Initiative

Health Issues

- Air quality
- Water and soil contamination
- Impacts on subsistence foods
- Children's health and well-being
- Mental health
- Social determinants of health
- Zoonotic diseases
- Direct contact injury (dermal)
- Preventable diseases prevalence
- High cancer rates
- Risk perception
- Exposures to toxics and hazardous waste

Health Impacts of Waste in Rural Alaska Initiative

Activities:

- Collating information and work completed to-date
- Identifying research needs and solutions
- Providing resources to implement research and solutions

Initial Focus Areas:

- Air quality
- Soil contamination
- Water quality
- Health messaging
- Subsistence Foods
- Composting
- Anaerobic digestion



Artists: Youth in Huslia, AK

THANK YOU!



Artist: Tamara Ablowaluk, Teller, Grade 6, Age 11

EPA Region 10 Tribal Waste Contacts

Rick McMonagle

Tribal Waste Liaison (OR, ID, WA)

McMonagle.Richard@epa.gov

(503) 326-6363

Angel Ip

Tribal Waste Coordinator

Ip.Angel@epa.gov, (206) 553-1673

Gabriela Carvalho

Tribal Waste Coordinator

Carvalho.Gabriela@epa.gov

(206) 553-6698

Ted Jacobson

Tribal Waste Liaison (AK)

Tjacobson@ruralcap.com

(907) 865-7363

Vicky Salazar

Manager, Tribal Programs, Diesel, and Indoor Air Unit, Office of Air and Waste

Salazar.Vicky@epa.gov

(206) 553-1060