PRAIRIE BAND POTAWATOMI
DIVISION OF PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

REZ RECYCLER

Fall 2014

Community Clean Up
On October 3-4 2014

Congratulations Community!

During the two day Community Collection: Household Hazardous Waste the wonderful people in our community contributed over 4,000 pounds of household waste through proper disposal and recycling.

1948 lbs. electronic waste
64 lbs. of used batteries
958 lbs. of appliances & metals
1099 lbs. household hazardous waste

We would like to thank you for all your hard work and dedication to keeping a clean, safe and beautiful environment.

E-waste represents 2% of America's trash in landfills, but it equals 70% of overall toxic waste.

RADON

Can't be seen, tasted or smelt but could be a potential problem in your home. Radon comes from the natural (radioactive) breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water and gets into the air you breathe through cracks in the foundation, windows, pipes and even water supply.

Radon is the second leading cause in lung cancer deaths per year, following tobacco use. Radon is estimated to cause thousands of deaths per year.

Decreasing radon contact can be reduced by testing you home annually for radon, closing off cracks in foundation, and installing mitigation systems if radon levels are continuously high.

For more information you can contact the Division of Planning & Environmental Protection or the Radon Department through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation T.R.P. 128(a)
Tribal Brownfields Program

Submitted by Kyle Miller

As of July 1, 2014 the P.B.P Environmental Office has begun the Tribal Brownfields Program. Which was awarded the Tribal Response Program (T.R.P.) CERCLA 128(a) Grant, by the (U.S.E.P.A.). The P.B.P.N proposes to implement the work through a cooperative agreement with a performance period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. The P.B.P.N. plans to use this funding to establish a Tribal Response Program (TRP) that results in improved environmental conditions and decreased risks to the health and welfare of the community.

As a new developing program the P.B.P.N (T.R.P.) will identify, inventory, assess and prioritize potential sites and other releases of hazard substances, pollutants or contaminants within the boundaries of the reservation, and allowable brownfields outside those boundaries as appropriate for the P.B.P.N. interests.

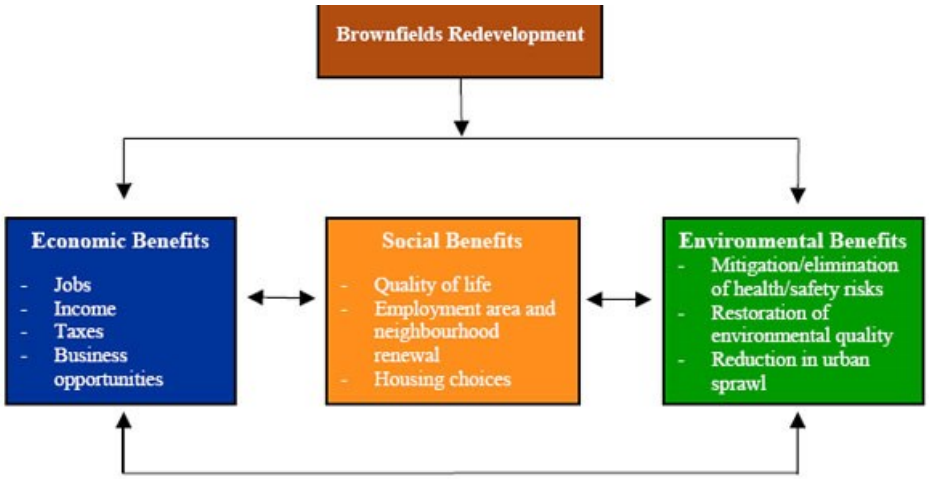
Goal: Cleaning up Communities and Ecosystems

Objective: Promote Sustainable and Livable Community

What is a Brownfield???

The term "brownfield site" means property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children. -Native American Proverb



Winter is approaching

With winter approaching we will be warming our vehicles up so they are nice and toasting for the daily commute. However, combustion from these daily "warm-ups" can emit dangerous levels of carbon monoxide while idling in our garage or carport and increases our risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Here are a three tips to staying safe: 1. Never idle your car in a closed garage 2. Park your car with the exhaust pipes pointing out of the carport 3. Have your mechanic inspect your exhaust system, a leak could increase carbon monoxide build up inside your car.

‘Tis the Season for Cover Crops

Submitted by Kalonie Hulbutta

It’s fall and the time to plant cover crops is quickly passing. In case you didn’t know, cover crops are grown for protection and enrichment of the soil. They are planted between cash crop seasons to improve soil health, fertility, and reduce erosion. Additional benefits of cover crops include weed suppression, and protection from pests and disease. They help to break up the soil, provide ground cover, and contribute organic matter/nutrients back into the system .

Cover crop root systems penetrate the ground increasing soil porosity. This makes it easier for water to be absorbed into the ground increasing the amount of water available for uptake by crops. With more water flowing down into the soil, the amount of water passing over the soil surface is reduced. This decreases the potential for top soils to be washed or eroded away. As an added bonus, the holes drilled by cover crop roots carve a path for cash crop roots to follow and deepen.

Cover crops can ensure year-round ground cover to help protect the soil from rainfall and snowmelt. As rain hits the ground, it can loosen and carry surface soils away. Cover crop vegetation slows down rainfall before it hits the soil surface allowing more water to move into the soil rather than carry it off. As snow melts, water accumulates and flows over the soil gaining speed as it approaches the nearest stream, pond or lake. Cover crop residue above ground also aids in slowing down water flow due to snow melt. In addition, ground cover provides shade that discourages weeds from growing.

When mature cover crops are plowed into the soil, they provide food for organisms living in the soil. As these organisms feed on plowed cover crops, they release the nutrients held in the crops making them readily available for the next crop. In addition some common cover crops, such as hairy vetch and cereal rye, produce chemicals when they breakdown that discourage weed growth.

The reservation sits in the Soldier Creek watershed. The primary source of nonpoint pollution in this watershed is sedimentation in the water due to the erosion of farmland. We can help reduce the amount of sediment being carried to our waters by planting cover crops when fields are not in use. We can also reduce other sources of nonpoint pollution such as fertilizers and pesticides by using carefully selected cover crops as well.

Cereal Rye - King of cover crops

Source: USDA-NRCS

Hairy Vetch

Source: Jennifer Anderson, hosted by the USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

Just 20 old, non-EPA certified wood stoves can emit more than 1 ton of fine particle pollution (PM2.5) into your area during the cold months

Wetlands are Kalonie's Specialty! Sort of...

Environmental Technician Kalonie Hulbutta took over Wetlands Program duties earlier this year. She has been busy reading up on wetlands facts, attending trainings and gathering geographical data.

This spring, Kalonie attended a Wetland Delineation course where she learned how to identify and delineate wetland areas. She learned how to dig a soil pit, examine and classify soil types, and decide whether hydric soils are present. She also learned how to detect evidence of wetland hydrology even when water is not present or has not been present for some time. The most difficult aspect of this class involved deciding if enough hydrophytic vegetation (plants that grow in water or soil that remains wet for extended periods of time) is present to classify an area as wetlands. This course was very motivational and inspired her to learn more.

This summer, Kalonie completed a Wetland Plant Identification course where she learned sample collection techniques as well as methods of dissecting and identifying unknown plant species. This included some close encounters with poison ivy, poison hemlock, and several large spiders. The enthusiastic explorer almost became a permanent fixture at a salt marsh in western Kansas when she sank knees deep into the muck. Thank goodness a fellow wetland scientist from the Kickapoo Tribe helped pull her out.

Kalonie is currently gathering data to map out possible wetland sites within the reservation. Her plans are to venture out in the spring to verify if unidentified wetlands exist within the reservation and possibly enroll them in a conservation program. She also plans to visit known wetlands and determine whether new delineations would benefit these areas. Wetlands are a valuable resource culturally and environmentally. They provide medicines, cultural foods, and habitats for migrating birds, amphibians and other creatures. So be on the lookout for her early next spring and lend a hand if you see her stuck in the mud!

Cheyenne Bottoms - August 2014

Keeping Your Home Safe & Warm Submitted by Billie Toledo

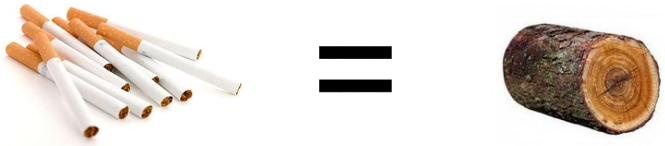
It is that time of year again where we will soon be turning on our heaters and lighting up our wood stoves. Here is some tips to keeping warm while maintaining quality Air.

Are you burning from an old, uncertified, inefficient wood stove? Having a proper wood stove within your home can reduce air pollutants. Unsuitable wood stoves can let off more smoke which release extra hazardous air pollutants, fine particle pollution (ash), and volatile organic compound, increasing health risks like asthma attacks, irritable eyes, nose and throat. Burning the right wood is also important. If you use manufactured "fire logs" only choose 100% "fire logs" (compressed sawdust w/o other material and wax) and only burn one at a time. Also, burn "healthy" dry, well-seasoned wood and not wood that is rotted, moldy or wet.

Before clicking on that heater perform these tasks. Change the air filter, a dirty air filter will cause many problems for example fans working harder, increased energy bill, and restricted air flow which could lead to motor issues. Examine vents throughout your home to make sure no foreign materials have fallen down blocking heat from getting though.

With these tips poor Air Quality can be reduced creating a warmer, healthier environment.

Cigarette Smoke VS Wood Smoke



An EPA Study concluded that breathing wood smoke particles during high pollution days is equivalent to smoking 4 to 16 cigarettes. "Some of the same strong cancer causing chemicals found in cigarette smoke have also been found to be abundant in wood smoke" source Cooper /epa

Prairie Band Potawatomi
Division of Planning &
Environmental Protection
15434 K Road
Mayetta, KS 66509
Phone 786-966-2946
Fax 785-966-2947

Resident

Rural Route 2

Box Holder

Mayetta, KS 66509