

October 7, 2015



## Notes from Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC)—Cycle 13, Session 5

This was the fifth session in this cycle of ten Professional Learning Community conversations after returning from a summer break. During this cycle, we will focus on the following themes:

- Establishing Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) Programs
- Peer-to-peer mentoring and idea exchange
- Discovering resources for enhancing EWDJT programs
- Helpful hints and open discussion

As part of our informal discussions, we plan to showcase experienced and new grantees, and seek input from government, nonprofit, and private sector mentors.

Question from a PLC participant:

*Where can EWDJT programs considering the use of tablets locate digital training material?*

A great deal of digital media exists, mostly in pdf format. Self-instructional programs are also being developed as part of the NIEHS worker health and safety training program.

The most abundant source of open source environmental training material is available from federal agencies and universities—Department of Energy, HUD, NASA, and especially EPA. Most instructors comb these sources to find materials most relevant to the subject they are teaching. Within the EWDJT community, each instructor customizes the curriculum specifically for their training. Exceptions are OSHA-, HUD- and EPA-certified courses and are often supplemented with additional customized materials.

Suggestions for additional digital training materials are welcome. We will share them with the group in upcoming PLC sessions.

Curriculum materials from EWDJT Grantees:

Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) has implemented the use of tablets to replace printed materials for several years with great success. FSCJ has customized curriculum specific to their target area and may not be applicable to other grantees. Below is contact information for Jorge Gutierrez at FSCJ.

Jorge Gutierrez

[j.a.gutierrez@fscj.edu](mailto:j.a.gutierrez@fscj.edu)

904.633.5976

Environmental training materials library:

[www.ateec.org](http://www.ateec.org)

Go to Resources and then to eERL Library to search materials on any environmental topic.

OSHA Health and Safety Training materials

[www.tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/](http://www.tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/)

A complete guide to materials and activities associated with the NIEHS worker training program.

Partnership for Environmental Technology Education

[www.nationalPETE.org](http://www.nationalPETE.org)

Materials and activities associated with the PETE NIEHS worker training program. Go to downloads and then to resources.

Topics: News from Washington and HMTRI

*Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting, August 19–20, 2015*

2015 National Brownfields Training Conference, September 1–4, 2015

Next round of EWDJT RFPs, Late October/November—Preparation Hints

Networking and Items of Interest

### **News from Washington and HMTRI**

A lot has happened over summer break since our last PLC call. Below is a quick overview.

Joe Bruss, our EPA EWDJT Headquarters project officer, left his position in Washington to work in Portland, Oregon for EPA Region 10. Joe has been a great supporter and advocate for the EWDJT program over the years, and we expect his continued interest in environmental justice and worker training to continue.

The primary contact for communities engaged in environmental workforce training is at the regional level. Those thinking of applying for federal assistance should contact their EPA Regional Job Training Coordinator. Contact information is included near the end of last year's RFP at <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/grants/epa-oswer-oblr-15-01.pdf>.

Glo Hanne is on a temporary leave of absence, acting as caregiver for her husband recovering from cancer surgery. All is going well and we wish them our best.

The next round of EWDJT Request for Proposals will likely be issued in late October or November. Preparation hints are discussed later in these post-session notes.

### ***Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting, August 19–20, 2015***

Each year, after new grantees have been selected, HMTRI facilitates a two-day meeting in cooperation with EPA. The conference is attended by EWDJT active and alumni grantees, PLC participants, and EPA staff. Working sessions include presentations by EPA program offices, peer-to-peer problem solving breakout sessions, and meetings with Regional Coordinators. It's all about developing and sustaining environmental workforce development programs.

Our next All-Grantee meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 2016 in Alexandria, VA. Prospective grantees are encouraged to include this important meeting in their proposals. While accommodations are provided, attendees must pay for travel and meals.

### **2015 National Brownfields Training Conference, September 1–4, 2015**

Every 18 months, ICMA in coordination with EPA convenes a national Brownfields conference. In contrast to the smaller All-Grantee Meeting which is specific to environmental workforce development, the national conference covers all aspects of Brownfields economic development.

Major themes of this year's conference include community engagement, environmental cleanup, assessment, finance, real estate liability, enforcement, and sustainable communities.

The next national conference will likely be in the spring of 2017 and should also be considered in travel budgets. The conference, including pre- and post-sessions, takes place over an entire week and is well worth attending.

Environmental justice (EJ) and equitable development was a major topic in this year's conference. Deehn Ferris, Sustainable Community Development Group, facilitated a workshop on equitable development and environmental justice. Our last PLC call featured a presentation by Deehn and their work in promoting EJ and equitable development as it relates to workforce development programs. We will address this topic as part of EWDJT program plans in future discussions.

Following the Brownfields Conference, OAI conducted an open house and working session including recruitment strategies and the use of social media in student retention. This will be another topic for future PLC conference calls.

**Next round of EWDJT RFPs, Late October/November—Preparation Hints**

As previously noted, the estimated target date for the next round of EWDJT Request for Proposals is late October or November. Today, this is how a tentative schedule would look:

- Request for proposals—November 2015
- Proposals due through grants.gov—late January 2016
- Award announcement—April or May 2016
- Administrative and work plan approvals—July/August 2016
- Next Annual All-Grantee Meeting—August 2016
- Training and execution of work plans and project reporting—September 2016 and beyond
- Quarterly reports—due every three months
- Next National Brownfields Conference—Spring 2017

We will update this schedule as additional information becomes available.

This is a long planning horizon, but those interested in establishing an EWDJT program with federal assistance need to start now as many ranking criteria require collaboration and partnership development. A good starting point for new communities not familiar with the EPA EWDJT program is to obtain a copy of the FY2015 RFP at <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/grants/epa-oswer-oblr-15-01.pdf> or request one from Mike Senew at [msenew@aol.com](mailto:msenew@aol.com). Contact information for Regional Job Training Coordinators is included near the end of the RFP in table form.

Note that the 2016 solicitation may have provisions not included in previous RFPs. While the basic requirements of the 2016 guidelines are likely to remain the same, organizations considering submitting proposals need to familiarize themselves with changes in evaluation criteria when issued.

Things to do now in preparation for the release of the RFP:

Contact your Regional Brownfields Training Coordinator to inform them of your interest in applying for an EPA grant. There is no commitment required and the Regional Coordinator may provide helpful hints, contacts, and encouragement in developing your program.

Begin thinking about your EWDJT team. We will discuss partnerships in the next PLC on October 21.

Review the websites below to build a knowledge base regarding the development of an EWDJT program and application for federal assistance.

- Learn about the Brownfields program at [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).
- Find other EWDJT grantees in your area at [http://cfpub.epa.gov/bf\\_factsheets/index.cfm](http://cfpub.epa.gov/bf_factsheets/index.cfm).
- Learn about the EWDJT application and award process at [www.epa.gov/grants](http://www.epa.gov/grants).
- Subscribe to the National Brownfields Listserve. By adding your name to the Brownfields Listserve, you will receive periodic announcements and press releases related to the Brownfields Program. To subscribe to the Brownfields Listserve, send a blank email message to [brownfields-subscribe@lists.epa.gov](mailto:brownfields-subscribe@lists.epa.gov).

### **Networking and Items of Interest**

#### Webinar—Equitable Development

The Role of Brownfields Renewal, Community Land Trusts, and Employee-Owned Businesses in Neighborhood Stability, October 14, 2015, 2:00PM–3:00PM EDT

This webinar is the second training event in this equitable development technical assistance series. The first training was the Equitable Development Workshop September 1, 2015 in Chicago at EPA's Brownfields 2015 National Training Conference. For more information and to register, visit <http://clu-in.org/live>.

The foundation for creating strong, economically resilient, and liveable communities is increasingly built upon a spectrum of place-based activities that develop improved tools and strategies. This webinar is designed to give participants practical tools and share insider views about pioneering community building models. The webinar topic is community driven equitable development strategies focusing upon two models:

- (1) Employee-owned company(s) that creates jobs and career pathways for local residents.
- (2) Community land trust that provides permanently affordable housing programs for local residents.

#### @EPALand on Twitter

EPA recently launched @EPALand on Twitter to help you learn about what is being done to protect and clean up our land. Stay up to date on topics including [site cleanups](#), learn about [renewable energy technologies](#) on contaminated sites, [sustainable materials management](#), and understand how EPA responds to [hazardous material emergencies](#). Follow @EPALand and join the conversation at <https://twitter.com/EPALand>.

#### The Corps Network

Established in 1985, The Corps Network is the voice of the nation's 151 Service and Conservation Corps. Currently operating in every state and the District of Columbia, Corps annually enrolls more than 30,000 young men and women in service. Corps annually mobilizes approximately 289,000 community volunteers who in conjunction with Corps members generate 13.5 million hours of service every year. For more information visit [www.corpsnetwork.org](http://www.corpsnetwork.org)

#### Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice Seeks Student-Developed Climate Justice Projects

The Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice's (IWG EJ) new "Educate, Motivate and Innovate (EMI) Climate Justice Initiative" Sub-Committee is reaching out to our next generation of young climate-justice leaders attending Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs). They are seeking student-developed climate justice projects to showcase during their Inaugural EMI Climate Justice Training

Workshop as part of the 2016 National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program to be held March 9-12, 2016 at the Marriot Marquis Hotel in Washington, DC.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Next PLC Session: October 21, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. EST

Feel free to invite a guest! Send your contact information to Mike Senew at [msenew@aol.com](mailto:msenew@aol.com).



Visit our *HMTRI Brownfields Toolbox* Web site at

<http://www.brownfields-toolbox.org> for more information on Brownfields Job Training programs. All PLC session notes and recordings are also located on the *Brownfields Toolbox* website at

<http://brownfields-toolbox.org/plc-corner/>. For those interested in providing content or suggestions, please contact Glo Hanne at [ghanne@eicc.edu](mailto:ghanne@eicc.edu).

**NOTE:** The PLC brings together ideas and opinions of individuals interested in environmental workforce development and training. Ideas and opinions are not those of EPA, its policy or opinions and should not be taken as official guidance.