



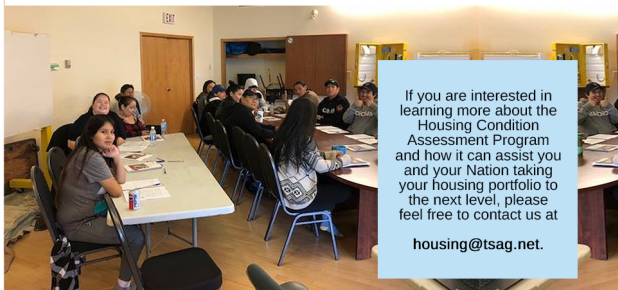
NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2021

Housing Condition Assessment Program HCAP

Since 2017, TSAG has been running the Housing Condition Assessment Program (HCAP) to help facilitate First Nations tracking their own housing assets. Housing Condition Assessments (HCAs) are a fundamental tool for housing departments looking to understand the condition of their housing assets and to improve housing in their communities. HCAs are used to evaluate the physical condition of homes for short and long-term maintenance planning. They can also be used to assess current housing stock and to inform future planning and development of housing projects.

TSAG's HCAP program utilizes custom built, in-house technology designed to easily capture GPS data points, housing condition data, associated photographs, deficiency data, and allows users to accurately pin point housing assets within a Nation. Additionally, this application also provides the users a streamlined process for cross-referencing identified deficiencies with the corresponding pictures for support and reporting purposes. The mapping feature helps to plot reported findings that can be used to create existing location maps and to inform future development opportunities. The reporting module allows for easy access budgeting tools and reports that can be downloaded and exported into Excel and PDF versions for integration in other budgeting platforms.

In order to continue TSAG's trend of innovation, we are currently moving the HCAP training to our online learning platform, allowing for easier access and quicker turnaround time for First Nations. As the uncertainty of the current world situation is ever-changing, we are doing our best to service our customers in the most up-to-date technology.



If you are interested in learning more about the Housing Condition Assessment Program and how it can assist you and your Nation taking your housing portfolio to the next level, please feel free to contact us at

housing@tsag.net.

IT'S COMING...

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)



What is Extended Producer Responsibility?

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) is an environmental protection strategy aimed at decreasing the total environmental impact from a product and its packaging. It ensures that the producers of the product to take responsibility for the entire lifecycle of their products, especially in the take-back, recycling, and final disposal of their products - including its packaging (of which paper is the largest contributor). The primary responsibility of EPR lies with the producer, who makes product design and marketing decisions.

What is meant by packaging and paper products (PPP)

These include all packaging and paper materials designated by provincial regulation as PPP. This may include both PPP generated by the residential and the business sectors (e.g., primary packaging, transport packaging, printed and non-printed paper). The current list of designated materials varies nationally; producers recommend working towards a harmonized national list of materials.

Why should I care?

- When fully implemented, EPR shifts the costs and operational responsibilities for managing recycling systems from local governments to producers.
- Province-wide programs means every community should have an opportunity to recycle the same list of materials. Less material is littered and disposed of in landfill.
- Unless they choose otherwise, local governments and First Nations communities should be freed from planning, paying for, and implementing recycling systems, and from the consequences of fluctuating material markets.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) continued...

What is happening elsewhere in Canada?

In Canada, every province from Quebec west to British Columbia, except Alberta, has implemented some degree of producer funding for packaging and paper products and is benefitting from reduced taxpayer costs.

The cost of producer-funded PPP program recycling is built into products' pricing at point-of-sale and large producers tend to price their products nationally or cross-provincially. Because Alberta is the only province west of Quebec without a producer-funded PPP recycling program, this means that Alberta's consumers pay for the cost of PPP recycling in other provinces in the price of their goods.

What is currently happening in Alberta?

Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) and Alberta Energy (AE) shared plans on December 7, 2020 to undertake an ambitious consultation process on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). The announcement was made to the provincial stakeholder group, the Plastics Alliance of Alberta (PAA), and was co-chaired by the Recycling Council of Alberta (RCA) and the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology.

Full article: <https://recycle.ab.ca/news/alberta-announces-plans-to-advance-epr-consultation-in-early-2021/>

Want to be part of the conversation?

For more information or to arrange a meeting with AEP, contact:

Heather von Hauff

Executive Director, Waste and Water Policy

heather.vonhauff@gov.ab.ca

Moving Towards Remote Learning Access

Despite its challenges, 2020 has brought us a unique opportunity to explore online training as a way for TSAG to broaden the reach of our training programs.

For over 20 years, TSAG has provided hands-on technical training to First Nations in Alberta. This training is still needed and will still be provided, but as access to internet increases, we see an opportunity to enhance our current training program with online learning. Online learning can bring training to technicians when TSAG staff cannot be present in person, and can accommodate a diversity of learning styles.

As of May 2020, TSAG's Circuit Rider Training Program, Sustainable Communities Program, and Housing Condition Assessment Program (HCAP) are poised to begin developing online material to help reach their training goals. TSAG and its partners have the technological, pedagogical, and technical expertise to implement an online learning system.

Benefits of Online Learning

- Increase technical capacity of First Nations technicians and professionals living and working in their communities
- Provide access to online competency-based training for remote First Nations technicians and professionals
- Provide access to self-paced asynchronous learning modules for working professionals
- Provide an online learning community for synchronous learning modules for working professionals
- Create a sustainable model for continuous course improvement and development

COMING SOON!

Watch for more information on these programs in our upcoming newsletter issues, our Facebook page, and our website.



Drone Project Community Spotlight Series: Louis Bull Tribe



Using drone imagery to evaluate historical wetland levels

Through discussions during work on their source water protection plan, Louis Bull Tribe indicated that there is a wetland that has experienced dropping water levels. The wetland is an important traditional use site and the community is hoping to restore it and to build a "living classroom" to provide opportunities for teaching and learning on the land. For more information on this exciting project, please see this article published by the Land Stewardship Centre:

https://www.landstewardship.org/news/category/grassroots_news/

There is abandoned infrastructure the community suspects may be impacting water levels. In the fall of 2019 and spring of 2020, TSAG worked with the Nation to collect high-resolution imagery of the abandoned infrastructure, as well as imagery of the wetland to provide a snapshot of current water levels. The imagery will contribute to an assessment of the potential impact of the abandoned infrastructure on water levels. The imagery of the wetland will be compared to historical air photos to assess the extent of the decline in water levels. The imagery will also assist the Nation to plan wetland restoration and enhancement activities.

If your community would like to access TSAG's drone program, please contact:

Rosey Radmanovich
Environmental Liaison
rradmanovich@tsag.net