

ALASKA SOLID WASTE NEWS

Welcome Issue

The days are short, but the beauty of the land is deep.



Hi everyone! Well, we finally got around to writing a newsletter. And it only took us ten years, so not too bad, right? We'll be sending out 4 issues each year. We really want this to be helpful. So let us know what you think can make this better! Are there topics that you would like to see? Is this format easy to read?

Do you know a village program you'd like to see featured? An Elder's words to share? A solid waste success? If so, use the contact information on the back. Each issue we'll be dedicating to someone. This issue is for our families-- you know how crazy we can be, but you put up with us anyway. Thank you!

Meet our new staff

We are really happy to welcome three awesome staff. Jacqueline Shirley is the granddaughter of the late Fred and Bridget Joseph of Naparyarmiut and is a Tribal Member of Native Village of Hooper Bay. She is currently finalizing her Master's of Public Health (MPH) at UAA. Her environmental health experience is extensive, and she most recently worked at ANHB

as the Rural Alaska Sanitation Coalition Coordinator. She will focus on environmental health policy, capacity building, water & wastewater related issues, and will serve as a liaison with agencies/organizations.

Autumn Bryson's family is from the Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia where she grew up. She

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JANUARY 2011

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Backhauling: Summit Recap and a New Way to Find Resources

The ATCEM backhaul summit on October 14th went really well. First, Stan Tomaszewski spoke about the steps taken, and lessons learned, in developing the Maniilaq Region backhaul program. Next, the sixty-five participants broke into “beginning backhaul” and “advanced backhaul” groups to share their programs and issues. After getting a sense of what was possible, groups broke into regions. Before and after lunch, these groups discussed what they needed to improve backhauling in their region. Questions included what services were offered, which transport companies were helping out, how coordination could be improved, strategies for funding

regional efforts, and how best to implement specific waste material programs. The groups were facilitated by several experienced backhaulers from Tribes, agencies, and organizations. A number of participants spoke about obstacles they faced. It is not just funding that folks are having a problem with, but community and council involvement as well. Several folks wanted to organize a scrap metal barge. Ideas for funding it included asking agencies or the State to pay, and using recycling revenue generated to offset the cost. Some villages had drums with unknown contents they wanted

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In response to the summit evaluations, we developed a backhaul webpage. New and old resources are displayed and we'll continue to develop it.

<http://zendergroup.org/backhaul.html>

Resource Circle



Thanks to USDA, we can assist you with capacity building, research, grants, equipment sizing, planning, logistics – all free of charge...

In this regular feature, we'll talk about new and little known solid waste resources that may help your program. First, do you know about our technical assistance program? Thanks to USDA, we can assist you with capacity building, research, grants, equipment sizing, planning, logistics - all free of charge. Past assistance has included environmental and health risk research, logistics setup for equipment & backhauling, user fee development, waste characterization, water quality sampling, workplans related to solid waste, grantwriting assistance, educational material development, budgeting, community/council outreach, etc., etc. With the broad range of staff experience we now have, we can help you with just about any issue – including climate change

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Village Spotlight: Native Village of Koyuk

Koyuk is an Inupiaq village of approx 350 residents, located at the mouth of the Koyuk River, 90 air miles northeast of Nome.

Koyuk has been implementing their IGAP Program since 2000-01, and currently conducts many solid waste reduction activities. The IGAP is managed by Freida Moon-Kimoktoak and Maryann Charles, who graciously shared their story.

Community Recycling Activities:

Koyuk operates an **aluminum can** recycling program through ALPAR (www.AlparAlaska.com). Cans are shipped free-of-charge via Bering Air, then



Sitting Tall: Elliot Nassuk and Franklin Hoogendorn rest on a job well done.

on Ryan Air out of Nome**. Cans are collected weekly from households or can be dropped off at the recycling building-- which was constructed by local construction training students that worked under Kawerak, Inc. this summer. Also, Summer Youth Program Employees helped get their ALPAR program "under control"! The check received from

ALPAR is donated to a local church. Koyuk is hoping to participate in ALPAR's trial

plastic bottle program in 2011.

They recycle their inkjet **cartridges** and **cell phones** with the PlantGreen Recycle Company, which provides pre-paid shipping and sends a check back as well (www.PlanetGreenRecycle.com)! Toner cartridges are also collected from all businesses and several households in Koyuk. They are now looking for a recycling center that accepts toners for free. They also started an **iPod/mp3 recycling** service, though no items have been dropped off yet.

Koyuk IGAP also accepts **lead acid batteries** which are deposited at the City of Koyuk garage in totes. IGAP lines the bottom of the tote with Koyuk beach

sand, layering batteries upon fiberboard (packing cardboard) upon each other and affixing proper labels and hazardous waste stickers. Northland Barge offers a small discount for the program and is very easy to work with. They provide the necessary paperwork needed to ship the batteries. The shipment goes out to Dino Batteries based in Seattle. Dino Batteries recycles the batteries free of charge and also picks up the shipment in Seattle.



On Litter Patrol: Cecelia Nassuk and Michelle Douglas

Household batteries (alkaline type: AA, AAA, C, D, etc.) are also collected and shipped out to Total Reclaim (<http://www.totalreclaim.com/alaska.html>) in Anchorage.

IGAP accepts **e-waste** and they've collected computer monitors, television sets, cash registers, electronic scales and printers. They are in the staging process and have about a pallet--worth. "Pallets are a little hard to come by in the village and we scoop them up when we see them." They also received supplies from Kawerak, who they say, "are instrumental in assisting our program efforts."



Maryann leads a drawing at the Community Cleanup Awards

Koyuk was able to reduce their community's potential mercury exposure by recently shipping out 256 **fluorescent light bulbs**. They purchased a packaging set from Total Reclaim,

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has a Master's in Soil Science, and worked at an engineering firm on environmental assessments, GIS mapping, and permitting – before her last job as an IGAP coordinator for a Southcentral tribe. Her focus is recycling, renewable energy, land remediation, and program development.

Lina Taneva's family is from Sofia, Bulgaria --where she grew up. Lina has a Ph.D. in climate change, and most recently worked as a scientist at UAA. She is an expert on plant, soil, and permafrost dynamics, and her solid waste focus is climate change impacts, and all other science-based issues.

Our "old-timers" include Shawna, who works on community involvement and is our training coordinator; Simone, who works on engineering, village logistics, planning, capacity building, and special projects; and Lynn, who works on capacity building, air quality, health risks, and special projects. All of our staff are very friendly! And we all work at least part-time on our free



technical assistance program.

That way, we are able to pair you with who can best help you. To learn more about our staff and to contact them directly, visit:

<http://www.zendergroup.org/whoweare.htm>

Backhaul (Continued from page 4)

to remove and were looking for answers (*check out the Resource Circle for a new factsheet!*). Others were new to their programs and looking for help on where to begin. Sharon Slim and Don Wedll spoke about the newly funded AVCP backhaul effort for their region. The summit evaluations showed that most folks felt they got some answers and everyone felt it was worthwhile to attend and that progress was made on several regional issues.



During lunch, we all ate while a panel of shippers and recyclers answered our questions. Panelists were Alaska Logistics, ALPAR, Crowley, Everts Air, Ryan Air, Lynden, Schnitzer Steel, Smurfit, and Total Reclaim. They were great and we all learned a lot. For example, did you know that pop cans might damage aircraft if they leak from poor packaging? And a common problem that transporters face is inadequate coordination with local staff so that backhauling interferes with their loading and unloading? And ALPAR may be expanding their plastic bottle program to other villages?

Couldn't make the summit? No problem. We took notes – and you can read about each summit session on the backhaul page.

And in response to the summit evaluations, we developed a backhaul webpage. New and old resources are displayed and

CULTURE CORNER



Respirators are old news....

This is a "qanermiaq" that is from a home in Shaktoolik dating from 1879. It was at the Smithsonian in Washington, but is now at the Anchorage Museum. An Inupiat respirator, an "aniqsaqsuun" from Unalakleet, is also on display. In an Elder discussion in 2002, John Phillip, Sr described this mask as, 'Puqlamek tua yuuryailkutnguuq' (It is for breathing in hot air). It's filled with wood shavings and has a wood bar in back to grip it by the teeth. It was worn in the maqi to protect lungs from hot air. We can deduce that the shavings would also serve to absorb some contaminants from the air. So it provided some air filtration as well. Hopefully, someday all site operators that light and use burnboxes will step forward to the past again and wear a respirator mask. Here's to healthy lungs!

To see this mask, and view the Elder discussion, visit:

<http://alaska.si.edu/record.asp?id=94>

While at the museum's website, check out the many other items at their new Smithsonian branch – the first of its kind in the country.

Backhaul (Continued)

we'll continue to develop it. At <http://zendergroup.org/backhaul.html>, you can find links to transport and recycler contact information, backhauling guides, packing instructions, regional contacts, the Kuskokwim Watershed E-waste video, and more. And we've just updated a factsheet that lists prices and conditions that different companies offer for recyclables. You can use it to get the most money for your efforts.

What's next for backhaul? Participants said they would like to see organized coordination and cooperation between agencies and companies to lower shipping costs, subsidize backhauling, and make scrap metal/vehicle backhauling a reality for everyone. While no definite plans for the next summit were made, the ATCEM backhaul committee (Anahma Saito, AJ Salkosi, Christina Salmon, Bertha Prince, and Lynn Zender) is ready to plan again, and welcomes new members!

Resource Circle (Continued from page 2)

problems related to solid waste. To sign up, fill out the form at <http://zendergroup.org/sw.html>. We can also work with you to apply for USDA grants & loans to improve your landfill, including heavy equipment, fencing, site upgrade, and new landfills. This is really the primary source of "big money" solid waste projects that villages have a good chance of getting.

Burning Up... Next up, we have a new page on waste burning at <http://zendergroup.org/burning.html>. This contains links to educational materials,



factsheets, and studies that describe everything we know about the health and environmental risks of burning, the different

burnboxes available to stop open dump site burning, sample ordinances, lessons learned, etc. New factsheets include a design drawing by Peter Olson, the Golovin landfill operator. His burnbox from an old bulk fuel tank has worked really well for them. He says folks can call him at 739-1018 with questions on best operation practices. Also posted are all the tips on reducing waste burning health risks that we know. This is a great summary to present to Council and the community and a handy reference guide for

operators. Also up is the really helpful Waste Burning Index, developed by Ted Jacobsen and Joe Sarcone. We modified this version to better capture knowledge on health risks. Use the index to give you an idea of where you're at with burning, and what to work on.



Drumroll.... In the past year at our trainings, AFE, and ATCEM we've heard a number of villages have concerns about used drums. Some folks face the added issue of

having drums with unknown contents at the dumpsite or other locations. Our new factsheets on drum crushers, backhaul requirements, and drum testing may help. Look up "Drums" in our A-Z index at <http://www.zendergroup.org/drum.html>.

Under Construction... Another issue we researched is construction wastes. If you'd like to estimate your construction wastes for planning purposes, know more about hazardous waste regulations and how they relate to leftover containers, or learn about how some villages manage construction wastes, go to: <http://zendergroup.org/construction.html>. Also, some very gracious Village EPA staff sent their construction



waste ordinances to share with everyone - and we've placed those on line. And you can link to ADEC's construction waste policies, or read about them in our

main construction waste document. For example, did you know that projects using federal funds must discard at a permitted landfill? So to legally dump wastes in most village sites, they must apply for a special permit through ADEC that essentially creates a mini-permitted landfill. Landowners must agree. ADEC will work with you and the contractor to develop a permit that makes sense for your village. Some permit negotiations have required the project to do site upgrade work, or backhaul stockpiled wastes in addition to certain project wastes.

Got ATCEM? We've got ATCEM notes posted from the funding panel and the Q&A general session. Go to <http://www.zendergroup.org/atcem2010.html>.

Money, Money Last but not least, we've compiled grant opportunities for you. Let's all make 2011 the "Year of Alaska Tribes Getting Solid Waste Grants"!! Go to <http://www.zendergroup.org/funding.html>.

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who accepted the bulbs.

So oil isn't drained onto the ground, the Native Village of Koyuk has a **used oil** burner located at the City garage that runs off the used oil that is delivered by residents.

The recycle building has a table residents bring **clothing** they no longer need as well as some **household items** - - Dog washing shampoo, and foot scrub to name a few!

Finally, the community purchased a **Canon 150 Glass Crusher**, but has not started using it because they are waiting for AVEC to install an additional power box.



Pretty Salvage: Wastes are separated out at the Landfill

Community Involvement

Participants in the recycling program are placed into a monthly prize drawing. One ticket for recycling, one ticket if recyclables were delivered versus picked up, one if aluminum cans

are crushed before turned in. Prizes can be a \$25 dollar gift certificate or donated prize from the several businesses that support Koyuk IGAP.

Koyuk has a Youth Environmental Group (YEG) of five high schoolers and young adults and an Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) with 3 Elders, and one representative each from City, IRA and their Corp. The EAC and YEG conduct joint meetings, so information and recommendations are shared together!

This summer IGAP also operated an "ALPAR Litter Patrol" to keep the community clean (contact <http://www.AlparAlaska.com> to find out more!).

Landfill Management:

To stop uncontrolled burning that still occurs and reduce waste burning air pollution, they are

constructing a **burn box** using an old 8,600 gal fuel tank. They are using Golovin's burn box plan, which can be viewed at <http://zendergroup.org/burning.html>). Their operator will collect trash twice a week, load the trash, and be the only one who lights it. They plan to burn only on days when wind blows away from village.



Beach Monitors: Michelle Douglas (YEG) and Freida Moon-Kimoktoak sampling at the Beach

This action will keep the harmful smoke mostly out of resident's lungs. To keep vehicle part salvaging separate and to keep the landfill organized, there is a **sorted non-**

burnable waste staging area for vehicles and large appliances, items like bed & sofa frames, scrap metal and 55 gallon drums, and any other items not suitable for burning.

Supporting Activities:

Freida and Maryann started a 4-year water quality monitoring project in June 2010 and carried out a mapping project for their old dump sites. In this way, they will be in a position to document potential solid waste impacts to their lands.

Community Vision:

"We are a community who rely on the wisdom of our elders to teach our people our traditional and subsistence lifestyle while living and respecting the land, animals, and sea; we believe in quality education and employment opportunities through economic development for all generations while keeping healthy families and homes."

-The IRA Council of Koyuk Vision Statement

The Koyuk IGAP Program is helping to realize their Community's Vision.

To view a slideshow of the Koyuk Program, visit <http://www.zendergroup.org/village.html> . To learn even more, contact Freida Moon-Kimoktoak, Koyuk IGAP Coordinator, at (907) 963-2368, koyukenvironment@arctic.net .

Calendar of Events and Deadlines

DATE	EVENT/TRAINING	LOCATION	MORE INFO
Jan 18-20, 2011	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for Tribal Development	Anchorage, AK	http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/upcoming_events.cfm
Jan 24-28, 2011	5-day Grant writing workshop intensive	Fairbanks, AK	www.funding-exchange.org
Feb 7-8, 2011	2-day Grant writing workshop overview	Anchorage, AK	www.funding-exchange.org
Feb 7-11, 2011	Alaska Forum on the Environment	Anchorage, AK	www.akforum.com
Mar, Apr, May	Rural Alaska Landfill Operators	Mar 15-17, May Anch Apr 12-14, Bethel	http://www.akforum.com/training.html
Spring 2011	Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan Training	Anchorage, AK	www.zendergroup.org/sw.html
Spring 2011	IHS Sustainable Solid Waste Management Training	Anchorage, AK	Zender Env. 277-2111 lzender@zendergroup.org
Spring 2011	Intro to Sustainable Energy, UAA distance delivered class	Internet / phone class	Tom Marsik tmarsik@alaska.edu 1800 478 5109
May 23-26, 2011	Solid Waste Administration (SWA) Training	Anchorage, AK	www.akforum.com/training.html
For more details of the events/trainings listed here, and for additional trainings, events, and funding announcements, go to: http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/calendar_dec2010.pdf			

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Region 10 FY2011 Clean Air Act Tribal Program Grant Announcement

Deadline: January 28, 2011

http://www.epa.gov/region10/pdf/tribal/grants_fy11_announcement_12_07_2010.pdf

Funding Guidance for State and Tribal Response Programs, Fiscal Year 2011

Deadline: January 31, 2011

http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/proposal_guides/fy11_ST_final.pdf

NRCS Alaska Statewide Conservation Innovation Grant Program

Request period: Beginning of 2011

<http://www.ak.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CIG2010AlaskaStatewide.html>

Tribal Air Quality Cooperative Agreements, ANTHC-DEHE

Deadline: February 18, 2011

http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/air_rfp_2010.pdf

Resource Circle

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Swan Song: Wondering when SWAN will be back up? Ray Paddock, "SWAN Master" and all-

around-nice guy says they are having technical programming issues but are trying to figure out ways to get it back up soon. In the meantime – **The Village-to-Village Message Board** never went down and continues to be a great way to talk to fellow environmental staff from around the state!

Go to <http://members.boardhost.com/SWAN/>.

Ask a question, share your insight, or just read what others are up to.

You can access many of the SWAN documents and all of the resources listed here through our A-Z index at <http://www.zendergroup.org/viewdocs.htm>.

Winter Elder Wisdom:

If a person is not searching or asking for advice or word of knowledge, that person is like as if he is sleeping...

- Maria Kairaiuak- 'Naivokuk': born in Cevvarneq Oct 31, 1928

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The mission of Zender Environmental Health and Research Group, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, is to assist underserved communities in developing programmatic capacity and community resiliency in environmental health issues. Visit us on the web at www.zendergroup.org

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