

August 29, 2012

Notes from Brownfields Professional Learning (PLC) – Cycle 7, Session 1 (session 70)

Topics: Updates from Washington

Introduction to the Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC)

Working with EPA

Upcoming Events

Notes: -- This is the first session of Cycle 7. Sessions are held every other Wednesday from 2:00 - 2:30 p.m. EDT.

-- Anyone interested in attending the Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting needs to sign up before September 3, 2012. As a PLC participant, you are eligible to attend this free workshop sponsored in cooperation with EPA and HMTRI. See below for more information, or contact Glo Hanne at ghanne@eicc.edu.

Updates from Washington

It's time to begin planning for the next round of EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants. Although nothing is official, we hope EPA will resume its previous RFP release schedule where the RFP was released in the fall, proposals were due before year end, and awards were announced in the spring.

Whether this schedule holds or not, it is still time to begin planning for the development of a comprehensive environmental workforce program in your community. While these programs are difficult and require considerable leveraging and support, they also provide many benefits not only to employers but to otherwise under-served and unemployed community residents.

HMTRI will keep PLC members up-to-date regarding developments as they are released from Washington.

Introduction to the Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC)

- The Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC) operates with assistance from a cooperative agreement between EPA and HMTRI (The Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute). HMTRI has assisted the development of environmental training programs for over 25 years.
- HMTRI and ATEEC (Advanced Technology Environmental and Energy Center) collaborate and share resources with communities interested in establishing community environmental workforce programs. More about these programs will be discussed in future PLC sessions.
- PLCs are designed to link and network individuals with common interests. In a PLC, issues and problems are addressed using the experience and knowledge of the group. PLCs provide a cost effective way to keep in touch. Thirty minutes every two weeks allows participants to stay informed and in touch with their peers across the country.
- PLCs are open to anyone interested in environmental workforce development. To participate, all you need is an interest or curiosity about developing and sustaining a community environmental workforce development and training program.

- There are no fees or obligations. The PLC is open to everyone to come and go as needed or as time allows. Providing us with your contact information will ensure you receive emailed announcements and post-session notes.
- During this PLC cycle (Cycle 7), we are planning discussions with current and past environmental workforce development programs. We will explore their success stories as well as problems they have encountered. We will look for helpful hints and ways to resolve problems associated with the development and operation of a sustainable environmental workforce development and job training program.
- Active PLC members are eligible to attend the Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting to be held October 1-2, 2012 in Alexandria, VA. Contact Glo Hanne at gianne@eicc.edu for more information.

Working with EPA

The EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) program is all about partnering. EPA is also all about acronyms, so one should not be intimidated when seeing so many acronyms that may appear as random letters.

The Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) is the birthplace and home for community environmental workforce development and training. In the past year, OSWER has reached out to other EPA offices vastly expanding the traditional official role of previous training programs. Today, the EPA offices listed below participate in the EPA workforce development program.

- OSRTI – Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation
- OUST – Office of Underground Storage Tanks
- FFRRO – Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office
- CPA – Center for Program Analysis
- OCSP – Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
- OWM – Office of Wastewater Management
- OEM – Office of Emergency Management

The EWDJT program also supports OSWER's Community Engagement Initiative.

As partners, topic areas emphasized in the program have expanded to include activities of the partnering program offices and include solid waste management, cleanup, and awareness; underground storage tank leak prevention awareness; innovative and alternative treatment technologies; chemical safety and health; and environmental spills and emergency response.

While many offices are involved with the Environmental Workforce Development program, contact with EPA remains simple. Anyone with questions regarding the Environmental Workforce Development can contact their regional EPA Job Training Coordinator. New grantees should make a point of working with their regional coordinator.

EPA Regional Job Training Coordinators:

- Region 1 – Kathleen Castagna, 617. 918.1429, castagna.kathleen@epa.gov
- Region 2 – Schenine Mitchell, 212. 637.3282, mitchell.schenine@epa.gov
- Region 3 – Jeff Barnett, 215.814.3246, barnett.jeff@epa.gov
- Region 4 – Kathleen Curry, 404.562.8660, curry.kathleen@epa.gov
- Region 5 – Linda Morgan, 312.886.4747, morgan.linda@epa.gov

- Region 6 – Amber Perry, 214.665.3172, perry.amber@epa.gov
- Region 7 – Ina Square, 913.551.7357, square.ina@epa.gov
- Region 8 – Christina Wilson, 303.312.6706, wilson.christina@epa.gov
- Region 9 – Wallace Woo, 415.972.3270, woo.wallace@epa.gov
- Region 10 – Susan Morales, 206.553.7299, morales.susan@epa.gov

Upcoming Events

Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting, Alexandria, VA, October 1-2, 2012

National Brownfields 2013 Conference, Atlanta, GA, May 15-17, 2013. For more information, please visit <http://www.brownfieldsconference.org>.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC Session: September 12, 2012
 2:00pm EDT

Topics: Establishment, implementation, and sustainability of programs

Feel free to invite a guest! Send your contact information to Mike Senew at msenew@aol.com.

Visit our *Brownfields Toolbox* Web site at <http://www.brownfields-toolbox.org> for more information on Brownfields Job Training programs.