

November 21, 2012

Notes from Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC) – Cycle 7, Session 7, (session 76)

Topics: OSHA Health and Safety Train-the-Trainer
 Updates from Washington
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 Upcoming events and reminders

OSHA Health and Safety Train-the-Trainer

Each year the Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training (CCCHST) provides a no-cost intensive “boot camp” for instructors. Scholarships covering travel, tuition, lodging, and meals are available. Space is limited. For additional information and the application forms, go to <http://nationalpete.org/downloads-resources/>.

Updates from Washington

It is likely that the next Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant Request for Proposals (RFP) will be released in December, with awards announced in late spring or early summer. It’s time to begin preparations for responding to the RFP. During the next PLC call we will begin discussing best practices in planning, delivering, and sustaining environmental workforce development and job training programs. We will also keep PLC members informed with updates from Washington.

Program sustainability

In previous PLC sessions, we discussed the importance of partnering with large institutional organizations such as city, county, or state government; community colleges; large community organizations and nonprofits; organized labor; and organizations funded by the Department of Labor. Having these large organizations act as the fiscal agent provides many leveraging opportunities, startup resources, and the best chance for obtaining legislative funding.

Legislative funding (currently extremely difficult to obtain) provides a continuing source of funding – year in and year out – with funds provided from the state, county, or city budgets. Additional funding may come from environmental fines and penalties (contact the Attorney General’s office) or as part of larger programs funded with block grants. The goal of these strategies is to institutionalize the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program.

In the absence of public money, it is important to “morph” into an existing institutionalized program. Such a program may exist in large community organizations, nonprofits, labor organizations, or community colleges. Many of these programs would consider incorporating environmental training into a larger Department of Labor Program such as Youth Build.

Clearly, an additional approach to sustained funding is reapplication for federal assistance, supplementing grant funds with additional leveraged resources. It should be noted that while some programs have been refunded as many as five times, the EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program is not designed as a continuous source of funding and should not be considered as a preferred approach for program sustainability.

Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB)

TAB provides a summary of remediation technologies. This is a useful document in understanding cleanup. TAB has completed 22 two-page citizen's guides related to innovative and established cleanup approaches. The new guides are designed to be used as a tool to communicate cleanup information to the public. The 22 guides are posted at the following Web sites:

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/remedytech>

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/publications.htm>

<http://www.clu-in.org/products/citguide/>

Technologies reviewed are listed below:

- Activated Carbon Treatment
- Air Stripping
- Bioremediation
- Capping
- Eco-revitalization
- Evapotranspiration Covers
- Fracturing
- Green Remediation
- In Situ Chemical Oxidation
- In Situ Reduction
- In Situ Thermal Treatment Methods
- Incineration (Offsite)
- Monitored Natural Attenuation
- Permeable Reactive Barriers
- Phytoremediation
- Pump and Treat
- Soil Excavation
- Soil Vapor Extraction and Air Sparging
- Solidification/Stabilization
- Thermal Desorption
- Vapor Intrusion Mitigation
- Vertical Engineered Barriers

Grant opportunities

Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Grants are due November 30, 2012. RFP guidelines are posted at <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm>.

Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup grants were due November 19, 2012. RFP guidelines are posted at <http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/applicat.htm>.

Call the Mayor's office or office of economic development to see if a proposal has been submitted. Partner and coordinate early. This effort is an excellent start in developing a stakeholder network. Let them know you are thinking about an environmental workforce job development and training program. Ask them to be a partner.

EPA Announces Opportunity to Apply for 2013 Environmental Justice Small Grants

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that it is seeking applicants for a total of

\$1.5 million in environmental justice small grants to be awarded in 2013. EPA's environmental justice efforts aim to ensure equal environmental and health protections for all Americans, regardless of race or socioeconomic status. The grants enable nonprofit organizations to conduct research, provide education, and develop solutions to local health and environmental issues in communities overburdened by harmful pollution. Grants are available for up to \$30,000 each.

The 2013 grant solicitation is now open and will close on Jan. 7, 2013. Applicants must be incorporated nonprofits or tribal organizations working to educate, empower, and enable their communities to understand and address local environmental and public health issues. EPA will host four pre-application teleconference calls on Oct. 30, 2012; Nov. 14, 2012; Dec. 1, 2012; and Dec. 13, 2012 to help applicants understand the requirements.

For more information on the Environmental Justice Small Grants 2013 Request for Proposals and for the schedule of pre-application teleconference calls, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/resources/publications/grants/ej-smgrants-rfp-2013.pdf>.

Upcoming events and reminders

2013 Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference

April 16-18, 2013

Washington Hilton, Washington, DC

The 2013 conference will focus on 1) how to grow the clean economy to scale; 2) the role of strategic partnerships between the public and private sectors in solving the country's pressing economic and environmental challenges; 3) the role of regulations in creating new markets; and 4) how people in every part of the U.S. are working collaboratively for social, economic and environmental justice, while building an economy with good jobs.

The program committee welcomes original contributions or ideas for workshops or panels. Programs are encouraged that highlight collaboration between different constituencies, including business and industry, government agencies, labor unions, community groups, and the environmental community. Proposals that provide tangible tools and are interactive are preferred. All submissions must be received by November 13, 2012, and are entered online. Please visit www.greenjobsconference.org/2013.

National Brownfields 2013 Conference, Atlanta, GA, May 15-17, 2013. For more information, please visit <http://www.brownfieldsconference.org>. Sign up for now – it's not too early. The best housing will fill up fast. Make your room reservations now at special block rates.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC Session: December 5, 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.