



Jan – Feb 2010

Ketchikan Indian Community

(907) 228-4933

The Newsletter

This newsletter is produced by the Ketchikan Indian Community Housing Authority Environmental Program for the purposes of environmental education outreach. KEEP is a newsletter for students, educators, and all community members interested in learning more about environmental issues in our community. It is distributed via email and will be posted on the KIC website. It is also available upon request by traditional mail.

New Lead Rule Will Affect Remodelers

Older homes are especially vulnerable



On April 22, 2010, a new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lead rule will go into effect designed to ensure safer remodeling of older homes. Lead exposure, especially for young children, is nothing to play around with. Organ damage, health problems, plus behavioral and development issues are just some of the risks associated with exposure to lead.

Why the new rule? Homes built before the 1970s often contain lead-based paint. While there is little cause for concern in day-to-day living if the paint is intact or, as is likely, painted over, remodeling and repairs to those homes are a different story. Demolition, in particular, will create dust and debris containing lead, a hazard to the home's occupants as well as to the workers' families when carried home on clothing.

The new EPA rule requires any firm that is compensated to perform repair, remodeling and maintenance on homes built prior to 1978 become EPA-certified. Certified firms are trained in the proper procedures to ensure any lead is contained and disposed of safely. Workers learn how and when to don protective gear and how to seal off effected areas of the home to ensure no dust escapes into the home's HVAC systems.

What does this mean for you? Whenever you hire a contractor, carpenter, painter, HVAC professional, plumber, electrician, or any company that will disturb known or presumed lead-based paint, you should ask to see their certification. This extends to property managers and rental property owners doing any such work as well.

The Ketchikan Indian Community Housing Authority will be certifying a crew in January. For more information contact Lance Simons or Sam Bergeron at the KICHA.

Did You Know?

Included in the Obama family's art selections for their time in the White House are a dozen paintings by American artist George Catlin, as well as other art reflecting the first family's interest in Native American culture. During several journeys he undertook beginning in 1830, Catlin visited a total of fifty Native American tribes and made numerous portraits of chiefs and tribal members, wildlife images, hunting and other cultural scenes, and images of wild American landscapes. See more of his art at <http://www.georgecatlin.org>

End of the Year Thoughts and Accomplishments

Lance Simons, Environmental Coordinator

The end of the calendar year brings us to the holidays, winter break for our children, a new year, and the time to closeout the previous year's Indian General Assistance Program Grant and develop new grants. With all these pressing things on our minds here at the Ketchikan Indian Community Housing Authority, it's good to look back on the year.



My new year...and new life began as I arrived in Ketchikan on a wet Sunday in August - right off the ferry from Bellingham. I had driven from eastern Idaho in two eventful days. So, after the U-haul breaking down twice and barely getting to Seattle on time to get my family's personal belongings unloaded at Northland Cargo, it was time to sit back and enjoy the trip to SE Alaska. And what a beautiful trip it was.

Though I had been to Alaska before, it had been thirty five years since I had been to SE Alaska. I had spent 9 years in Kotzebue – thirty-three miles above the Arctic Circle. My wife and 2 of my children were born in Alaska, but this was unlike any Alaska we had lived. This Alaska had trees! Kotzebue had few and east Idaho had even fewer. I was excited to be back in Alaska and ready to start my new job with the Ketchikan Indian Community as the Housing Authority's Environmental Coordinator.

When I finally got started in my 7' X 12' office, I was tasked with sorting through piles of information and familiarizing myself with the program – what it had done, where it is at, and where it is going. I could see there was a broad range of duties required for this job; which was very nice considering my last job as a food safety inspector for a "green" company, Green Giant, was very monotonous. So, I dove right in.

There were many challenges with my new position, but there were also many accomplishments. Working relationships were established with the community, including Tribal Council members, Borough and City employees, the U.S. Forest Service, non-profit organizations, and faculty from the college. For example, collaboration with the Borough and the grass-roots organization, Environmental Concerns for Alaska, was created to address marine debris and roadside litter. From this collaboration, Ketchikan is poised to be the first nationally recognized "Keep America Beautiful" affiliate in Alaska.

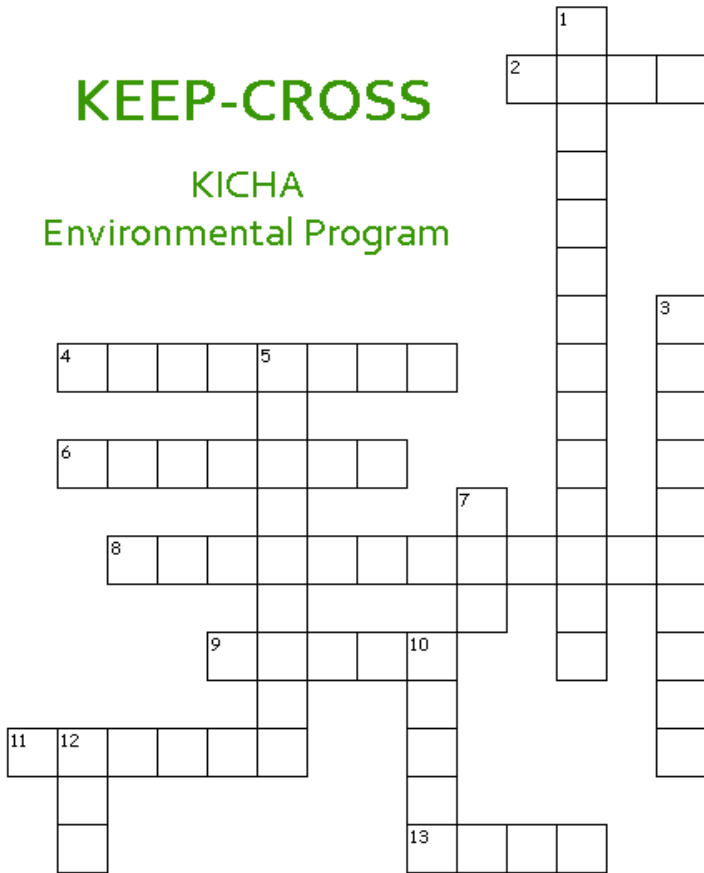
Environmental education was also a focus of the program. A newsletter was created which garnered immediate response from teachers and kindled their interest in collaborating on future projects. Environmental education curriculum was distributed to the schools, while yet other environmental education curriculum was developed and presented by a local non-profit organization in large part due to the involvement of the Ketchikan Indian Community Housing Authority (KICHA) Environmental Program – offering assistance in such ways as supplying printing funds, projection equipment loans, and technical assistance. Equipment was also purchased that enhanced the curriculum and enabled future environmental education outreach efforts.

Valuable training was attended and much of the information and ideas were brought home and implemented into the KICHA's Environmental Program. Membership with organizations such as the Southeast Conference, Indoor Air Quality Association, and the Cold Climate Housing Research Center allowed us to stay attuned with the latest news, studies, and trends in environmental issues, indoor air quality, and energy savings. By incorporating what we have learned into our outreach efforts, we have educated, empowered, and enhanced the community.

As you can see, much has been accomplished this year and I am excited to see what next year will bring. The KICHA Environmental Program will continue to work with community members and local organizations at all levels to enhance the quality of life for all.

KEEP-CROSS

KICHA Environmental Program



Across

2. Name of this newsletter
4. The Goal of "KEEP"
6. A collaborative partner
8. Grass-roots
9. Ketchikan Indian Community Housing Authority
11. An American artist
13. Toxin found in paint

Down

1. Protecting the home
3. AMHS port of call
5. A focus of the program
7. Nationally recognized organization
10. Month when new EPA rule will take effect
12. Who we enhance life for

*Reading this newsletter will supply the answers.



Recycle Your Christmas Tree

Christmas trees can be recycled at the City of Ketchikan Landfill. You can drop them off or if the city picks up your garbage already, they will pick them up the week of January 11-15 (tentatively). A definitive date will be advertised in the Ketchikan Daily News. The recycled Christmas trees are chipped and used as cover for the landfill. For more information contact the Streets Department at 225-3901.

***Important: TREES should be free of all decorations. Please do not leave plastic bags or tree stands. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

To better serve the community members and to stay attuned to the latest news, trends and education, many of the KIC Housing Authority staff members plan on attending some of the upcoming events in the months of January and February. For more information on these coming events, follow the links associated with each event title or contact Lance Simons.

"Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government."
Thomas Jefferson

TRAINING CALENDAR

- January 11-15
Lead Based Paint - RGA Environmental
- January 14-16
IAQ Tools for Schools National Symposium - EPA
- January 20-22
Alaska Weatherization Summit - Alaska Housing Finance
- January 25-27
Preparing Indirect Cost Proposals - Falmouth Institute
- February 8-12
AK Forum on the Environment - Alaska Forum
- February 22-23
Introduction to Geographical Information Systems - ESRI



2010 State of the Arctic Conference

16-19 March 2010

Miami, Florida

Registration is now open for the 2010 State of the Arctic Conference!

The State of the Arctic Conference will be held 16-19 March 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Miami in Miami, Florida. The main goal of the conference is to review our understanding of the Arctic system in a time of rapid environmental change. It will provide an open international forum for discussion of future research directions aimed toward a better understanding of the arctic system and its trajectory. Further information about the conference can be found at: <http://soa.arcus.org>. To register, please go to: <http://soa.arcus.org/register>.

5 Energy Savings Tips

As part of the Environmental Program's goals, it is our intent to help resident conserve energy. By conserving energy, households can help save the environment, while at the same time save money. Here are some tips to help you save energy, increase your comfort in your home, and help reduce your energy expenses.

1. Have a weatherization audit done on your home. Call KIC's weatherization program for info.
2. Cut heating bills by as much as 10% a year by turning your thermostat back 10 to 15 percent each day.
3. Weatherize your home by caulking and weather-stripping all doors and windows
4. Insulate or increase the amount of insulation in your attic, basement and outside walls. Without proper insulation the heat is just escaping.
5. Close the fireplace damper when not in use.

Weatherizing your home is one of the most important steps to have a lower heating bill. The savings will generally be equal or greater than any repair costs.

Outreach Is Our Goal

One of the goals for the KICHA Environmental Program is to offer environmental information to the schools and community. There are several media publications in the Environmental office for your viewing. The publications include flyers, DVD's, pamphlets, books, and curriculum material – covering a wide variety of environmental issues. Some items are available for checkout and others are free. We also have access to much more from various entities through out the US. We can also come to you with presentations. Call or stop by the KICHA Environmental office with your questions.

Credits

Funding for this newsletter is paid for in part by The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP). It is distributed via an email list and will be posted on the KIC website. It is also available upon request by traditional mail. Contact us to be added to the email/mail list.

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****If you would like to receive this newsletter either by email or traditional mail,
please contact the Environmental Office****

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