

February 8, 2012

Notes from Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC)

Topics: Upcoming Events
 Status of the EPA RFP release and delays
 Finding working partners and affiliations to enhance the sustainability of environmental
 workforce development and training programs
 Grant Opportunities

Upcoming Events

- Environmental Justice Conference, Arlington, VA – April 3-5, 2012
The 6th Annual Environmental Justice Conference is being held at the Doubletree-Hilton Hotel in Crystal City (300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA 22302) on April 3-5, 2012. The deadline for abstracts is February 15, 2012. For additional information or questions visit www.ejconference.net or contact John Rosenthal, conference coordinator, at JR@ejconference.net or call 202-508-3894 or 703-624-2257.
- The 15th National Brownfields Conference is headed to Atlanta, Georgia on May 15–17, 2013. The Conference, cosponsored by U.S. EPA, is the largest and most comprehensive event in the nation that focuses on issues important to community revitalization and the assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of contaminated properties. Stay tuned to www.brownfieldsconference.org for more information on the 2013 conference!
- NAWB Forum 2012 Dialogue for Workforce Excellence
March 10 – 13, 2012
Hilton Washington
The program is posted online at www.nawb.org/forum/
- Oklahoma Brownfields Conference 2012
The program is posted online at www.oklahomabrownfields.com
- Ohio Brownfields Conference 2012
May 23 - 24, 2012
Columbus Convention Center
Attendee Registration coming in Jan/Feb 2012
- New Partners for Smart Growth Conference
February 2 - 4, 2012
The program is posted online at www.epa.gov/tp/calendar/conferences.htm

Links to the Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conferences can be found at www.epa.gov/brownfields/job.htm. Registration for Green Jobs Regional Conferences is now open.

- Southern Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference
February 23 & 24, 2012
Atlanta, Georgia
- Western Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference
March 15 & 16, 2012
Los Angeles, California
- Eastern Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference
April 3 & 4, 2012
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Midwestern Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference
May 10 & 11, 2012
Detroit, Michigan

Status of the EPA grant review process

Requests for Proposals are on temporary hold for internal budget review. Look for the release soon. We will send out announcements.

Details on proposal due dates and expected award dates will also be available. An example program planning schedule is as follows:

- Requests for proposals – late February 2012
- Proposals due April/May 2012
- Preparation of proposals and review on various levels
- Initial screening of proposals (qualifying criteria) (rejected proposals notified in 2-3 weeks)
- Intensive review of proposals (ranking criteria)
- Grant awards August 2012 – before end of fiscal year (September 2012)
- Annual All Grantee Meeting – Alexandria, VA late September/early October 2012
- First training cycles begin late 2012-early 2013
- Optimal placement opportunities – First quarter 2013

Finding working partners and affiliations to enhance the sustainability of environmental workforce development and training programs

City of Durham and Durham Tech

Thanks go to Sontina Green with the city of Durham (Durham, NC). City of Durham with Durham Tech. has constructed a partnership of service providers, each contributing to a comprehensive environmental recruitment, training, life skills and placement program for community residents. City of Durham is an outstanding example of a sustainable partnership between city government and community college.

Kelly King with Durham Technical Community College; Sontina Green with the city of Durham, NC; and Nicholas McCoy with the city Office of Economic and Workforce Development together provide critical components of a comprehensive environmental job development and training program. These components include:

- Recruitment
- Job Development
- Training
- Life Skills
- Placement

Working together, city of Durham engages and coordinates city and county services with recruitment, job development, life skills, training, and placement. To find out more about this partnership and their experience, please see the contact information below.

Sontina Green
Sontina.green@durhamnc.gov
919-560-4986

Kelly King
kingk@durhamtech.edu
919-536-7222, x4003

Other types of partnerships and affiliations:

City of Durham uses a model that partners a city organization with a community college. Other models may include, but are not limited to, a mix of the following:

- Community organizations
- Private sector trainers and consultants
- Workforce Investment Boards
- One Stop Centers, job training centers
- Universities

- Community colleges
- Private technical colleges
- Trade schools
- Community development corporations
- Organized labor organizations and affiliations
- National and local non-profit organizations such as Goodwill Industries and Strive
- Tribes and Tribal organizations
- County, city, and state government offices and departments
- Federally- and state-funded programs such as Youth Corps and YouthBuild
- Religious organizations
- Societies and associations

It should be noted that the primary grant recipient of EPA funding assistance must be a nonprofit, governmental, or Tribal organization. However, partners and affiliations may include other entities.

Questions and Comments

Where can I find out more about electronic recycling, certifications, and job opportunities?

Many local recyclers are beginning to participate in the rapidly expanding e-waste industry. A specific EPA e-waste certification is not anticipated since other EPA hazardous waste permits and certifications apply. Additionally, third party applicable e-waste certifications are available.

For a review of what is happening in e-waste go to <http://www.epa.gov/osw/consERVE/materials/eycling/faq.htm>.

Grant Opportunities

EPA Grants Award Process Webinar – reviews the legal and financial aspect of the EPA grant process. The Office of Grants and Debarment is hosting an EPA Grants Award Process Webinar for our external grants community.

- February 23, 2012
- Time: 2pm ET

Description: EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment is hosting a webinar for the EPA grants community. The webinar will cover grants management topics including how to find and apply for grant opportunities, FFATA reporting requirements, and preparing a proper budget detail. In addition, a Q&A session will be held during the second half of the webinar. If you have any questions, please email it to ogdweb.gad@epa.gov in advance of the call. As many questions as possible will be covered during the session.

For more information and to register:

https://epa.connectsolutions.com/grantswebinar/event/event_info.html

Environmental Justice Grants

EPA Announces Solicitation of Applications for \$1 Million in **Environmental Justice Grants**. More information on the Environmental Justice Small Grants program and a list of grantees:

<http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-smgrants.html>.

Environment Justice Small Grants 2012 Request for Proposals and schedule of pre-application teleconference calls. EPA will host the last pre-application teleconference calls on February 15, 2012 to help applicants understand the requirements.

<http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/resources/publications/grants/ej-smgrants-rfp-2012.pdf>.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that the Agency is seeking applicants for \$1 million in environmental justice small grants expected to be awarded in 2012. 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 non-profit organizations to conduct research, provide education, and develop solutions to local health and environmental issues in communities overburdened by harmful pollution.

The 2012 grant solicitation is now open and will close on February 29, 2012. Applicants must be incorporated non-profits or Tribal organizations working to educate, empower, and enable their communities to understand and address local environmental and public health issues.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC Session: February 22, 2012
2:00pm EST

Topic: For those interested in starting a program – “The Long Wait”
For those with operating programs - “Student Recruitment – Perhaps the most important job development component in building a sustainable program?”

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.