

October 12, 2016



## Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC)—Cycle 15, Session 6

This was the sixth session of PLC Cycle 15 that features informal, 20-minute discussions with EPA EWDJT grantees, alumni, and interested stakeholders. The goals for this cycle include:

- Highlighting EWDJT programs, and identifying successes and challenges
- Exploring proven strategies and activities used by established EWDJT programs
- Discovering resources and leveraging opportunities

Topics:

1. News from Washington and HMTRI
2. Questions since last PLC session
3. Community assessment—Understanding community needs
4. Labor market assessment—Understanding employer needs
5. Training opportunities for EWDJT instructors
6. Webinars of interest
7. Making connections, networking, and meetings
8. Opportunities

### **1. News from Washington and HMTRI**

#### FY2017 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) Request for Proposals (RFP)

The FY2017 EWDJT RFP will be issued likely mid-November. Preparations need to be underway as much of the information requested in the RFP requires several months to develop. The next several PLC sessions will address components and best practices employed by successful EWDJT grantees.

#### EPA Office of Water is hosting in the Twittersphere!

The Urban Waters program, a great partner of EWDJT, is hosting the Urban Waters Twitter Chat on October 20 at 1:00 p.m. ET. Robin Parker, from the Office of Urban Waters, presented at the HMTRI Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting in August 2016. Robin's presentation seemed to generate/reinvigorate some interest in water-related training.

This Twitter Chat is a great opportunity for folks to get questions answered and learn more about some opportunities for funding that the Office of Urban Waters has coming up through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Interested EWDJT grantees can take part in the conversation both by sending questions to [@EPAwater](https://twitter.com/EPAwater) and by tweeting success stories from their own work and experiences restoring the urban space and urban waterways to [@EPAwater](https://twitter.com/EPAwater).

### **2. Questions since the last PLC session**

When will the RFPs be issued? What will be the funding level and duration of the grant? Why is it called a cooperative agreement?

*The FY2017 EWDJT RFP is expected to be issued in mid-November with a due date late February. The cooperative agreements have a maximum funding level of \$200,000 to be spent over a three-year period. In simple terms, EWDJT cooperative agreements are grants where EPA has a role in program planning and operation. Traditional grants are awarded with little control over the execution of the project. Also note that indirect costs are not allowed with EPA cooperative agreements making leveraged partnerships essential.*

### **3. Community assessment—Understanding community needs**

“Community need and description” in the EWDJT RFP ranking criteria accounts for about 10 percent of the overall proposal evaluation. However, conducting comprehensive and thoughtful assessments go a long way in responding to many other ranking criteria as part of the proposal review process.

Meaningful assessments need to begin early in proposal development. They become the basis for developing:

- Partnerships
- Recruitment strategies
- Curriculum
- Placement programs

Community assessments often include several activities.

- Neighborhood assessment—Location, demographics, and environmental justice issues
- Stakeholder assessment and neighborhood partnership development
- Community interest and involvement
- Neighborhood leveraging opportunities
- Special factors and designations attributed to the target area

It is not sufficient to simply pull data from the mayor’s office or the Internet. Partnering with local stakeholders, community groups, community leaders, service providers, and employers during the planning process is essential. Recruiting stakeholders early provides many benefits during the planning and grant writing processes, especially when they actively participate.

The good news is that a best practice community assessment includes stakeholder recruitment, and serves to address many of the questions raised in ranking criteria, community support, and other special factors used in the EPA proposal evaluation process.

#### Stakeholder assessment and neighborhood partnership development

Stakeholders to be included in the community assessment effort include city offices such as economic development, health, environment, community development, Brownfields, human services, and labor; Workforce Development Boards (WIBs); and even city council representatives (especially in the target community).

#### Community organizations interested and willing to help

Identify community groups, churches and affiliated religious organizations, fraternal and community nonprofit organizations, and local chambers of commerce willing to help in awareness, recruitment, and placement. These organizations need to participate in the grant development process.

#### Neighborhood leveraging opportunities

Training and student support services can be provided by local community colleges and universities, training consultants, and fire/first responder teams. WIBs and affiliates, Goodwill, Salvation Army, other training and outreach organizations (such as Youth Build, Strive, or Conservation Corps) are located in many underserved neighborhoods.

The stakeholder list can be large and requires a significant effort to identify and organize. However, a systematic screening will provide information and detail to address most of the assessment criteria

requested by EPA in the RFP. Additionally, this effort represents the necessary legwork to complete comprehensive assessments, references, partnerships, employer relationships, and other factors required to score high in the EWDJT RPF evaluation.

#### Other factors and designations attributed to target area

All important, and not to be overlooked, are any special factors that stress community residents such as enterprise zones, redevelopment zones, community development projects, plant closures, chemical spills, or accidents. Special factors should be considered as part of the community assessment.

Special factors are easy to identify because they are usually public and newsworthy issues. Below is a suggested approach to community and stakeholder assessment.

1. Begin a search for stakeholders and community assessment in the offices of city government. Begin with the mayor's office.
2. Request contact information and introductions to applicable divisions including an introduction to city council members in the targeted communities.
3. In the offices of community and economic development, seek contact information and introduction to community groups in targeted communities.
4. In the offices of environment and health, seek contacts and introduction to Brownfield ARC, redevelopment, and associated cleanup project managers. Seek out public hearings to announce plans for the proposed EWDJT program. Document participation in all public meetings.
5. In target communities, visit religious and civic organizations again seeking contact information for possible stakeholders and partners.

#### Neighborhood assessment and environmental justice

EPA defines environmental justice (EJ) as “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”

EPA's goal is “to provide an environment where all people enjoy the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making.” The EWDJT program contributes to EJ goals and objectives by providing employment opportunities to disadvantaged community residents with environmental training in order to secure local environmental jobs created by economic redevelopment and remediation.

#### EPA EJ Screening and Mapping Tool

EPA recently released a powerful tool called the [EJ Screening and Mapping Tool](#) (EJSCREEN). This comprehensive and detailed tool can be used to characterize just about any neighborhood by providing location, demographic, and environmental data in detail.

The mapping tool uses high resolution maps combined with demographic and environmental data to identify places with potentially elevated environmental burdens and vulnerable populations. EJSCREEN's color-coded maps, bar charts, and reports enable users to better understand areas in need of increased environmental protection, health care access, housing, infrastructure improvement, community revitalization, and climate resilience.

EJSCREEN can highlight communities with greater risk of exposure to pollution based on eight pollution and environmental indicators including traffic proximity, particulate matter, and proximity to superfund

sites. These indicators are combined with demographic data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Five-year Summary Survey enabling users to identify areas with minority or low-income populations who also face potential pollution issues.

#### Characterizing prospective participants

Retention and placement are highly dependent on the quality of program participants. We will discuss the all-important recruitment process in future PLC calls. Regarding assessment of prospective applicants, the issues below should be considered.

- Women interested in nontraditional trades
- Ex-offenders
- Specific underserved ethnic groups
- Any or all of the above.

#### Student disparities

Can instructors be successful with large disparities in the classroom? To what extent will remedial education and life skills education be necessary? Can underserved youth work and learn with older mature participants?

The issues below could influence training, retention, and placement and should be considered in targeting prospective applicant populations.

- Age disparities
- Educational disparities
- Cultural disparities
- Criminal background

#### **4. Labor market assessments—Understanding employer needs**

Labor market assessments provide a path for recruitment, training, and placement of graduates. As a bonus, they serve to identify program supporters, contributors, and prospective employers. Rather than being an afterthought or justification for training, comprehensive labor market assessments can be a foundation for planning and developing sustainable job development programs.

Labor market assessments of environmental workers are difficult. Many construction and deconstruction occupations require environmental remediation skills and certifications. Welders may need asbestos training. Painters may require lead testing, remediation training, and confined space certifications. Trades working with potential hazardous exposures are required to have 1910.120 certifications.

A “quick” review of environmental occupations will not reveal the majority of environmental job opportunities. To create a meaningful labor market assessment, individual employers must be targeted with environmentally-directed questions. The following sources are example employers who may be looking to fill jobs with EWDJT graduates who have had environmental training and hold certifications.

- Local unions (business managers)
- Manpower and temp firms
- Consultants—remediation and service providers
- Manufacturing firms
- Chemical and refining facilities
- Municipal facilities and utilities

- Painting, construction, and deconstruction companies
- Transportation and material handling operators
- Scrap, recycling, storage, and landfill operations

Using the yellow pages and Internet search engines, identify prospective employers including labor unions, consultants, service providers, and large manufacturing firms. Seek out temp and manpower organizations for possible interest in environmental technicians. Contact local municipal agencies regarding possible stakeholder interest. This effort will be useful in establishing a responsive curriculum.

The key to a useful labor market assessment is direct contact with prospective employers (preferably visits) for specific labor needs. In this way, the labor market assessment may also provide references from employers, and a commitment to look at EWDJT graduates as possible job applicants. For the record, always document personal visits, and ask for references and introductions to other prospective employers.

Start the labor market assessment early. As prospective employers are identified, bring them into the training process as participants in training, advisory board members, and guides for curriculum development. Document meetings, and begin developing and expanding an employer contact file. The employer contact file will be used later when placing graduates. This process also becomes part of the labor market assessment. Whenever possible, ask employers to consider program graduates for available jobs. If documentation can be obtained, include it in the proposal.

There are several questions to ask in every interview.

1. Is the employer interested in the program if funded?
2. To what extent will the employer participate in the program (references, meetings, emails, etc.)?
3. Can the employer provide leveraged resources? And if so, to what extent?
4. Is there interest from the employer to become an active partner?
5. Are there additional contacts, programs, or organizations that may be interested in the proposed EWDJT program?
6. Always leave with an action plan, commitment, or closure.

Community, participant, and labor market assessments can be much more than simple information gathering efforts. When done properly, they form a solid base upon which to direct and implement the entire EWDJT program.

## **5. Training opportunities for EWDJT instructors**

### 2017 Great Environmental Safety Training (GreatEST) Institute

June 5–16, 2017 | Davenport, Iowa

Participants must arrive by Sunday, June 4, 2017. The Institute starts Monday morning at 8:00 a.m. CT. Participants are responsible for attending all workshop activities as outlined in the agenda (TBA). The training day runs from 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Participants will be able to depart on the last day of the Institute no earlier than 11:30 a.m. on Friday, June 16, 2017.

**IMPORTANT NOTE TO APPLICANTS:** If accepted to this Institute, applications are considered contractual agreements between applicant and PETE.

## Outcome Expectations

- Participants are prepared through a 10-day Train-the-Trainer Program called the GreatEST Institute (Great Environmental Safety Training Institute) to deliver required certifications for public and private responders and workers including:
  - 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response
  - 24-hour Industrial Emergency Response
  - DOT HazMat
  - Hazard Awareness and Communication
- Participants use CCCHST curriculum to train workers and responders in their local area and report to PETE the number of courses they provide. PETE reports these numbers to NIEHS. CCCHST members may charge for the courses offered in their local area.

## Travel

- Travel arrangements to and from Davenport, Iowa are the responsibility of participants. Cost of travel by air or car through mileage reimbursement will be paid by PETE up to a maximum of \$420. Applicants are responsible for their airfare purchase even if they must withdraw from the Institute and cancel or change flights.
- Local travel between the hotel and the training site will be provided. The hotel provides transportation to and from airport.

## Lodging

- During the Institute, everyone, unless other arrangements are pre-approved by PETE, will be staying at the Radisson Quad City Plaza, 111 East 2nd Street Davenport, IA 52801. Each participant will be provided his/her own room. PETE will make hotel reservations for you, and hotel room and tax will be billed to the PETE master account. However, you will need a credit card to secure your room at registration, and to cover all incidentals (for which you are responsible—PETE will not cover any incidentals). Reservation codes will be provided to each participant individually.
- Payment for lodging outside of the workshop timeframe or for non-participating companions will be the responsibility of the participant.

## Meals

- Some meals will be provided during the Institute. A registration fee of \$75 is charged to participants (reimbursed on travel forms) to cover the cost of snacks, beverages, three noon lunches, and the closing banquet. All other meals, including those during travel, will be reimbursed on a per diem basis. Participants will need to submit a reimbursement form no later than 30 days following the end of the Institute.

The Institute is limited to 20 participants. For more information and an application, please contact Patti Thompson at [pattijthompson@gmail.com](mailto:pattijthompson@gmail.com).

## Disaster Site Worker Institute

January 9–13, 2017 | Fort Pierce, Florida

Participants must arrive by Sunday, January 8, 2017. The Institute starts Monday morning at 8:00 a.m. ET. Participants are responsible for attending all workshop activities as outlined in the agenda (TBA). The training day runs from 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. If the Institute objectives for the day are not completed by

5:00 p.m., the day may be extended to as late as 6:00 p.m. Participants will be able to depart on Saturday, January 14, 2017.

Participants are prepared through a 5-day program called the Disaster Site Worker Institute to obtain required certifications for public and private responders and workers including:

- Disaster Site Worker 15-hour
- Hazard Awareness and Communication
- Incident Command System

Participants use CCCHST curriculum to train workers and responders in their local area and report to PETE the number of courses they provide. PETE reports these numbers to NIEHS. CCCHST members may charge for the courses offered in their local area.

#### Training Site

- Indian River State College (IRSC), Treasure Coast Public Safety Training Complex, 4600 Kirby Loop Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34981. Telephone: 772.462.7150

The Treasure Coast Public Safety Training Complex at IRSC is the most comprehensive, technologically advanced public safety training facility in the nation. The 50-acre, eight-building complex has gained national and international attention for its proactive approach to disaster prevention, response, recovery, and relief.

#### Travel

- Travel arrangements to and from Fort Pierce, Florida are the responsibility of participants. Cost of travel by air, car rental, or through mileage reimbursement will be paid by PETE up to a maximum of \$480. Applicants are responsible for their airfare purchase even if they must withdraw from the Institute and cancel or change flights.
- The Institute is located about 112 miles southeast of the Orlando airport and about 60 miles north of the West Palm Beach airport. The Residence Inn Hotel is located 10 miles south of the training site along Interstate 95 at exit 121.

#### Lodging

- During the Institute, everyone will be staying at the Residence Inn by Marriott, 1920 SW Fountainview Blvd., Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986. Telephone: 772.344.7814. Each participant will be provided his/her own room. The hotel room (\$115/night) and tax (11.5%) will be reimbursed by PETE on a reimbursement form to be completed after the course ends. PETE will not cover any incidentals. Participants can stay at another location, if desired, but will only be reimbursed at the rate not to exceed the secured hotel rate listed above. Participants must call the hotel to make their own reservations no later than Friday, December 9, 2016.

#### Meals

- Breakfast is provided at the hotel as well as an evening snack on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights. Noon meals will be provided during the Institute Monday through Friday and an evening meal will be provided on Friday night. A registration fee of \$75 is charged to participants (reimbursed on travel forms) to cover the cost of snacks, beverages, five noon lunches, and the closing banquet. All other meals, including those during travel, will be reimbursed on a GSA per diem basis (\$11/breakfast, \$23/supper, \$5/incidentals). For the

Sunday and Saturday travel days, participants will receive \$38.25/each travel day. Participants will need to submit a reimbursement form no later than 30 days following the end of the Institute.

For more information and an application, please contact Patti Thompson at [pattijthompson@gmail.com](mailto:pattijthompson@gmail.com).

#### PETE—DOT HazMat Regulations Train-the-Trainer and Awareness Courses

PETE has been awarded a one-year grant from the Department of Transportation to prepare DOT HazMat Transportation Regulations trainers. Several levels of training will be provided.

- 16-hour DOT HazMat Regulations course
- 40-hour Regulations and NESHTA Instructional Technology training
- 2-hour Regulations Awareness courses to be offered with CCCHST refreshers

Those who enroll in the 16- or 40-hour courses must take an online prerequisite.

Nearly all costs, including travel to the training, will be covered by the grant with \$425 toward transportation by air or car, plus overnight accommodations reimbursement at a PETE-designated hotel and per diem for meals. Attendees are expected to bring laptops for use in class.

#### Course Schedule

- October 3–7, 2016. The 40-hour Tribal Workshop for ten U.S. Tribal and Pacific Rim college educators will be held at Uintah Basin Applied Technology College, Vernal, UT, on the Ute Reservation.
- January, 2017. The second 40-hour course on HazMat Regulations and Instructional Design for 15 CCCHST and NESHTA instructors will be held in Florida. The exact date and location TBA.

Registration will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Email Hilary Kessler at [kessler@maine.rr.com](mailto:kessler@maine.rr.com) with your name, address, email, and which course you are interested in attending.

During the 16-hour DOT HazMat Regulations Course, in accordance with 49 CFR § 172.704 (HMR), hazmat trainers and employees will be trained in the areas below.

- General awareness/familiarization training with the requirements of the HMR and enabling the hazmat employee to recognize and identify hazardous materials consistent with the hazard communication requirements of the HMR.
- Function-specific training concerning the requirements of the HMR applicable to the functions performed by the hazmat employee.
- Safety training including measures to protect the employee from the hazards associated with the hazardous materials to which he or she may be exposed in the workplace.
- Security awareness training providing an awareness of the security risks associated with the hazards.
- In-depth security training relating to a company's security plan and its implementation, if applicable.
- Application of DOT regulations in order to effectively communicate the hazards associated with the materials being transported through marking, labeling, placarding, and documentation.
- Interpretation of carrier requirements for hazardous materials according to the Title 49 CFR by railcar, aircraft, vessel, and motor vehicle.
- General awareness/familiarization of rail and air transport regulations.



- General awareness/familiarization of driver regulations related to hazmat.
- Familiarization of EPA regulations related to hazardous waste transportation.
- Reporting procedures to complete DOT's Incident Reporting Form.

The 24-hour National Environmental Safety and Health Training Association (NESHTA) Training Skills Workshop, *Designing and Delivering Effective Training*, is designed for trainers and training managers responsible for delivering mandatory training under OSHA, DOT, RCRA, and SARA regulations. Since the workshops were initiated in 1987, nearly 1,000 trainers have successfully completed the workshop. *Designing and Delivering Effective Training* is divided into two modules, including a half day or more (depending on class size) for student presentations and critique.

Topics covered in the Designing module include: Training Needs Analysis

- Task analysis
- Learning objectives
- Evaluation techniques
- Lesson plans
- Measurements of program effectiveness

Topics in the Delivering module include:

- Training adult learners
- Instructional methods and strategies

The 40-hour HazMat Regulations and Instructional Technology Program will incorporate the 16-hour HazMat Regulations course and the 24-hour NESHTA Instructional Technology Program in the format below.

- Day 1—DOT general awareness/familiarization training and function-specific.
- Days 2 through 4—NESHTA's *Designing and Delivering Effective Training Skills* using DOT content/examples.
- Day 5—Function-specific exercises, applications, review, and exams.

Online prerequisite: Instructors taking the 40- and/or 16-hour courses will be required to complete eight hours of online DOT HazMat Regulations coursework before participating in classroom learning. The online course will also be made available to CCHST/NESHTA/Tribal and Pacific Rim instructors so that they may use online resources in blended learning courses that they conduct.

#### 16-hour Instructor Workshop on DOT HazMat Regulations

The second 16-hour Instructor workshop on DOT HazMat Regulations for 35 instructors will be held in Portland, ME in May 2017. Registration will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please email Hilary Kessler [kessler@maine.rr.com](mailto:kessler@maine.rr.com) with your name, address, email, and which course you are interested in attending.

#### **6. Webinars of interest**

EPA Office of Grants and Debarment

Date: Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 2:00–3:00 p.m. ET

EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment is hosting a webinar that will cover grants topics including how to

find and apply for grant opportunities, EPA's new Grants.gov requirement, and preparing a proper budget detail. In addition, a Q&A session will be hosted during the second half of the webinar.

You do not need to register. If you wish to attend, go to the following link a few minutes before the webinar starts: [Grant Award Process Webinar](#). There is no call in number—audio will be broadcast through your computer speakers or headphones. <https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-grants-award-process-webinars>

Leveraging Resources for Brownfields Revitalization: Meet the Funders  
Webinar Series (#2) | October 25, 2016, 1:00–2:30 pm EDT

This webinar will highlight the resources for brownfields revitalization available from one or two federal agencies outside of EPA. It is the second in OBLR's webinar series on what communities need to know to successfully leverage resources for brownfields revitalization. Register at <https://clu-in.org/training/webinar/BFLeveraging1/>.

Leveraging Resources for Brownfields Revitalization: Meet the Funders  
Webinar Series (#3) | December 14, 2016, 1:00-2:30 pm EST

This second “Meet the Funders” webinar will highlight the resources for brownfields revitalization available from one or two more federal agencies outside of EPA. It is the part of OBLR's webinar series focusing on what communities need to do to successfully leverage resources for brownfields revitalization. Register at <https://clu-in.org/training/webinar/BFLeveraging1/>.

The Federal Working Group on Environmental Justice (EJ IWG)

Have you ever wondered how federal agencies integrate environmental justice? To increase public awareness on these initiatives, the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (EJ IWG) is launching a webinar series to highlight the ways that federal agencies are collaborating to assist overburdened and under-resourced communities across the nation.

Learning Together: Lessons Learned from Collaborative Place-Based Initiatives

Date: 11/10/2016

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. ET

For more information and registration: <https://blog.epa.gov/blog/2016/08/ej-iwgwebinar/>

## **7. Making connections, networking and meetings**

Second Annual Southeast Brownfields Conference

October 16–19, 2016

Jacksonville, FL

Hosted by the Florida Brownfields Association and its regional partners, the Second Annual Southeast Brownfields Conference will be taking place in Jacksonville, Florida on October 16–19. Over 200 brownfield practitioners were in attendance last year and gained valuable insight into redevelopment practices in the southeast region. Registration is now open. Topics selected for the conference proceedings will emphasize Brownfields-related topics and case studies including but not limited to:

- Brownfield Redevelopment Success Stories
- Public Outreach and Changing the Perception of Brownfields
- State, Tribal, and Local Programs and Partnerships (Community Engagement)

- Obtaining and Managing Brownfields Grants
- Brownfield Incentives
- Sustainable Brownfields Redevelopment
- Redevelopment Financing
- Environmental Justice and Public Health
- Local, State, and Federal Regulatory and Policy Changes and the Effects on Brownfields
- Due Diligence, Liability Protection, Long-term Stewardship, and Risk Management
- Innovative Assessment and Remediation Technologies
- Brownfield End-Use Planning

For more details, visit <http://www.floridabrownfields.org/>.

#### Connect the Dots Now for a Self-Sufficient Energy Future

Every year, the Energy Coordinating Agency hosts an energy conference that brings together the most current information on low income energy policy and practice in the face of climate change.

Thursday, November 17, 2016

8:00 a.m.–5:00 PM ET

Temple University Student Faculty Center

3340 North Broad Street

Philadelphia, PA 19140

The agenda, transportation information, and registration materials are available on the [ECA website](#).

For questions, contact:

Thomas Flaherty of ECA at [ThomasF@ecasavesenergy.org](mailto:ThomasF@ecasavesenergy.org) or 215.609.1054

Rachael Barrett of ECA at [RachaelB@ecasavesenergy.org](mailto:RachaelB@ecasavesenergy.org) or 215.609.1057

#### Limitless Vistas, Inc. Fundraiser

Limitless Vistas, Inc. is having a t-shirt sale as a fundraising event through Booster. Booster is a place to raise money and awareness for the causes that mean the most to you. All funds raised will go directly to Limitless Vistas, Inc. For questions, contact Sherry Callaway at [scallaway@limitlessvistas.org](mailto:scallaway@limitlessvistas.org).

#### **8. Opportunities**

While not directly related to environmental job training, it is important that EWDJT grantees and prospective grantees network with organizations funded by EPA in areas of common interest. Touching base with local EPA award recipients demonstrates community coordination and may develop into leveraged partnerships.

#### Urban Waters Small Grants

EPA is awarding \$1.3 million to 22 organizations in 18 states to help protect and restore urban waters and to support community revitalization and other local priorities.

“Often underserved communities in our nation’s cities face disproportionate impacts from pollution, and too often they lack the resources to do something about it,” said Joel Beauvais, EPA Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water. “EPA provides support to empower these communities to improve the quality of their waterways and to help reconnect people and businesses with the water they depend on.”

This year's Urban Waters grantees will inform and engage residents in storm water management and pursue community-based plans to address pollution in waterways. To accomplish these goals, many projects will address trash in waterways; test rivers, streams and lakes for pollutants; and prepare the next generation of environmental stewards for careers in the green economy.

The Urban Waters Small Grants are competed and awarded every two years. Since its inception in 2012, the program has awarded approximately \$6.6 million in Urban Waters Small Grants to 114 organizations across the country and Puerto Rico, with individual award amounts of up to \$60,000.

To learn more about the funded projects, visit <https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaters/urban-waters-small-grants>. Information on EPA's Urban Waters program can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaters>.

#### EPA FY2017 ARC Guidelines

The USEPA Request for Proposals for FY2017 Brownfields Grants has been announced and proposals are now being accepted. The grant funds may be used to address sites contaminated by petroleum, hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. Opportunities for funding include Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), and Cleanup Grants. The proposal submission deadline is December 20, 2016. (NOTE: These are not the EWDJT grants that are due to be issued in November.)

[FY2017 Guidelines for Brownfields Assessment Grants \(EPA-OLEM-OBLR-16-08\)](#)

[FY2017 Guidelines for Brownfields Cleanup Grants \(EPA-OLEM-OBLR-16-09\)](#)

The guidelines and supplemental guidance documents are available on EPA's [OBLR website](#).

If you have any questions on how to apply for a grant or wish to discuss if your project is eligible, please contact Tom Stolle, EPA Region 3 Brownfields Coordinator, at 215.814.3129 or [stolle.tom@epa.gov](mailto:stolle.tom@epa.gov).

#### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Next PLC Session:           October 26, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. ET  
Please call in five minutes early.

Feel free to invite a guest! Send your contact information to Mike Senew at [msenew@aol.com](mailto:msenew@aol.com).



Visit our *HMTRI Brownfields Toolbox* Web site at <http://www.brownfields-toolbox.org> for more information on Brownfields Job Training programs. All PLC session notes and recordings are also located on the *Brownfields Toolbox* website at <http://brownfields-toolbox.org/plc-corner/>. For those interested in providing content or suggestions, please contact Glo Hanne at [ghanne@eicc.edu](mailto:ghanne@eicc.edu).

**NOTE:** The PLC brings together ideas and opinions of individuals interested in environmental workforce development and training. Ideas and opinions are not those of EPA, its policy or opinions and should not be taken as official guidance.