



Environmental Protection Department Newsletter

Wishing you all the joy and happiness throughout the New Year.



*From the Staff of the Environmental Protection Department
Bobby, Ileana, Richard, Safia & Sonia*



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The Environmental Protection Department received the wonderful opportunity to donate two Thanksgiving baskets to Social Services for distribution. We hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving holiday surrounded by good food, friends and family.



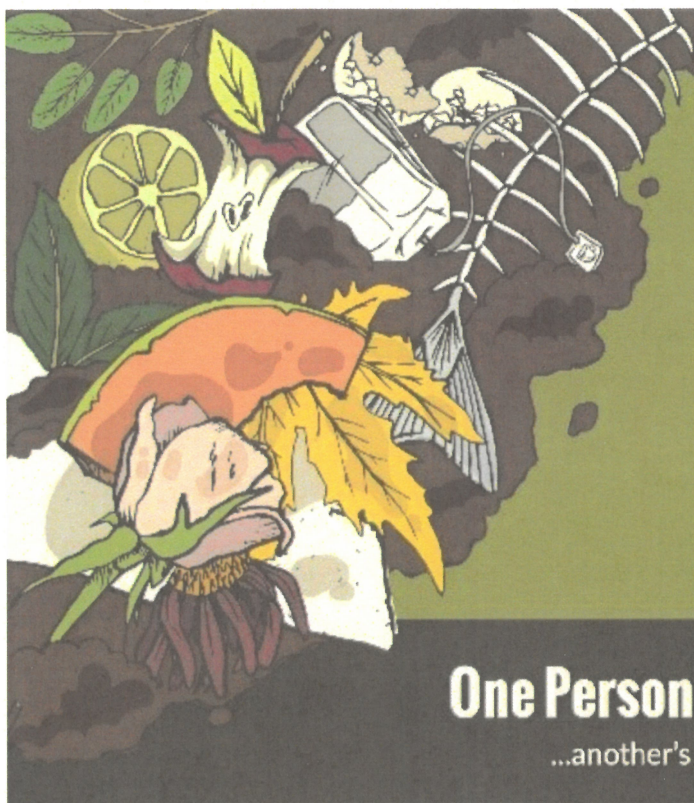
Composting Workshop

The FPST Environmental Protection Department and the Intertribal Council of Nevada hosted a “Starting Community Composting Programs on Tribal Lands,” workshop for Region 9 tribes on September 19th and 20th at the admin council chambers and reservation composting area.

Mr. Cary Oshins, Compost Educator and Advocate, from New York and the Ms. Jenny Stephenson, EPA Zero Waste Section, provided classroom and hands-on training for both days. Attending tribes included Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, Walker River Paiute Tribe, Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada, Timbisha Shoshone Tribe, Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians, Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribe, and Big Pine Paiute Tribe. Tribes learned of the importance of healthy soils to grow healthy foods to produce healthy communities. Topics included the basic steps and best practices to create a good compost pile, the benefits of composting, and approaches and methods learning from tribes with compost programs, which included the Big Pine Tribe and the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe.



Compost Impacts



COMPOST: Impacts More Than You Think

Composting is the aerobic decomposition of organic materials by microorganisms. It transforms raw materials—such as leaves, grass clippings, garden trimmings, food scraps, animal manure, and agricultural residues—into compost, a valuable earthy-smelling soil conditioner, teeming with life.

One Person's Trash is...

...another's black gold.

Every year, U.S. landfills and trash incinerators receive **167 MILLION TONS** of garbage.

> 50% of typical municipal garbage set out at the curb is compostable.

Landfills and incinerators are dangerous. Every bag thrown out contributes to:



Pollution of surrounding soil, air, and water



Climate change



Health hazards to humans and animals



21% is food scraps alone

15% paper/paperboard

8% yard trimmings

8% wood waste

SOURCES:

Broenda Platt, Nora Goldstein, Craig Colyer, and Sally Brown. *The State of Composting in the U.S.: What, Why, Where, & How*. Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR), June 2015.

US EPA. *Advancing Sustainable Materials Management: Facts and Figures 2013*, June 2015, pp. 12, 46.

Broenda Platt, Eric Lombardi, and David Claret. *Soy: Tackling the Climate*. Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR), 2008.

Broenda Platt, Bobby Bell, and Cameron Harsh. *Do-It-Yourself Composting in Maryland to Reduce Waste, Create Jobs & Protect the Bay*. Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR), May 2013.

Mike Powell. *Trash is Inevitable: Fuelwood*, Energy Justice Network web page, <http://www.energyjustice.net/>, accessed April 2016.

What's New With Our Air Program?

Last year, the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe won a grant competition focused on air monitoring in the community for underrepresented areas. Of the 132 total awards, 23 were tribes. We will be purchasing two pieces of scientific equipment to establish a continuous air monitoring program.

During wildfire season, the smoke in our area is unavoidable. Also the high winds in our valley brings in dust pollution. With as much smoke and dust in our area, the tribe is underrepresented as well as the county. The areas surrounding the reservation singularly and continuously monitor for one parameter, ozone.

With this project we will be focusing on monitoring for two parameters, Particulate Matter (PM) 10 and 2.5. The 10 and 2.5 refers to the size of the matter that has a diameter of 10 or 2.5 micrometers or smaller. A micrometer is one thousandth of a millimeter. Larger particles that are inhaled will cause coughing until it is emitted by the body. But particles that are this small and fine are easy to inhale and can make it into the lung tissue and possibly leading to health issues.

To provide timely air quality data to the community, the tribe will purchase two beta attenuation continuous monitors. Data that is collected from this project will be shared with the surrounding communities and will ultimately be available online as data will be uploaded to the U.S. EPA Air Quality System (AQS). Gathering data will also portray the severity of unhealthy air quality as it changes from year to year as the wildfire season only seems to increase in severity.



Radon Testing

86

Rn
Radon

The Environmental Protection Department will continue radon testing for homes on the reservation this year.

Testing needs to take place during the cold months as the cold weather affects radon levels. Winter is a good time to test for radon because you are, in-most cases, measuring the worst case scenario for your home.

Cold weather increased the amount of warm air that is escaping from your house through vents or drafty windows. This escape of air causes a vacuum inside the

home. If the air in your home is under negative pressure, radon gas can be pulled in from the soil below the foundation. Cracks in the concrete floors, foundations and sump pumps are typical radon entry points. This stack effect can be greater in the winter months resulting in more gas entering the home. Radon gas occurs naturally in the soil. Unfortunately, during the winter or rainy seasons, the ground around your home can become saturated with water and in some cases frozen. When this happens, it can block the flow of radon into the atmosphere and redirect it into your home in higher concen-

trations. During the winter months, most people keep their windows shut. They fire up the furnace and recirculate the same air throughout their home. Many homes have poor indoor air quality and higher radon levels because the home is closed up during winter months. In modern years, more homes are built to be energy efficient and more "tight." This energy efficiency can help keep the house warmer but it also can trap the bad air inside.

If you are interested in having your home tested for radon, please email soniaenviro@fpst.org to sign up.



PUBLIC NOTICE - November 17, 2023



The Environmental Protection Department has completed a Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe (FPST) Climate Change Adaption Plan Draft. The purpose of this Climate Change Adaption Plan is to reduce the tribe’s risk from the effects of climate change and increase adaptive capacity. The plan draft is made available to the public for a 30 day review and comment period.

This document is available for public review at the Tribe’s website at www.fpst.org and copies are available at admin, tribal health clinic, CLC, housing office, and the senior center.

Please send written comments to: **FPST Environmental Protection Department**
ATTN: Climate Change Adaption Plan
1011 Rio Vista Drive
Fallon, NV 89406

If you have any questions or need more information, please call our office at 775-423-0590. Thank you.

Snowmelt and Nonpoint Source Water Pollution

Nonpoint source pollution does not result from a single definable location, such as an industrial discharge pipe, but rather results from land runoff, precipitation, atmospheric deposition, or percolation. Exceptions are irrigation return flows and storm water flows which are deemed nonpoint sources.

Besides the runoff due to rainfall in summer, the snowmelt runoff in early spring could also play an important role in deteriorating the water quality of the receiving waters. When it snows, atmospheric pollutants can be absorbed by the snow, eventually contributing to the runoff water contamination. In contrast to summer, the air quality in winter is usually much worse than that of other seasons because of the combustion of coal for heating.

Snow accumulates a variety of contaminants from the atmosphere, motor vehicles and roadways. These contaminants include salts and salt additives, heavy metals, petroleum products such as oil and grease, bacteria, organic chemicals such as pesticides and PCBs, soil materials and litter. Sand and other soil particles act as contaminants by filling our lakes, dams and navigation channels.

Constructed wetlands are the preferred tool of ecological purification. Wetlands have gained interest due to their low maintenance and operational costs, and their high removal capacity for many kinds of pollutants. Fortunately, we have two wetlands at the end of our watershed.



Tribal EPA and U.S. EPA Region 9 Conference

The 31st Annual Tribal EPA Conference was held on October 24-26, 2023 in Alpine, CA. Tribes throughout Region 9 (California, Nevada and Arizona) attended the Regional Tribal Operations Committee Fall Meeting and the Annual Conference. The theme for this year's conference was "This Land We Love."

The conference was hosted by the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Band of Mission Indians who worked diligently to provide a successful conference for us all.

There were many breakout sessions, round tables, training, workshops and panel discussions available on various topics as well

as program updates.

In attending the conference, the Tribal EPA and U.S. EPA provided the opportunity to learn from Tribal environmental professionals and USEPA experts.

The Environmental Protection Department manages 5 grants and eight programs. The information received by attending this conference, the contacts that have been made, and the success stories that have been shared are an invaluable resource to our programs. It also provided staff the opportunity to reach out to other tribes who have similar projects.



Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe Environmental Protection Department Curbside Recycling Services

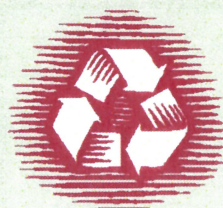
Curbside recycling pickup days are on **Wednesdays after 8 AM.**

Paper: Separate newspaper, office paper, and magazines and bundle them so they will not blow away.

Place recyclable materials in provided recycling bin and put on your curbside for recycling pick-up day.

Curbside recycling services are available to FPST community households. Schedule is subject to change due to inclement weather, holidays, etc. If you have any questions, please call our office at (775) 423-0590.

Thank You!



Recycling Do's and Don'ts

YES! Recycle These Items!

✓ Paper

- Dry

✓ Plastics #1 AND #2

(Number located on the bottom of the container)

- THROW AWAY ALL LIDS

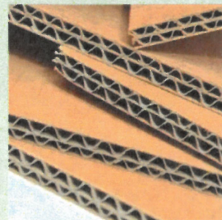
- Cleaned

✓ Aluminum AND Tin

- Empty
- Rinsed
- Dry

✓ Boxes

- Clean
- Dry



No, Not These!

✗ No Waxed Cardboard/Cartons



✗ No Plastic Bags-take back to store.

- ✗ No Yogurt cups
- No Pet food containers other than cans
- No Styrofoam
- No napkins

- No paper plates
- No paper cups
- No pill bottles
- No PETE (#3-#7)



Christmas Tree Recycling

It's that time of year again! After Christmas, the Environmental Protection Department will be implementing a Christmas Tree Recycling Program to provide community residents with an easy alternative to sending their trees to the landfill.

Tree recycling is a process where trees are chipped, mainly into mulch and compost. Trees will be collected at your curbside from December 27, 2023 to January 10th, 2024, during regular business hours. All decorations, including tinsel, nails and stands must be removed, and artificial trees will not be accepted. Please call the Environmental Protection Department office at 775-423-0590 to sign up to have your tree picked up or if you have any questions.

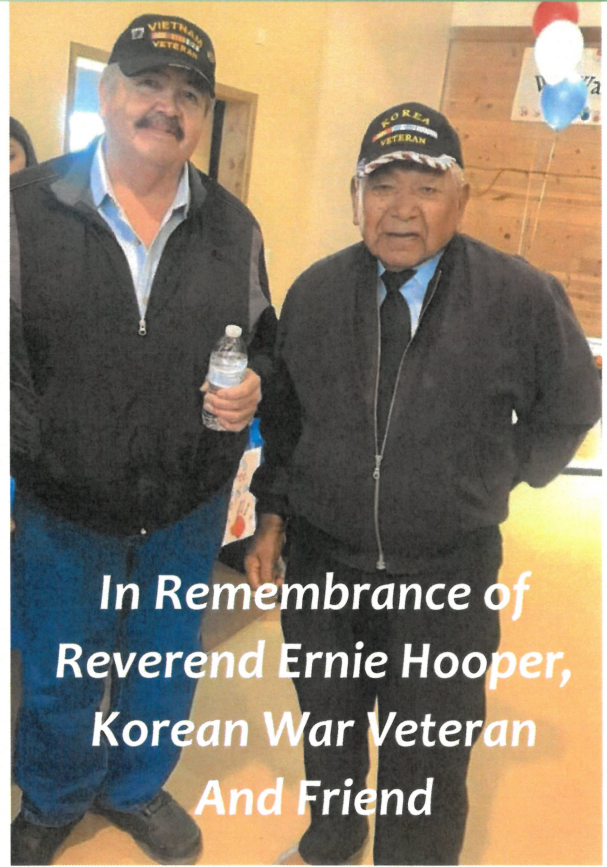
Thank you.

FPST Environmental Protection Department



Honoring Our Veterans

To honor those who have served, a Tribal Veteran's Lunch was held at the tribal gymnasium on November 9th. The Pyramid Lake Warriors and Veterans Organization posted the Colors. Vice Chairman, Andy Hicks, opened the event, which was followed with an honor song provided by Colton Tohonnie. Many thanks to the Fallon Business Council and to those special people who contributed to this annual event. To all of our Veterans: Thank you for your service.



*In Remembrance of
Reverend Ernie Hooper,
Korean War Veteran
And Friend*

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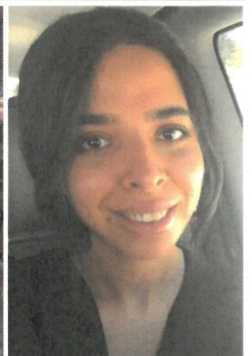
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