

December 2024

# Environmental Protection Department Newsletter



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**\*\*\*HONORING ALL WHO SERVED\*\*\***

## VETERANS DAY

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2024**

**In honor of all those who served our country. Thank you for your courage, service and sacrifice.**

## Indoor Air Health and Your Fireplace

[www.epa.gov/burnwise](http://www.epa.gov/burnwise)

Nothing feels more like the holidays than sipping a cup of hot cocoa and the comfort of a crackling fire. The smell of wood smoke may smell good, but it's not good for your health. Reducing wood smoke in your home is a good idea to keep the air you breathe clean.

### Wood Smoke and Your Health

Wood smoke contains tiny particles that can affect your health. You probably already know that wood smoke particles can affect your lungs and trigger asthma attacks and aggravate other lung diseases and damage, especially in children. What you might not know is that particles from wood smoke can increase the risk of having a heart attack, irregular heartbeat, heart failure, stroke and can also cause early death. The people who are at greatest risk of suffering from health effects caused by wood smoke are older adults; children and teens; and people with heart or lung disease.

### How to Reduce Wood Smoke

- ◆ Burn dry, seasoned wood that has been split, stacked, covered, and stored.
- ◆ Use a cleaner-burning gas or wood stove.
- ◆ Provide sufficient air to the fire; never let it smolder.



## Snowmelt and Nonpoint Source Pollution

Nonpoint source pollution does not result from a single definable location, such as an industrial discharge pipe, but rather results from land runoff, precipitation, atmospheric deposition, or percolation. Exceptions are irrigation return flows and storm water flows which are deemed nonpoint sources.

Besides the runoff due to rainfall in summer, the snowmelt runoff in early spring could also play an important role in deteriorating the water quality of the receiving waters. When it snows, atmospheric pollutants can be absorbed by the snow, eventually contributing to the runoff water contamination. In contrast to summer, the air quality in winter is usually much worse than that of other seasons because of the combustion of coal for heating.

Snow accumulates a variety of contaminants from the atmosphere, motor vehicles and roadways. These contaminants include salts and salt additives, heavy

metals, petroleum products such as oil and grease, bacteria, organic chemicals such as pesticides and PCBs, soil materials and litter. Sand and other soil particles act as contaminants by filling our lakes, dams and navigation channels.

Constructed wetlands are the preferred tool of ecological purification. Wetlands have gained interest due to their low maintenance and operational costs, and their high removal capacity for many kinds of pollutants. Fortunately, we have two wetlands at the end of our watershed.

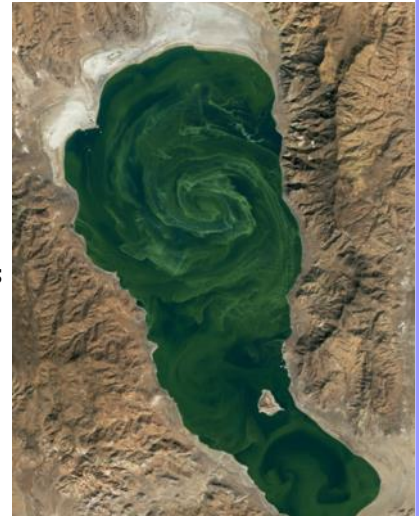


## Water Quality Can Effect Us!

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov), [earthobservatory.nasa.gov](http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov)

Autumn temperatures were unseasonably warmer than previous years according to the Farmer’s Almanac and NOAA and warmer temperatures mixed with a large nutrient load can flourish an environment for algal blooms. According to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, the lake was being inundated with a Cyanobacteria or “blue-green algae algal bloom called, Nodularia spumigena. Advisories were posted on October 15<sup>th</sup> as they reported the bloom started releasing toxins. It usually takes about two to three weeks from the peak of the bloom for the water quality to return to normal.

Nodularia spumigena is a nitrogen fixing cyanobacteria that is common in warm brackish water. The lake experiences similar blooms on an almost yearly basis. It proliferates when Nitrogen and Phosphorus nutrients along with warm temperatures and sunlight are readily available because it is a photosynthetic bacteria. This algae species can produce a toxin called nodularin when the bloom starts to break down, which can harm humans and animals by affecting the liver if ingested. Cyanobacteria can detrimentally affect benthic macroinvertebrates (critters) and submerged aquatic plants due to decreased light penetration through the water and low dissolved oxygen.



“One of the most active bloom events seen in years” –Pyramid Lake Water Quality Program. Photo provided by NASA’s Landsat 9 on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

## EPA Region 9 2025 Tribal Clean Water Act Workshop

The Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe Environmental Protection Department and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 will be co-sponsoring an EPA Region 9 2025 Clean Water Act (CWA) workshop at the Fallon Convention Center on May 19-23, 2025. Tribal representatives from California, Arizona and Nevada will gather in-person to share knowledge, resources and experiences to better implement Tribal CWA programs and to protect Tribal water resources for future generations.

Workshop sessions will include presentations on various topics, including CWA Grant Programs, Regulatory Programs and TAS (Treatment in a Similar Manner as a State), Field Trips and Training at local water quality monitoring sites and projects.

### OPEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POSITIONS:

The Environmental Protection Department is presently advertising for one (1) Environmental Specialist position to support the EPA CWA Workshop and Non-Point Source (NPS) Program.

The Environmental Protection Department is also advertising for one (1) part time Environmental Assistant position to support the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program.

These positions are open until filled

Applications for these two positions are available at the Human Resources Department in the FPST Administration Office at 565 Rio Vista Drive Fallon, NV 89406. Phone 775-423-6075.







# How Wasted Food Fuels Climate Change

Up to  
**40%**  
of food  
is wasted

## Wasting food wastes more than food

The food supply chain is complex and generates significant greenhouse gas emissions. When food is wasted, the resources used to grow, harvest, process, transport, store, and cook that food are wasted too. Instead of fueling people, it fuels climate change.



## Wasted Food = Rich Soil

The FPST Environmental Protection Department began its composting program after hosting a “Starting Community Composting Programs on Tribal Lands,” workshop for Region 9 tribes in September 2023. Tribes learned of the importance of healthy soils to grow healthy foods to produce healthy communities. Composting allows for the recycling of nutrients from food waste and give back to the soil to grow more food. The composting program supports the community garden and the hoop house for growing fresh vegetables. Food scraps are presently picked up from various departments, including the Senior Center and Fox Peak, and the community. The composting program is available to all interested community members.

Bobby Downs, Environmental Assistant presently manages the composting program. If you would like to participate in the community composting program, please call our office at 775-4230590 to sign up and Robert will deliver a composting bucket to get you started in the program.

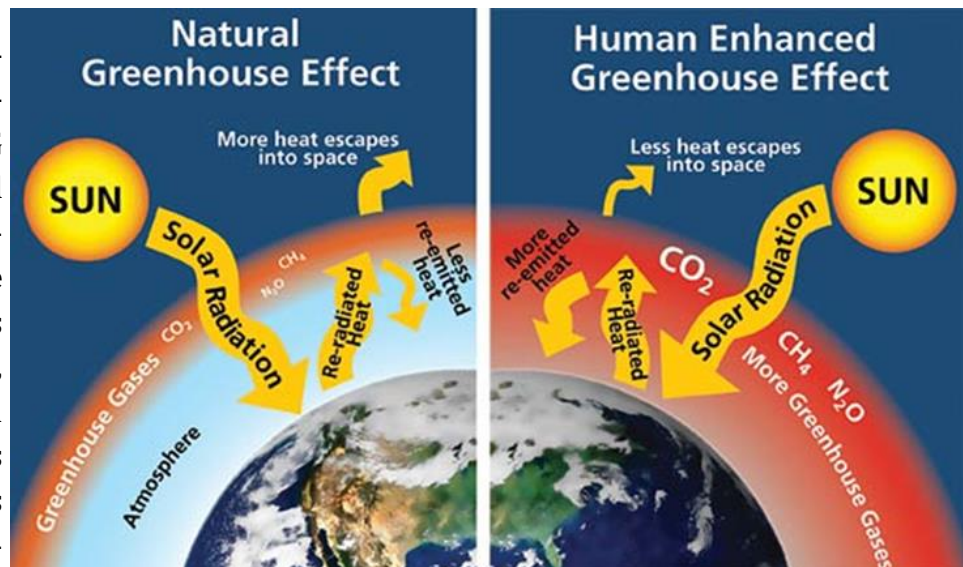


Bobby Downs, Environmental Assistant and Mr. Cary Oshins, Compost Educator and Advocate, from New York.

## A Deeper Dive into Climate Change

The Earth's climate is changing. Climate change is the long-term shift in weather and temperature. There are two main factors for climate change: Natural Greenhouse Effect and Human Enhanced Greenhouse Effect. Greenhouse gases occur naturally. These gases are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), water vapor (H<sub>2</sub>O), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>). These gases, when occurring naturally, are vital to the climate. Because of these gases, a portion of the heat produced from the Sun's solar radiation is bounced back into the atmosphere as re-emitted heat. This prevents the Earth from freezing over.

Due to human development, overtime, the creation of man-made GHG emissions has increased significantly. On top of naturally occurring GHGs are emissions of fossil fuels (coal, natural gas, and oil), and fluorinated gases such as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>). Fluorinated



gases do not have natural sources and are almost all created from human-related activity. These increased levels of GHGs results in a higher concentration or abundance of gases in the atmosphere. With more GHGs, more is heat from solar radiation is being trapped causing the Earth to get warmer than it would otherwise.

Why are we humans making so much GHGs? Much of the inventions and innovations made by humanity require energy sources to function. Consequently, many methods to provide such energy create GHGs. These created energy sources are seen in common necessities such as power/utilities for homes and businesses, transportation; as well as industrial and agricultural uses.

The Earth can still be saved! Currently the environmental professionals all over the world are combating these increasing GHGs with the assistance of government programs. One such is the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) that provides a total of \$5 Billion in grants to states, metro areas, tribes, and territories to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution. For in-depth information on ways you can help combat and reduce GHGs that effect climate change, visit <https://www.epa.gov/recycle>

## What to Recycle:



Our local transfer station only accepts plastics 1&2's. Look on the bottom of the plastic container for the code.



1—PET/PETE (Polyethylene Terephthalate)



2—HDPE (High Density Polyethylene)

**NO CAPS** - Bottle caps are made from a different kind of plastic which IS NOT recyclable. Please discard caps into the trash.

To get on our weekly recycling curbside list, contact us: 423-0590



•ALUMINUM CANS



•STEEL (TIN) CANS



•NEWSPAPER



•MAGAZINES



•CORRUGATED CARD-BOARD

### RULES:

**ALL CONTAINERS NEED TO BE RINSED AND DRIED!**

**NO MOLDY CONTAINERS.**

**Boxes are to be BROKEN DOWN Flat.**

**No Trash, Please.**

## What is Household Hazardous Waste?

Household hazardous waste (HHW) is any material discarded from a home that may pose a threat to human health or the environment when disposed of improperly. It differs from other household waste because it can be toxic, corrosive, flammable or explosive. Household hazardous waste is not covered under the Resource Recovery and Conservation Act (RCRA), or any other legislation, yet a typical home contains many materials that if generated by industry would be classified as hazardous under RCRA. Toxic chemicals such as arsenic may be found in medicine, rat poison and plant killers. Lead may be found in paint and gasoline. Organic solvents may be found in the home in cleaning fluids, nail polish remover, paint thinners and spray enamels. Improper disposal of any of these products and numerous others could contaminate groundwater, poison wildlife, damage sewer systems, harm refuse collectors or contaminate the air if incinerated improperly.



## Community Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Program

The Environmental Protection Department will begin implementing a new community household hazardous waste (HHW) collection program in 2025.

**WHERE?** Environmental Yard in the Colony.

**WHO?** Tribal Community Residents Only

**WHEN?** Beginning Monday January 27, 2025. Tribal community residents will be able to drop off HHW, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday – Fridays, except on holidays and any special or unforeseen events.

**HOW?** Please call our office at 775-423-0590 to schedule a drop-off time. For elders and those with special needs, please give us a call to schedule a curbside pick-up.

### WHAT CAN I DISPOSE OF?

Garden products: pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers and sprays. Paints and related products: spray paint, stains, varnish, thinner, remover and adhesives. Household cleaners: bleach, solvents and sprays, acid and caustic cleaners. Auto products: old fuel, oil, oil filters, waxes, polishes, additives and batteries. Propane tanks, aerosols, fire extinguishers. Photo and pool chemicals. Fluorescent lamps and bulbs. All appliances, ride on toys and E-waste. **No Trash.**



### Items Not Accepted:

Ammunition, Explosives, Asbestos, DEA Controlled Substances, Radioactive Waste (smoke detectors), Compressed Gas Cylinders (other than propane, aerosols and fire extinguishers), Preserved Wood, Laboratory Chemicals or Sewage.

### Commercial or Agricultural Hazardous Waste

Latex paint (Latex Paint is not toxic and once solidified can be disposed of in your household trash.)

**Please keep the materials in their original containers,** whenever possible, and bring them to the collection site in cardboard boxes to ease unloading. Reusable containers will be emptied and returned.

***Please give us a call at 775-423-0590, if you have any questions. Thank you.***



Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe

**Environmental Protection Department**

**P: (775)423-0590 F:(775)423-0593**

**1011 Rio Vista Drive**

**Fallon, NV 89406**

**Address/Return Service Requested**

***We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and we wish you a safe and happy holiday season!***

***After Christmas, the Environmental Protection Department will once again be implementing a Christmas Tree Recycling Program to provide community residents with an easy alternative to sending their trees to the landfill.***

***Tree recycling is a process where trees are chipped — mainly into mulch and compost. Trees will be collected at your curbside from December 30, 2024 to January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, during regular business hours. All decorations, including tinsel, nails and stands must be removed, and artificial trees will not be accepted.***

***Please call the Environmental Protection Department office at 775-423-0590 to sign up to have your tree picked up or if you have any questions.***

***Thank you.***

***FPST Environmental Protection Department***

