



Let's Talk About It: Waste Management Nuts and Bolts

Operations and Maintenance for Waste Management on Tribal Lands

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WELCOME!

BEFORE WE
GET
STARTED...

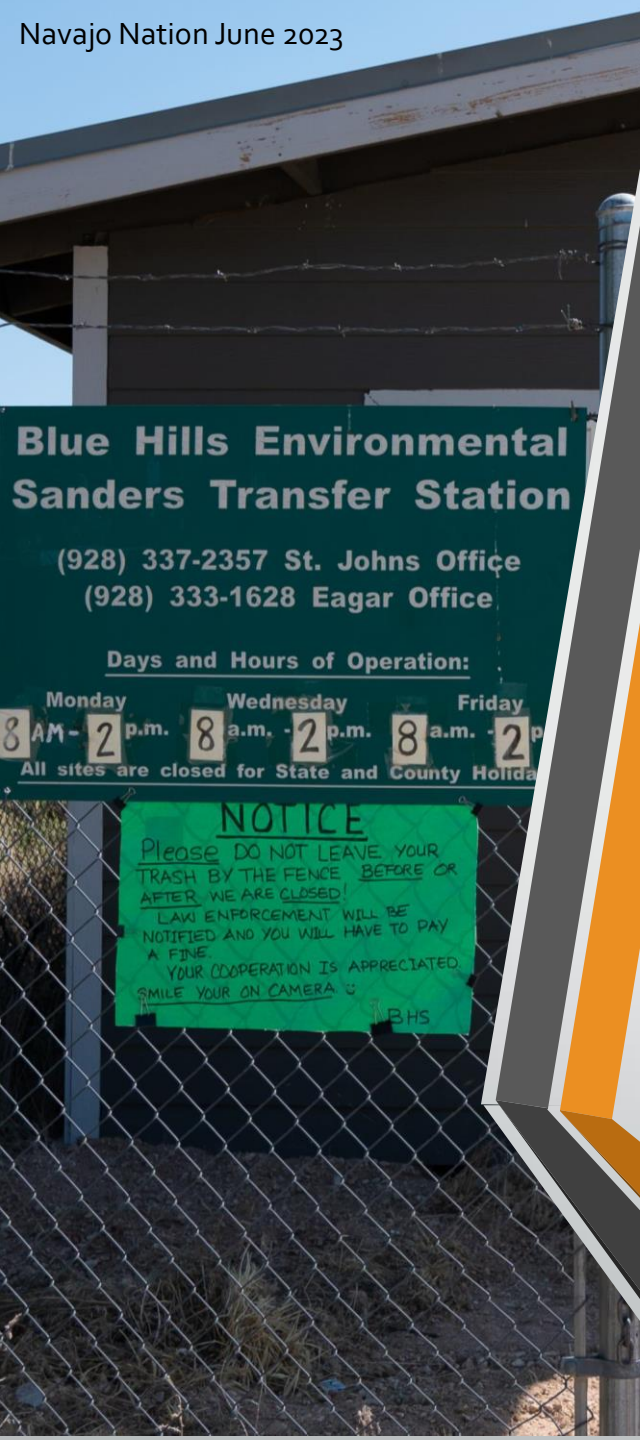
- Today's webinar is scheduled to last 60 minutes.
- All participants will be muted.
- Submit questions via the Chat or Q & A button at the bottom of your screen.
- A copy of the presentations is available in the Chat box.
- A recording of this presentation will be available at www.epa.gov/tribal-lands in approximately 2 weeks.
- Please contact Kecil John (Kecil.john@erg.com) if you are having technical issues with the webinar.

Overview

- What do we mean by Operations and Maintenance or O&M
 - Components of waste operations and maintenance
 - Operational considerations
 - Why maintenance matters
- The role of the Infrastructure Task Force and other Federal Partners
 - Federal partner support
 - Advocating for new funding to address O&M gaps
- Process for developing an O&M Needs Assessment
- Tribal input to needs assessment
- Conclusion and feedback session



View from Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska Office June 2023



What Do We Mean by O&M

- Components of “operations”
 - Labor: day-to-day labor for residential waste collection, handling at transfer station or other consolidation points, transportation to final disposal, cleaning, administration
 - Direct costs: Equipment, fuel for trucks, electricity/water for facilities, etc
- Components of “maintenance”
 - Maintenance extends the life cycle of facilities and equipment and protects past investments
 - Costs of warranties
 - Replacement parts
 - Repairs

Operational Considerations

- Collection operations:
 - drop off centers where residents bring their waste to central points designated by you
 - maintaining a fleet of vehicles and routing collection trucks to pick up residential waste.
 - Contracting with waste collectors to provide services
- Handling operations: Transfer stations and drop off locations
 - Consolidation of volume prior to transport to final disposal location
 - Roll-offs or dumpsters filled by residents directly that are then hauled to disposal points
- Both have costs to properly operate. Both should be backed up by aggressive marketing and education as well as codes and ordinances

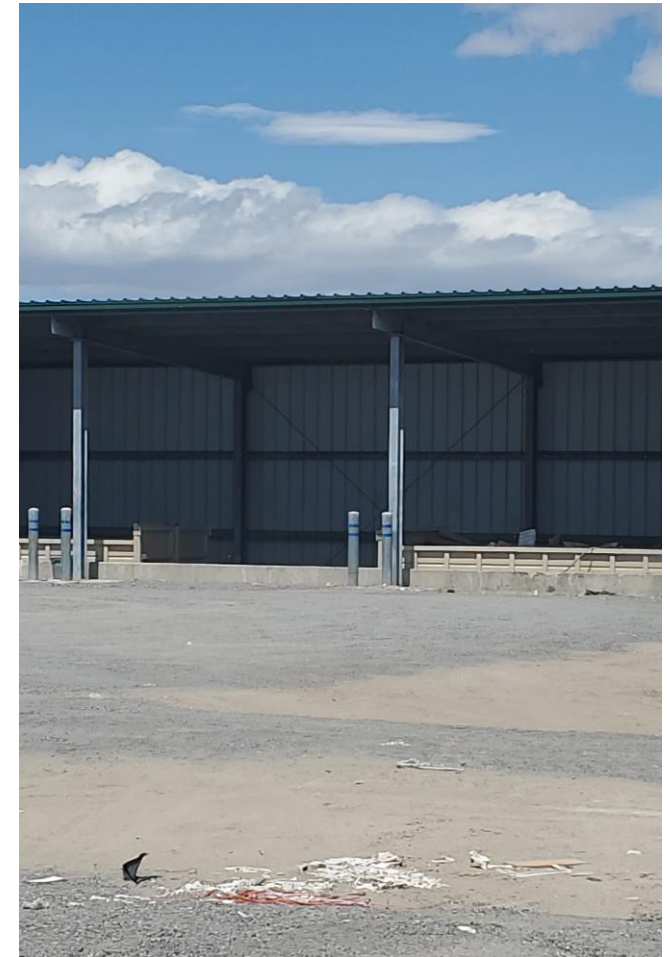


Walker River Paiute Tribe May 2022

Why Maintenance Matters

A Bunch of Reasons!!!

- Ensures your program will have sustainable services and be cost effective
- Maintains compliance
- Reduces health risks
- Increases community satisfaction
- Protects past investments



The Infrastructure Task Force Background

- In 2007 a multi-agency tribal Infrastructure Task Force (ITF) was created.
- Federal Agency members included EPA, HUD, USDA, DOI (BIA) and IHS (Indian Health Services)
- In 2013 partners renewed their commitment by renegotiating the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to include solid waste services.
- In 2022, the MOU expanded to include the Bureau of Reclamation and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as new members.

Infrastructure Task Force Tribal Solid Waste Sub-Workgroup

#1 Sustainable Waste Management Programs

- Barriers and strategies to developing and implementing sustainable waste management programs on tribal lands
- Developed the report: [Overcoming Barriers to Sustainable Waste Management in Tribal Communities \(PDF\)](#)
- Among the recommendations in the report, is to "Conduct a study, in partnership with tribes, to determine tribal sustainable waste management needs" - AKA a Needs Assessment Study



Federal Partner Authorities and Assistance

- EPA's ability to fund O&M is limited including:
 - ORCR capacity building and education assistance
 - SWIFR Projects relating to source reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, industrial uses
 - REO grants related to education and marketing for recycling
 - GAP solid waste service delivery
- IHS has broad authority including:
 - planning, development, and construction
- IHS also has limitations
 - Specific funding appropriations
 - Limited staffing



Collaborating for New Funding to Address O&M

- Tribes have said that reliable and consistent funding for operations and maintenance (O&M) is a challenge for waste management programs.
- EPA and IHS need more information to understand the order of magnitude of the needs.
- The first step is a National Needs Assessment Study.



Choctaw Nation Recycling Facility June 2022

Developing a National Tribal O&M Needs Assessment

What is a Needs Assessment?

- Identifying and evaluating current and future needs for waste management O&M
- Involves collecting data on the conditions and performance of waste management programs

What will the Needs Assessment yield?

- Allow EPA to identify barriers to success and funding gaps
- Allow EPA/partner agencies to make a data-backed request to create a dedicated funding source



Blackfeet Nation transfer station October 2022

Process for developing Waste Management O&M Needs Assessment

- Contractor assistance to work directly with tribal solid waste operational staff for input
- Data collection from Tribes across a wide range of geographies, climates, and economic resources
- Data analysis evaluating difference and similarities to “benchmarks” to identify gaps in funding and activities
- Report finding back to EPA and Tribal affinity groups



Providing Input to ITF/Federal Partner Efforts

Tribal Input is a Top Priority:

- Identify the needs, preferences, and challenges of tribal communities
- Ensures that the solutions are culturally appropriate, feasible, and sustainable

Methods:

- Surveys, webinars, meetings, site visits, etc.
- Direct outreach to tribes; outreach to tribal groups: TWAR, NTC, etc.

What kind of feedback is needed:

- National tribal O&M needs assessment and the multi-agency collaboration vision
- Understand the current situation, the gaps and barriers, and the potential solutions

Conclusion and Feedback Session

1. How would you suggest "categorizing" waste programs?
2. What are the preferred methods and channels for communicating with tribes about the O&M needs assessment?
3. Who within the department is the best point of contact to provide operational and financial information?
4. What are the incentives and challenges for tribes to participate in the O&M needs assessment?
5. Should the study focus on current operational and maintenance needs or desired operations as outlined in IWMPs?