



SWAN Action Sheet

What to do with drums



Several Villages have used the SWAN message board to post very creative ideas on how to re-use empty drums. We've listed some of them here. Contact name and phone numbers are also given if you have any questions about their re-use projects

1) Decide what your community wants to do:

Anvik Village

Contact: Mike Grundberg 663-6323

"We had our summer youth workers paint empty 55-gallon drums and place them at various points around the Village. They also made burn barrels out of empty drums for elders and delivered them. We've used our excavator, loader and dozer to crush drums, junk vehicles and appliances. If you already have heavy equipment it's cheaper than buying and freighting in an item that can only do one thing!" - Mike Grundberg

Native Village of Chenega

Contact: Kate McLaughlin 573-5476

"Chenega obtained money through an EPA IGAP grant and purchased a drum crusher through Grainger Industrial Supply in Anchorage. It cost around \$7,700. We got it shipped out to us on our fuel barge (we are an island village in Prince William Sound). The drum crusher can crush 55 gallon drums and also glass or other such items within a 55 gallon drum. The crushed drums were then backhauled, again using IGAP \$, to Alaska Metal Recyclers in Anchorage. We've also crushed drums with our loader and lined the new landfill with them. We cleaned out some of our drums and painted them as part of a school project to be used for summer trash containers and glass collection. You can purchase a lid remover fairly cheaply from many different sources." - Kate McLaughlin

Village of Atmautluak

Contact: Edward Nicholai 553-5335

The Native Village of Atmautluak had several empty 55-gallon drums around their community. They decided to thoroughly clean them out, paint them a bright color, and put reflectors on them (see photo to the right). The bright drums were then used to mark a path that people travel on to get wood for steam baths. A couple drums were also placed at the top of a hill in their Village that people use as direction markers. Empty drums are also used in Atmautluak to dispose of ash from their burnboxes.

Kodiak Island Villages

Contact: Tracy Mitchell 486-9348

Six Villages on the island of Kodiak purchased Oberg drum crushers from Bedford Technologies in the summer of 2003. The six Villages are: Port Lions, Ouzinkie, Karluk, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, and Akhiok. The villages had the Oberg drum crusher retrofitted to run on diesel or gasoline (as opposed to electric) so the crushers will be able to be used anywhere (without having to rely on a power source). To retrofit the crushers cost an additional \$2000 each.

A note on using drum crushers in the winter: **Diesel fuel can gel in cold temperatures**, so it is a good idea to use drum crushers powered by diesel indoors during the winter.



Painted drums - Anvik Village



Anvik's "drum crusher"



Anvik's crushed drums



"Reflector" drums - Village of Atmautluak

The Native Village of Tanana

Contact: James Roberts 366-7160

Tanana carried out a drum cleanup project in 2010. They collected about 250 drums and drained the oil and water into a large tote. They let it freeze so they could separate the water from the oil and used the oil in their waste oil burner. They borrowed a drum crusher from Yukon River InterTribal Watershed Council (YRITWC) and in about 2 and half days crushed all the drums to 6" by 10" disks for backhaul. Tanana also used the drum crusher to crush totes of aluminum cans before backhauling. They found the drum crusher very efficient and easy to use. They recommend having all the drums ready before starting to crush them so that crushing could be finished in 1-2 days. Also, they recommend wearing a mask as there are lots of fumes during the draining and crushing process that can make you lightheaded. During barge season, YRITWC transports their drum crusher to another Yukon river village. If you are in the watershed and easily barge-accessible, contact Stephen Price at 907-317-3465 to see if you can be the next village.



Qagan Tayagungin, Unga, and Paulof Harbor tribes

Contact: Dana Osterback 383-6968

Carried out a large drum cleanup project in Sand Point in 2007-2008. They had over 600 drums around the village. Some drums were leaking so they used their IGAP funds to develop a quality assurance project plan (QAPP) and worked in collaboration with ADEC and EPA to have the soil tested. They also hired BGES, an environmental consulting agency, to develop a work plan and to conduct some soil sampling. Most of the drums contained oil or anti-freeze and Sand Point was able to recycle most of the drum contents, as they have a used oil burner and an anti-freeze separator. They used the oil from the drums to heat the city shop. Some of the drums contents were unknown and so the community had to carry out testing with ADEC. A few of the drums contained hazardous waste and so their contents were transferred to new containers, in order to avoid spills and leakage. Sand Point purchased a 55-gallon drum crusher and used it to crush the drums. They are currently pursuing funds for backhaul.

2) Identify your resources

Drum options can be inexpensive. Look to businesses, barges, and the community for assistance and volunteering, as well as grant sources like IGAP. For a list of possible grant options, check out the funding page on Zender Environmental's site at:

<http://www.zendergroup.org/funding.html>



3) Purchase supplies if they are needed, and arrange any logistics.

Refer to our documents:

Drum crushers: <http://www.zendergroup.org/drum.html>

Shipping them out: <http://www.zendergroup.org/backhaul.html>



Also check out the SWAN Village Message Board (<http://members.boardhost.com/SWAN/>) to read about more creative solid waste ideas or to post your own!

