

CONNECT News

Community Support, **N**etworking, and Assistance for **E**nvironmental **C**areer **T**raining

September 2017

The Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI) provides technical assistance to communities interested in developing and delivering environmental job training programs. HMTRI also provides technical support to [Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training \(EWDJT\)](#) grantees funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These efforts are made possible with a cooperative agreement with the U.S. EPA.

HMTRI is part of Eastern Iowa Community Colleges and has provided environmental workforce development technical assistance since the inception of EPA's Brownfields Initiative.

RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

Team members of EWDJT programs may have varying areas of expertise. Background and experience may be in project management; case work; or social, environmental, or technical services. It is not always possible for all programs to have all areas of expertise available on their staff. All EWDJT team members need to be familiar with contacts, websites, and other resources available in their specialty areas.

There are excellent resource groups that should be explored in the early stages of EWDJT program development.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRAINING AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE (HMTRI)

HMTRI has provided technical assistance to EPA-funded EWDJT grantees and prospective grantees through cooperative agreements with the EPA since the inception of the Brownfields Initiative. The most well-known resource is the

[Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee meeting](#). These meetings provide grantees and prospective grantees the opportunity to share ideas and information with each other and with EPA representatives.

The 2017 All-Grantee Meeting was held August 9–10, 2017, at the Crowne Plaza Old Town Alexandria hotel in Alexandria, VA. This year's meeting was attended by 124 people that included:

- 89 people representing 46 EWDJT programs and prospective programs
- 5 EWDJT program graduates
- 11 EPA headquarters representatives
- 10 EPA regional representatives
- 5 HMTRI representatives
- 4 representatives from other governmental agencies

The meeting consisted of large- and small-group sessions on topics related to building and sustaining a successful environmental job training program. Small-group sessions were led by EWDJT grantee mentors. New this year was a panel of five EWDJT program graduates who told everyone what their lives were like before, during, and after receiving training.

All [PowerPoints and materials](#) from this year's All-Grantee meeting are available for download on the Brownfields Toolbox website. Resources are divided into the following categories:

- EPA PowerPoints
- Grantee PowerPoints and Resources
- HMTRI Resources
- NIEHS Resources
- OSHA PowerPoints and Resources

Other HMTRI resources include:

- [Annual Grantee Update Webinars](#)— Webinars provide mid-year updates between All-Grantee meetings.
- [Brownfields Toolbox Website](#)— Repository and archive for all things related to environmental workforce development and job training.
- [Professional Learning Community \(PLC\)](#)— Bi-weekly conference calls on various topics related to job training.
- [Grantee and Community Outreach Listserv](#)—Used to post information requests and announcements.
- [Social Media Directory](#)—Includes linked social media sites for EWDJT grantees.
- [Certified Employee Finder](#)—Includes graduation dates, certificates, and core competencies for current EWDJT grantees.
- [Commonly Used Environmental Acronyms](#)

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

The first place to begin learning about [EPA's Brownfields program](#) is the EPA website. This website provides information on:

- Basic information
- Grants
- Technical assistance, tools, and research
- State and Tribal response programs
- Initiatives and partnerships
- Other resources

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA)

Under the [Department of Labor \(DOL\)](#), [OSHA](#) is charged with setting standards, developing curricula, and training workers to protect themselves in the workplace. Many EWDJT courses provide certifications based on OSHA standards. [Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response \(HAZWOPER\)](#) is a mandatory certification required by EWDJT grantees, but most grantees add a variety of other [OSHA training](#) depending on local workforce needs.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION (ETA)

Also under DOL, the [ETA](#) offers a variety of employment and training programs and information of benefit to EWDJT grantees, some of which include:

- [Adult Services](#)
- [Occupational Information Network \(O*NET\)](#)
- [Grants](#)
- [Reentry Employment Opportunities \(REO\)](#)

- [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\)](#)
- [Youth Services](#)

GRANTS.GOV

Grants.gov is designed to be a one-stop repository for all information about federal grant opportunities and proposal submission.

- [Grants 101](#)
- [How to apply for grants](#)
- [Registration process](#) required before submitting a proposal
- [Applicant FAQ's](#)
- [Application tracking](#)

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELDS (TAB)

TAB addresses technical aspects of Brownfields assessment and remediation, and provides free technical assistance to communities with Brownfields redevelopment efforts.

- [Kansas State University \(KSU\)](#) is the TAB provider to EPA Regions 5, 6, 7, and 8.
- [New Jersey Institute of Technology \(NJIT\)](#) is the TAB provider to EPA Regions 1, 3, and 4.
- [Center for Creative Land Recycling \(CCLR\)](#) is the TAB provider to EPA Regions 2, 9, and 10.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES (NIEHS)

Closely related to EPA's EWDJT program is the NIEHS Worker Training Program (WTP). NIEHS grants focus on worker health and safety including disaster relief. EWDJT grants focus on

environmental remediation. Both make worker health and safety their prime concern. WTP funding is provided through the program areas below.

- [Hazardous Waste Worker Training Program](#)
- [NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program](#)
- [Environmental Career Worker Training Program](#)
- [HAZMAT Disaster Preparedness Training Program](#)
- [Small Business Innovation Research \(SBIR\) E-Learning for HAZMAT Program](#)

WTP also funds the [National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training](#), a national resource for hazardous waste worker curricula, technical reports, and [weekly news](#) on hazardous materials, waste operations, and emergency response.

WTP and its awardees have been actively involved in [hurricane and flood response and cleanup activities](#), including those related to Hurricanes Katrina in 2005, Sandy in 2012, and Harvey, Irma, and Maria in 2017. Their [All-Hazards Resources](#) website lists resources applicable to a variety of natural and man-made disasters.

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES

State environmental agencies can provide resources not available from EPA regional offices. They also serve as excellent resources for training assistance. State project officers working on Brownfields assessment and cleanup are often familiar with contractors and consultants that may become resources or partners for EWDJT programs.

EPA's [Health and Environmental Agencies of the U.S. States and Territories](#) website includes agencies by state. Searching websites is an excellent source of background information, but personal contact remains essential.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES

It is important to access resources from local government offices as they will provide the most current source of information regarding Brownfields employment and economic development projects in the community. Local environmental agencies can also provide links to service providers, contractors, advisors, and potential employers, and can be an excellent resource for trainers and speakers.

The size of local agencies usually correlates to the size of the jurisdiction. In rural or sparsely populated areas, services are located in county offices. In small communities, environmental, health, and public safety departments may be combined. Urban areas usually have comprehensive local agencies. Regardless of the size of the community, the mayor's office provides the best entry to local resources and assistance.

SPECIFIC DISASTER RELIEF RESOURCES

For a comprehensive list of resources and tools available to those involved in disaster response and cleanup activities, please see the post-sessions notes from HMTRI's [PLC Cycle 17, Session 5, held on August 30, 2017](#). Some of the resources include subject areas such as:

- Hurricane training
- Mold remediation
- Debris removal

- Driving hazards
- Tree removal
- Work zone safety
- Waterway debris
- Natural disasters and severe weather
- Lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina

NATIONAL BROWNFIELDS TRAINING CONFERENCE

The [National Brownfields Training Conference](#) will be held in Pittsburgh, PA on December 5–7, 2017 with pre-conference workshops on December 4. The conference is co-sponsored by the EPA and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The conference, offered every two years, is the largest gathering of stakeholders focused on cleaning up and reusing formerly utilized commercial and industrial properties.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on HMTRI technical assistance services or to be added to our Grantee and Community Outreach Listserv, please contact Glo Hanne at ghanne@eicc.edu.

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