



Improvements to Waste Management: Recycling Used Oil, Junk Vehicles Native Village of Port Heiden



Community Environmental Demonstration Projects

Challenge: Develop innovative approaches to build a comprehensive recovery center to deal with used oil, junk vehicles, and more.

Project Objective

The Native Village of Port Heiden Tribal Environmental Program wanted to build a recovery center, with a newer technology available in Alaska for an efficient used oil burner, to help heat the center, create a position for doing oil changes within the village to keep control of the used oil, and to be the first Alaska Native Village to have a comprehensive and equipped junk vehicle recycling program on-site. This project demonstrates an innovative approach for improving human health and environment for the village and other tribal communities in rural Alaska.

Results

- Fully operating Recovery Center with tools and equipment needed to process used oil, antifreeze, junk vehicles, and more.
- Pt. Heiden staff trained on-site by a junk vehicle recycling expert
- Flim produced for the purpose of Pt Heiden retraining staff and training new staff in the future on the full process of preparing junk vehicles for recycling.

Benefits

- The used oil burner not only provides a way for the community to safely dispose (reuse) used oil (that would otherwise have to be shipped out or somehow disposed of), but it also provides heat that is needed to make their Recovery Center usable for most of the year and enables workers to process materials and use equipment like their antifreeze recycling machine.
- Community members are able to come to the center to change their oil which creates more participation in general because they are able to see what the center is all about and what is being recycled/recovered.
- Recovery center is made out of cleaned out fuel tanks – other Villages can re-use similar materials to create a similar recycling/recovery center.
- Comprehensive and equipped junk vehicle recycling program on-site (staff have the training and equipment to fully and properly process and prepare vehicles for recycling (following the requirements of recyclers)). This program is a model for other communities in the state.

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