



NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2021



TSAG Remote Learning Opportunities APRIL & MAY 2021



TSAG's Circuit Rider Training Program, Sustainable Communities Program, ACRS, and Housing Condition Assessment Program (HCAP) have been busy developing resources to transition some of our training opportunities into remote learning opportunities. Our offerings include live virtual classroom courses as well as self-paced online courses.

Here are the upcoming remote learning opportunities:

APRIL & MAY 2021

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| April 1 (9:00-11:00) | Asset Management Workshop |
| April 6- May 4 | Skills Link Pathways to Success, 1 hour every Tuesday evening |
| April 14 (1:30-2:30) | Backyard Gardening |
| April 20-21 | TSAG online classroom AWWOA level one prep part A |
| April 22 (1:30-2:30) | Backyard Composting |
| April 27 - 28 | TSAG online classroom AWWOA level two prep Water Treatment |
| May 4 - 5 | TSAG online classroom AWWOA level one prep part B |
| May 10 - May 21 | Transfer Station Operations – 16 hours total spread out over May 10th – May 21st (we are engaging with communities to determine what schedule will work best, stay tuned for more details!). 3 hours of online, guided instruction and approximately 13 self-guided hours. 1.6 CEUs for certified Landfill Operators. |
| May 11 - 12 | TSAG online classroom AWWOA level two prep Water Distribution |
| May 13 | TSAG online Water and Wastewater Operator Tutoring classroom sessions open from (9:00am-12:00pm & 1:00pm- 4:00pm; monthly; online) |
| May 25 - 26 | TSAG online classroom AWWOA level two prep Wastewater Collection |
| May 27 | TSAG Fire Hydrant O&M online classroom (spring session) |
| May 31 - June 4th | Mixed heavy equipment (loader, skid-steer, rubber tired hoe)
30 hours total, 6 hours instructions per day, 9 am - 4 pm; 1 hour for lunch, 5 days |



Drone Project Community Spotlight Series: Enoch Cree Nation

Using drones to inform solid waste management planning

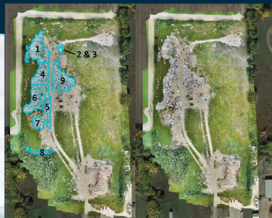
In July of 2020, TSAG worked with Enoch Cree Nation to collect drone imagery of their transfer station sites. Enoch had recently constructed a new transfer station site, so drone video footage as well as images were captured to use in communication materials, reports, community engagement materials, future proposals, etc. However, the old transfer site required some clean-up. The Nation requested TSAG's assistance with taking detailed imagery of the site to aid assessment of what materials were present on site, as well as to provide a visual representation of the site to aid with communication – a picture is worth a thousand words!

TSAG used software capable of using drone imagery to create 3D models and calculate volumes from those models to provide the Nation with an estimate of the volume of waste present on site. These estimates were provided in report format to assist with cost estimates and site clean-up planning. The software is also able to take a series of drone images taken over a large area and stitch them together into a map or single image, known as a reconstruction.

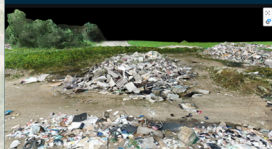


If your community has a project that can benefit from drone imagery or videos, please contact::

Rosey Radmanovich
Environmental Liaison
rradmanovich@tsag.net



PICTURE 1
Reconstruction of images of old transfer site showing waste piles (right); annotated reconstruction of images showing waste piles included in the 3D model and volume estimation



PICTURE 2
3D model of a waste pile



PICTURE 3
Aerial photo of the new transfer station site

EARTH DAY 2021



Every year on April 22, Earth Day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970, giving a voice to an emerging public consciousness about the state of our planet. There is no planet B! Caring for our environment is the responsibility of everyone.

Think about The 4 Rs:

REFUSE

A plastic grocery bag for less waste in the first place,

REDUCE

Use a refillable bottle or mug instead of a throw away,

REUSE

Mend or repair instead of throwing away,

RECYCLE

All beverage containers can be recycled and returned for a deposit refund.



How will you celebrate Earth Day?

We want to acknowledge the outstanding examples of environmental stewardship that are present in so many of our communities, if we have missed any please let us know! To those responsible for the tireless hours of grant writing, planning, meeting, installing, operating and maintaining

Mother Earth Thanks YOU!

Celebrating Our Solar Powered First Nations

Athabasca Chipewyan & Mikisew Cree

The project is expected to feed approximately 7,677 megawatt-hours of clean energy into the regional grid every year for the next 25 years: an amount equivalent to powering just over 1,060 homes annually.

Beaver Lake Cree

The 94 solar panels installed over two roof faces of Amisk School will generate over 24,000 Kilowatt hours per year and offset over 350 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions over the project life.

Cold Lake

The installation will reduce more than 1,305 tonnes of greenhouse gasses and save nearly \$150,000 on utilities over the 25-year life of the solar panels

Fort McKay

The project will generate upwards of 130,000 kilowatt-hours and offset over 80 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually.

Louis Bull Tribe

Louis Bull has over 85 kilowatts worth of solar panels installed across various buildings; the project also provided training opportunities for community members and former oil & gas workers on this project.

Lubicon Lake

The 80 solar panels mounted on the top of 10 poles powers the community health centre.

Montana

The project is expected to feed approximately 7,677 megawatt-hours of clean energy into the regional grid every year for the next 25 years: an amount equivalent to powering just over 1,060 homes annually.



Do you have an Earth Day project
or initiative you would like to share?

Contact us: phaggarty@tsag.net or 780-483-8315 ext 126.



It's Spring Gardening Season!

Join us for 2 virtual sessions to explore the basics of gardening and composting. We'll delve into some useful backyard tips and tricks, as well as explore examples of starting both a garden and composter at low cost with cheap, reused, or locally found materials.

These sessions are for anyone wanting to start gardening this spring, enhance an existing garden space with soil enriching compost, or wanting to reduce their environmental impacts by diverting food

BACKYARD GARDENING

April 14th, 2021
1:30 -2:30

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- The basics of backyard gardening, how to start one and how to maintain it throughout the growing season
- How to start a garden for any sized space, from container gardening to in-ground or raised beds
- How to easily start a garden space with cheap or free upcycled and found materials

BACKYARD COMPOSTING

April 22nd, 2021 - Earth Day!
1:30-2:30

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- The basics of home composting and how to maintain a healthy, productive composter through Alberta's four seasons
- Examples of low cost and easy to maintain backyard composting systems, how to build your own, and where to find other cheap, local options.

SPEAKER

Alex LaForce

BSc. from UBC in Natural Resource Conservation and SFU Diploma in Spatial Data Analysis. Alex has been facilitating and teaching holistic experiential-based environmental education since graduation and composting and gardening since before he can remember. As the Sustainable Communities Youth Outreach Coordinator at The First Nations Technical Services Advisory Group (TSAG) he is building a youth education program focused on bringing accessible examples of recycling, waste diversion, composting and gardening to on-reserve school campuses throughout Alberta.



Please

REGISTER FOR THE SESSIONS
at **WWW.FNTN.CA**



To access the
BACKYARD GARDENING
session through Zoom:
<https://fntn.zoom.us/join>

MEETING ID 960 4258 2516
PASSCODE 566413



To access the
BACKYARD COMPOSTING
session through Zoom:
<https://fntn.zoom.us/join>

MEETING ID 956 4482 6264
PASSCODE 368508



TSAG's Asset Condition Reporting System (ACRS) Program

Throughout the past fiscal year 2020-2021, the ACRS team members have worked meticulously to finalize the 2020 asset inspection reports from the inspections conducted throughout various Treaty 6 and 7 First Nations. The final inspection reports and asset location maps will be provided to the Nation's Chief and Council, Directors and Managers, as well as to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).

The assets inspected include buildings, water & wastewater systems, roads, bridges, culverts, streetlights, vehicles and various federally funded facilities; we also inspect schools on a 3-year cycle. Health Centres are also included in the inspections.

Due to the unforeseen situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ACRS manager and the ACRS team completed the debrief meeting of the Health and Safety (H&S), as well as the Code Compliance deficiencies of various assets, through online Zoom meetings to review and discuss the findings of the fiscal year inspection. The inspections are a visual inspection of the facility and an opportunity for conversations with the Nation(s) various personnel responsible for the operation & maintenance of the related assets. The reports are intended to provide identification of deficiencies associated to the asset, as well as areas of concern that may require further attention and/or assessment.

The ACRS team ensure all assets that meet the requirements receive O&M funding from ISC and make sure the assets get updated and coded properly.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Nation personnel who helped us in the asset inspections.

Communities visited in 2020:

Tsuu T'ina Nation

Montana First Nation

Pikani Nation

Stoney Eden Valley First Nation

Stoney Morley First Nation

Stoney Big Horn First Nation

Louis Bull Tribe

Siksika Nation.



Look for us in your community this year!

The tentative list of communities we will be visiting in 2021 are:

Paul First Nation

Samson Cree Nation

Saddle Lake Cree Nation

Frog Lake First Nation

Kehewin Cree Nation

Whitefish Lake First Nation #128

Beaver Lake Cree Nation

Heart Lake First Nation

Little Red River Cree Nation Fox Lake

Fort MacKay First Nation

Fort McMurray First Nation

Chipewyan Prairie First Nation

Mikisew Cree First Nation

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation

Beaver Boyer

Beaver First Nation Child Lake

South Tallcree First Nation

North Tallcree First Nation

Dene Tha' Bushe

Little Red River Cree Nation John D'Or

Tallcree First Nation Beaver Ranch

Cold Lake First Nation

Little Red River Cree Nation Garden River

Tallcree First Nation Fort Vermillion 173B

Dene Tha' Meander

Dene Tha' Chateh.

Do you know which communities these landmarks are found in?

Check out TSAG's April newsletter to find out!





TSAG Online Training Transfer Station Operations

Online Course - Register today!

16 hours total spread out over May 10th – May 21st (we are engaging with communities to determine what schedule will work best, stay tuned for more details!).
1.6 CEUs for certified Landfill Operators.

IDENTIFY

1. Different waste stream categories and which streams are recyclable and/or recoverable
2. The function of key infrastructure elements of a transfer station
3. Non-compliant waste stream materials

RECOGNIZE

4. Programs and markets available to your community
5. The importance of data collection

UNDERSTAND

6. Fundamentals of an integrated waste management system
7. Environmental controls and regulations
8. The importance of maintaining a healthy and safe environment
9. Issues and challenges associated with planning, designing, and operating a transfer station



WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

Public Works Directors and Managers, Transfer Station Operators and Collections Operators



For more information contact

Pam Haggarty
phaggarty@tsag.net
780-935-4042