



**Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC) –11/03/2021**

**This week's discussion topics**

- Updates from Washington
- The Alaska Forum Inc. - training in rural and remote target communities
- EPA job training – moving forward

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If you received these notes, you are on our list to continue receiving announcements and session notes. Return this email with subject "Remove" if you are no longer interested in receiving PLC notes and announcements. **You can also respond to these notes or provide comments to the PLC by returning this email.**

If you or an associate would like to be added to the PLC participant list, return a copy of this email, or send contact information the following address.

[HMTRI@eicc.edu](mailto:HMTRI@eicc.edu)

Ideas presented during these sessions represent individual opinions. They do not represent EPA, state, local or organizational policy. Information presented should not be taken as such.

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**Post Session Notes**

**Session 265, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**

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## 1. Latest from Washington

### **Brownfields 2021 National Conference**

**Has been postponed from December 8 - 11, 2021 to a later date (Summer 2022).**

Read more in these post session notes.

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### **FY 2022 Brownfields**

**Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grants**

**Application submission deadline - December 1, 2021.**

EPA has announced the release of RFAs for Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grant funding. Evaluation criteria includes community engagement which may involve partnering with Brownfields Job Training programs in target communities. To learn more about Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grants go to the following site.

[EPA RLF Requests for Applications](#)

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## 2. From HMTRI

The Environmental Workforce PLC meets every other Wednesday from 2:00 pm to 2:30 pm Eastern time. Each PLC session includes discussions related to Brownfields environmental workforce development and the successful implementation of EPA's Job Training (JT) program. The objective of the (PLC) is to share innovative strategies among Brownfields Job training communities and assisting new communities develop Brownfields environmental job training programs.

This is the tenth and final call in this cycle of Workforce Development Professional Learning Community (PLC) conversations. **The next cycle will begin January 13<sup>th</sup>.** Between today's PLC and the beginning of the new cycle, we will keep participants informed with EPA news, notes and workforce development opportunities. If you are a current PLC member you will remain on the PLC membership list.

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**Less than two weeks left - register today!**

On November 17, 2021, HMTRI will be hosting a Midyear Virtual Networking Workshop for Job Training grant recipients and stakeholders interested in environmental job training programs. The structure of the event will include informal brainstorming and networking sessions guided by a facilitator.

The goal of the Mid-Year Virtual Brainstorming Workshop is to network, get to know each other and perhaps leave with some thoughts and ideas we can incorporate in our job training programs.

Three topic areas will be addressed including promoting job training, community engagement and partnership development, and student retention and graduate placement. In addition, participants will have an opportunity to refresh relationships with EPA Regional Job Training Coordinators, current grant recipients, and others interested in starting environmental job training programs. Discussions will be impromptu without PowerPoints or prepared presentations.

**You must register to attend**

Please fill out the Google Form located at the following location.

[>> Click here to register for the HMTRI Virtual Workshop <<](#)

**HMTRI Mid-Year Virtual Brainstorming Workshop**  
**Wednesday, November 17, 2021**  
**12:00 – 4:30 PM Eastern**  
**Tentative Agenda**

- 12:00 – 12:15: Welcome, Introductions & Meeting Goals and Objectives (Josh/Mike/Steve)
- 12:15 – 12:30: David Lloyd, Director Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization (OBLR)
- 12:30 – 12:45: Keynote Address: Nolan Curtis
- 12:45 – 12:50: Move to Breakouts
- 12:50 – 1:20: Brainstorming Sessions – Promoting Environmental JT Programs
- 1:20 – 1:30: BREAK
- 1:30 – 2:00: Brainstorming Sessions – Community Engagement and Partnership Development
- 2:30 – 3:00: Brainstorming Sessions – Student Retention and Graduate Employment
- 3:00 – 3:10: Return to Plenary
- 3:10 – 4:00: Freestyle Discussion & Breakout Results
- 4:00 – 4:30: Networking Sessions – Regional JT Coordinators
- 4:30 Adjourn and After Hours: Video Tours & Discussion

**Talking points for Mid-Year Virtual Brainstorming breakouts**

While breakouts are intended to be informal networking sessions, they will be guided by facilitators. To have an idea of the topic areas that will be covered, here is a list of talking points for each facilitator including the keynote address presented by Nolan Curtis to get the workshop started.

**Keynote Address: Nolan Curtis**

- How can we better relate to our participants and their communities?
- How can we better relate to our employers?
- The example of Home Boy Industries – could be incorporate or tie all three questions together.
- How does the job training program relate to environmental justice or the EJ movement?

**Promoting Environmental Job Training Programs (Partners, Applicants & Employers)**

- How do we document the need for environmental job training in underserved communities?
- How do we sell the Environmental Job Training Program to governmental agencies and leveraging partners?
- How do we recruit job training applicants during COVID and periods of low unemployment?
- How do we market program graduates to potential employers?

**Community Engagement and Partnership Development (Communities and Partners)**

- How do we locate the target community in which to train?
- How do you engage and interact with the community?
- How do we locate and recruit all partners? (Governmental, Community and Advisory Board)
- What are your expectations of your partners? (Governmental, Community and Advisory Board)

**Student Retention and Graduate Employment (Retaining and then placing students)**

- How do we keep students engaged and motivated to prevent dropout or apathy?
- How do you handle a “bad apple”, disrupter or negative personality?
- How do we engage employers to become active in the Job Training program?
- How do we present graduates to employers from a different cultural or socio-economic background?

**Freestyle Discussion & Breakout Results**

- Recorders present issues from their session
- Interesting ideas to mitigate those issues
- General thoughts from the group
- Unresolved questions?

**Regional JT Coordinator networking**

- Introductions
- Expectations of Grant recipients from the Regional Coordinator’s perspective
- Questions and thoughts

After Hours: Video Tours & Discussion

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### **3. Amy Tannahill, The Alaska Forum Inc.**

Amy, Thank you for your presentation today.

The Alaska Forum has been an EPA Job Training grant recipient since 2014 with successful competitions in 2016, 2018 and 2020. Environmental training in dispersed or rural communities presents some of the greatest challenges faced by JT grant recipients. In Alaska those challenges are supercharged for the following reason.

- Participants experience a range of health, education, age, gender, and cultural disparities.
- Job opportunities in remote locations are limited.
- Communities offer limited options for transportation when target communities are disbursed.
- Student populations have limited computer and internet access.

The Alaska Forum's JT program has approached these issues in a variety of ways with collaborative efforts and partnerships in the following areas.

- Apprenticeship programs
- Occupational training
- Targeted technical assistance

During the COVID pandemic, Alaska Forum has developed a strong digital platform allowing delivery of online instruction for most of their offerings.

#### **Target Community**

Alaska Forum, Inc. is targeting unemployed and underemployed, low-income residents in rural areas throughout the state of Alaska.

#### **Training Goals**

As Part of their 2020 Job Training application, Alaska Forum, Inc. indicated training 60 students and placement of at least 43. With digital training and distance learning strategies, Alaska Forum has been able to exceed that goal. As explained by Amy, The Alaska Forum since the COVID pandemic has migrated from the traditional set of cohorts with specific offerings to a training on demand model as shown below.

#### **Delivery method, instruction, and curriculum**

The Alaska Forum since the COVID pandemic has migrated from the traditional set of cohorts with specific offerings to an "on demand" training model. In the past, training has been available in over 37 topic areas. Those topics have included 23 federal certifications and five state certifications. Here is a listing training that has been offered.

- 40-hour HAZWOPER
- HAZWOPER refresher

- Aircraft/field safety
- Alaska certified erosion and sediment control lead
- Alaska qualified sampler training
- Asbestos awareness
- Asbestos handler and worker
- ATV/ORV operation, maintenance & safety
- Bear/firearm safety
- Confined space/entry
- Driving safety
- Energy isolation/fall protection
- First aid/CPR/survival
- Forklift operation
- Freon removal and handling
- GPS/GIS in environmental field work
- Hazardous communication
- Hazardous materials awareness
- Home fuel tank inspection and maintenance
- Incident command system 100 and 200
- Indoor air quality sampling and monitoring
- IS-5.A: an introduction to hazardous materials
- Lead awareness
- Maintenance & safety
- MSHA awareness
- NIMS IS 700/706
- North Slope training cooperative unescorted
- OSHA 10-hour construction,
- OSHA 2015 hazardous materials
- OSHA 7107 evacuation and emergency planning
- OSHA disaster site worker
- Recycling health and safety
- Respiratory fitness testing
- Shipping and transportation DOT/IATA
- Small boat operation
- Trenching and excavating
- Wilderness first aid

### **Key Partners**

Alaska Forum partners have included the following organizations

- Kodiak Island Borough
- Jacobs
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
- Cook Inlet Tribal Council
- University of Washington NIEHS Worker Training Program
- Kawerak, Inc.
- NRC Alaska
- Knik Tribal Council
- UMIAQ Environmental

Amy has indicated she would be happy to provide more detail regarding their apprenticeship, technical assistance, or occupational training program to those interested.

Amy Tannahill  
The Alaska Forum Inc.  
ATannahill@akforum.org

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#### **4. A “shout out” to Coalfield Development Inc., Brandon M. Dennison**

Today we would like to give a “Shout Out” to Brandon Dennison an EPA Job Training Alumni who was featured on NBC News Today for his work in Southern West Virginia. West Virginia has the nation’s highest unemployment rate, lowest labor participation rate and second lowest higher education rate. The southern portion of the state has been especially “hard hit” with few jobs, fewer employers, and little hope for future prosperity.

##### **About Coalfield Development**

Coalfield Development is in the process of creating a social enterprise model that could be useful to many rural and Native American tribes located in communities with few employers and fewer available jobs.

Coalfield Development is an aggregation of six nonprofits working together training and placing community residents in a variety of newly created jobs. Those employment opportunities currently fall into six general career paths.

- Agriculture
- Green construction
- Solar
- Mine and land reclamation
- Land and facility redevelopment
- Creative space and social enterprise

Coalfield Development was formed in 2009 by local citizen leaders concerned that the people of Wayne County lacked adequate access to quality, affordable housing. Initially, the organization was staffed by volunteers. In 2010 Brandon Dennison, who previously worked as a West Virginia Housing Intern shifted his efforts to Coalfield Development. Under his leadership, Coalfield has rapidly grown into the regional entity it is today.

### **Curriculum and training**

The guiding vision for Coalfield's training is the 33-6-3 program - Formally unemployed people (especially laid-off coalminers) are hired on to work-crews that staff the social enterprises listed above. These work-crews provide labor on community projects that create assets for local residents. Each week, crewmembers complete 33 hours of paid work, 6 credit hours of higher education, and 3 hours of personal development mentorship. Training is coupled with a 12-12 reflection. Twelve on personal attitude and 12 for care (of self and others).

Trainees participate in environmental job training on two levels, basic and advanced. EWDJT participants can participate in either program. Both levels provide life skills training, job shadowing and internships in addition to construction skills training.

To learn more about the Coalfield Development Corporation, I highly encourage everyone to visit.

[www.coalfield-development.org](http://www.coalfield-development.org)

Brandon M. Dennison, CEO  
Coalfield Development Corporation  
(304) 501-4755

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## **5. FY22 environmental job training timeline and things to do now**

For this year's Environmental Job Training applicants, the FY22 grant cycle timeline depends on the award date and when applicants are authorized to spend funds. The first two years focus on program development, training delivery and placement. A final year has been added for additional training, placement, tracking and program sustainability. Milestones for the FY22 JT cycle might look like the schedule below.

### **November**

- Applications not passing threshold Criteria are notified within 15 days of grant closure.

### **Winter 2021**

- Evaluation Criteria reviews continue.
- Plan on attending the HMTRI virtual networking workshop on November 17<sup>th</sup> to network with EPA Regional Coordinators, grant recipients, and other potential JT programs.
- **Keep in touch with key partners. Those providing letters of support may be contacted regarding their commitment to your program.**

### **Spring 2022**

- Pending final review, 15 programs are recommended for FY22 funding consideration.



- Successful and unfunded applicants are notified if their program has been recommended for funding.
- **Look forward to attending Brownfields 22 rescheduled from December 2021.**

#### **Summer 2022**

- Grant packages are sent to successful applicants.
- Award letters and acceptance by applicants completed.
- Work plans and grant administration is completed prior to final award.
- Funds available for training are released before September 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.
- **Plan on attending the HMTRI All Grantee Annual Meeting in Alexandria VA.**
- **For year 2 and 3 grantees, prepare for the FY23 Job Training RFA.**

#### **Winter 2022- 2023**

- Initial cohorts begin with program refinements, partnership development and placement continuing.
- Training and placement continue with ACRES reporting quarterly.
- Consideration regarding program expansion, improvement and sustainability continue.

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## **5. Funding opportunities**

### **Funding Availability for FY 2022 Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grants**

This notice announces the availability of funds and solicits applications from eligible entities for Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), and Cleanup Grant funding. The application submission deadline is December 1, 2021.

[FY 2022 Brownfields Assessment, RLF, and Cleanup Grant Guidelines and Application Resources](#)

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### **EJ4Climate: Environmental Justice and Climate Resilience Applications are due by Nov. 14, 2021.**

The North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) is launching a \$2 million grant program, EJ4Climate, to support environmental justice and climate resilience for underserved, vulnerable communities, and Indigenous communities across North America. This program will provide funding directly to Indigenous communities and community-based organizations to prepare for climate-related impacts.

[Learn more>>>](#)

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## **Funding Guidance for State and Tribal Response Programs for FY 2022**

Requests for FY 2022 Section 128(a) funding will be accepted from October 1, 2021 – December 17, 2021 and should be sent to the EPA Regional Office contact listed at the end of the guidance (link below).

Section 128(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended, authorizes a noncompetitive \$50 million grant program to establish or enhance state and tribal response programs. Generally, these response programs address the assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of brownfields and other sites with actual or perceived contamination. Please visit [Types of Brownfields Grant Funding](#) for an overview of the State and Tribal Response Program Grants, including program resources and highlights.

First-time requestors are strongly encouraged to contact their Regional EPA Brownfields contact, listed on the last page of the guidance, prior to submitting their funding request.

### [FY2022 Funding Guidance for State and Tribal Response Programs](#)

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#### **Environmental Justice Grants and Resources**

The primary purpose of EPA's environmental justice grant programs is to support and empower communities as they develop and implement solutions that significantly address environmental and/or public health issues at the local level.

Other EPA resources, such as technical assistance, mapping tools, and training materials provide the public with additional means to improve understanding and build capacity to effectively participate in local decision-making opportunities and transform communities.

[EJ Grants and Resources](#)

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## **7. Resources and training opportunities**

### **Resources on Substance Use Prevention**

As National Substance Abuse Prevention Month comes to a close, we wanted to remind you of the resources available through the Clearinghouse, along with the special edition of *New Solutions on Opioids and the Workplace – Risk Factors and Solutions*.

[WTP Opioids and Substance Use](#)

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### **Learn more about PFAS:**

PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals that includes PFOA, PFOS, PFBS, GenX, and many other chemicals. PFAS have been manufactured and used in a variety of industries around the globe, including in the United States since the 1940s. PFOA and PFOS have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. Both chemicals are very persistent in the environment and in the human body – meaning they do not break down, and they can accumulate over time. Evidence indicates that exposure to PFAS can lead to adverse human

health effects. The actions described in the PFAS Roadmap each represent important and meaningful steps to safeguard communities from PFAS contamination. Cumulatively, these actions will build upon one another and lead to more enduring and protective solutions.

<https://www.epa.gov/pfas/basic-information-pfas>.

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### **More about Lead**

Because children can be exposed to lead from multiple sources in their environment, EPA is taking a whole of government approach to reducing blood lead levels in children by working closely with other federal agencies such as HUD and CDC that can help address this issue, as well as with state, Tribal, and local government partners. Over the next several years, EPA will target opportunities to focus resources on the most vulnerable communities.

In addition, EPA will be carrying out the following activities during National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week to help a wide variety of audiences learn more about preventing lead exposure.

- Renovation, Restoration and Painting (RRP) Trainings – EPA is also offering trainings for renovators at no cost.

[Learn more and register for an upcoming in-person RRP training near you.](#)

Established in 1999 by the US Senate, National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week occurs every year during the last week in October. During this week, many states and communities offer free blood-lead testing and conduct various education and awareness events. For more information on what EPA, HUD, and CDC are doing during NLPPW

- EPA - <https://www.epa.gov/lead/national-lead-poisoning-prevention-week>
- HUD - [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/healthy\\_homes/nlppw](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/healthy_homes/nlppw)
- CDC - <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/national-lead-poisoning-prevention-week.htm>
- For more information on EPA and Lead:  
<https://www.epa.gov/lead>

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### **LCI Aims to Help Shape President Biden's Justice40 Initiative**

President Joe Biden ordered federal agencies to direct 40% of the government's investments in climate and clean infrastructure to benefit people in disadvantaged communities. Implementing the directive is not simple. Scholars from the University California Los Angeles Luskin Center for Innovation (under advisement from environmental justice leaders) developed a new report. This report suggests a framework for federal officials to use that maximizes Justice40's impact.

[LCI Newsroom](#)

[LCI Justice40 Report](#)

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**The CWP is a national non-profit that works to advance the science of watershed & stormwater management.**

We are proud to offer a Clean Water Certificate Training Program that was created to partner with workforce development programs. Learn more about this ANSI accredited program as well as our CWC Instructor Preparation Program.

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

**Clean Water Certificate Training Program - Center for Watershed Protection (cwp.org)**

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## **8. Virtual conferences, webinars, and recordings**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites Environmental Justice (EJ) advocates and the public to participate in the following agency events:

### [National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Calls](#),

Now happening biweekly, to discuss and receive feedback on all aspects of EJ at EPA with partners and communities. Additionally, the biweekly community engagement calls speak to the agency's commitment to [Justice40](#), an initiative announced by President Joe Biden, to deliver 40 percent of the overall benefits of relevant federal investments to disadvantaged communities. The next national EJ community engagement call is Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. To see the calendar for upcoming calls, register for upcoming calls, and view meeting materials for past calls, please visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls>

November 9, 2021	Register Here: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/epa-natl-environmental-justice-community-engagement-call-nov-9-2021-registration-191211668247">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/epa-natl-environmental-justice-community-engagement-call-nov-9-2021-registration-191211668247</a>	Justice 40: Focus on EPA's Superfund Remedial Program EPA Strategic Plan: Focus on Goal 2 -- EJ and Civil Rights
November 23, 2021	Registration Information Forthcoming	
December 7, 2021	Registration Information Forthcoming	

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### **Texas A&M Superfund Research Center Disaster Research Training Workshop**

The Texas A&M Superfund Research Center is sponsoring a two-day, hands-on workshop at the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) Disaster City, Emergency Operations Training Center, College Station, Texas, on Dec. 2-3. Registration and the workshop agenda are now available.

[More Information](#)

[Workshop Agenda](#)

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### **Smart Growth Network webinar series**

Join EPA's Brownfields/Land Revitalization and Office of Community Revitalization staff for a series of informative stories from communities of color near Chicago and Boston, as part of a six-part Smart Growth Network webinar series, beginning in August and running through the end of the year.

- **November 10, 2:00 pm EST:** Focusing Infrastructure Investment to Benefit Neighborhoods (Gary, Indiana)
  - **December 1, 2:00 pm EST:** Using Health Impact Assessments to Engage Communities and Prioritize Action
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### **EPA's RE-Development Academy**

Join EPA to learn how to recognize value and unlock reuse opportunities at brownfield sites.

**Part 1: Webinar Series Learn how to reposition sites, manage risk, and overcome challenges to attracting investment to brownfield sites.**

Hear about successful brownfield redevelopment in economically distressed areas from the experts.

### **Show Me How: Brownfields Redevelopment in Economically Distressed Areas**

**November 19, 2021**

**1:00pm-3:00pm ET**

Register here:

<https://clu-in.org/conf/tio/bfredev3/>

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## 9. In-person events

### **The 26th Florida Remediation Conference**

**November 17-19, 2021**

**Call for Speakers and Poster Presenters**

**Rosen Centre Hotel**

**Orlando, Florida**

The Florida Remediation Conference (FRC) is one of the premier soils, air, and water remediation conferences of the year. Though FRC started out as a Florida-centric event 25 years ago, it has developed a solid reputation for fostering the remediation and redevelopment industries across the Southeast. FRC attracts over 600 attendees comprised of a mix of industry representatives, developers, consultants, and contractors, and over 100 exhibitors and sponsors from across the country. It is far from just being a Florida event.

#### **Topical areas for consideration include:**

- Innovative Remediation Technologies
- Environmental Assessment and Analysis
- Emerging Contaminants
- Vapor Intrusion Investigation and Remediation
- Brownfields and Redevelopment
- Characterization, Fate and Transport
- Risk Assessment Practices, Applications, and Benefits
- Environmental Forensics
- Innovative Strategies and Approaches to Expedite Site Closure
- Remediation of Petroleum and Heavy Hydrocarbons
- Funding and Insuring Remediation Projects
- Business Aspects for the Environmental Professional
- Other

[For more Information](#)

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### **Brownfields 2021 National Conference**

**Has been postponed from December 8 - 11, 2021 to a later date (Summer 2022)**

**If you have already registered for the National Conference, ICMA suggests the following.**

- Do nothing, and we they will reserve your registration for Brownfields 2022 (Dates to be determined).
- Reach out to [brownfields@prereg.net](mailto:brownfields@prereg.net) by November 1, 2021, for a full refund.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

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**PFAS Forum II****May 2-4, 2022****Renaissance Tampa International Plaza Hotel****Tampa, Florida**

The PFAS Forum II is being organized to provide an understanding of the environmental issues related to PFAS, educate the environmental/remediation industry and regulatory community on the potential risks from PFAS, as well as discuss regulatory and legal issues, monitoring, treatment, cleanup, and disposal technologies. Go to:

<https://pfasforum.org>

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**10. Contact EPA Regional Coordinators**

Regional Coordinators are the first place to go regarding questions about JT grants, extensions, budgets, or work plans. Many Regions maintain a Listserv for past, current, and potential recipients. It is important to be on their contact list for conference calls and newsletters.

**EPA Region 1**

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**EPA Region 10**

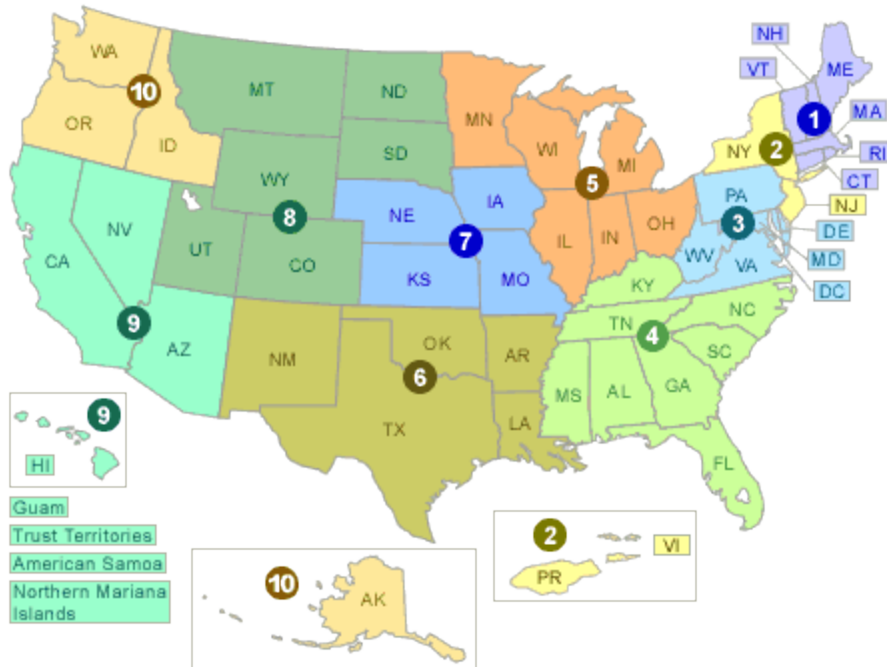
AK, ID, OR, WA

Angel Ip

Phone: (206) 553-1673

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**11. Join us for the next cycle of Professional Learning Community calls beginning January 12<sup>th</sup>.**

Missed a few of our PLC sessions? Post session notes are available on the [brownfields-toolbox.org](http://brownfields-toolbox.org). Go to the PLC corner or respond to this email with questions or comments.

The objective of the (PLC) is to promote and share innovative strategies among those interested in establishing community based environmental job training programs. Our sessions allow participants to stay in touch with JT happenings, ask questions, showcase their programs, and help others. The Environmental Workforce PLC is open to all and there is no cost or obligation to attend. Join us when you can.

This was the tenth and final PLC call in this cycle of Workforce Development Professional Learning Community (PLC) conversations. PLC will begin again January 12<sup>th</sup> following a winter break.

Watch for updates and the next issue of CONNECT news this December. Email questions or to be placed on the PLC register send contact information to: [hmtri@icc.edu](mailto:hmtri@icc.edu)

If you would like to invite a guest, feel free to forward this email.

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

*PLC notes presented represent individual opinions and ideas from Professional Learning Community participants and JT recipients. They do not represent EPA policy, guidance or opinions and should not be taken as such.*

For more information on HMTRI technical assistance services or to be added to our Grantee and Community Outreach Listserv, please email to:  
[hmtri@eicc.edu](mailto:hmtri@eicc.edu).

