

Environmental Newsletter

May-June 2008

Volume 6, Issue 4

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EHC Members:

- John Moonin
- Jennie Kamluck
- Stella Meganack
- Lydia McMullen
- Peter Anahonak, Sr.
- Port Graham High School Students

"There will be no Environmental Health Committee Meetings until August."

Environmental Staff:

Violet Yeaton/Environmental Planner & Bobbi Sue McMullen/Environmental Technician

Dry & Dusty Once Again

Summertime is here and it has become dry around the village due to barely any rain! We want to inform all of the Port Graham Residents that we all need to go by the speed limit and think of others!

Here in our community we have a high amount of residents with asthma or some type of respiratory illness. The elders and children are more prone of respiratory problems than anybody else. So please drive slow. Impacts of dust :

- Respiratory Problems
- Asthma Aggravation
- Subsistence Food Con-

tamination

The speed limit in the village is 15 mph and on the Back Road is 20 mph.

It is very important to go by the speed limit we have in our community. There are many people out walking, biking or children playing in their yards. So as drivers, please watch out for the people around you and respecting them by driving slow.

In the beginning of June the Calcium Chloride was applied on to the roads to reduce the amount of dust. As you all know, Port Graham does have an issue with dust problems every summer. We apply the Cal-

cium Chloride every year on our roads to help protect our community members and visitors from outside. Please bare with us until we are able to apply the Calcium Chloride onto the roads. For now, please be courteous to one another and drive by the speed limit.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Kenai Peninsula Borough for supplying our Community with the Calcium Chloride. Also, we would like to thank Harvey Meganack & Ephim Anahonak, Jr. for applying the Calcium Chloride to our roads.

Thank You!

Designated Sites for Scrap Wood & Brush

We wanted to inform everyone regarding the designated site for brush to be disposed of on the Outside Beach. For any other scrap wood with paint or any other large pieces can be disposed of at the site behind the LTF. Other

smaller pieces of scrap wood can be thrown in the Burn Box, please make sure that it does not have any paint or other chemicals on them.

If you have any questions of where to dispose, please

call the PGVC for more information

Please dispose of any wood or brush properly and throw in the appropriate sites.

Thank you! Have a safe and wonderful summer!



Backyard Burning

Residential burning is a more serious threat to public health and the environment than previously believed. Burning household waste produces many toxic chemicals and is one of the largest known sources of dioxins in the nation. Tribes across the nation are beginning to ban this practice.

Dioxins accumulate in the food chain. They can settle onto berries and forage the game animals that contribute to subsistence foods that Alaskan tribal communities rely upon as part of traditional hunting and gathering practices. Dioxins also can settle

on water on enter rivers and streams through soil erosion. They accumulate in the fats of animals, and then in humans when we consume meat, fish, and dairy products.

Smoke from burn barrels contains hazardous pollutants such as particulate matter (PM), sulfur dioxide, lead, mercury, and hexachlorobenzene that can have immediate and long term health effects such as:

- Asthma, emphysema, and other respiratory illnesses.
- Nervous system, kidney or liver damage.

- Reproductive or developmental disorders.

Ash residue from burning can contain toxic pollutants, such as mercury, lead, chromium, and arsenic, which can contaminate subsistence foods such as berries. Children can accidentally swallow toxic materials from dirt on their hands while playing near discarded ash.

Help protect yourself, your family, and your community from the health risks from outdoor burning.

~* This information came from the U.S. EPA. *~

"Smoke from burn barrels contains hazardous pollutants such as PM..."

Simple Ways You Can Make A Difference

Here are a couple of tips on how you can help to control waste:

Always consider that Styrofoam is not recyclable and does not biodegrade. Don't buy Styrofoam popcorn or peanuts to fill your packages. Remember there are a number of alternative packing

pellets that are biodegradable.

Try to avoid buying food that comes in Styrofoam containers. If you are out at a restaurant, see if you can get your take home in a cardboard container.

To eliminate junk mail by signing up online at Direct-Mail.com's Mail Preference

Registry at www.directmail.com/directory/mail_preference/ or by calling DMA Customer Assistance at 800-CUT-JUNK.

~This information came from the EPA Region 10 Tribal Newsletter of May 2008~

Moisture Control is the Key to Mold Control

Always remember that molds growing indoors can cause health problems as they produce allergens (substances that can cause allergic reactions) and irritants. In some cases, potentially toxic substances known as mycotoxins can be produced by molds.

For some, mold or mold spores may cause allergic reac-

tions like sneezing, runny nose, red eyes, and skin rash (dermatitis). Allergic reactions to mold are common and can be immediate or delayed. Molds can also cause asthma attacks in people with asthma who are allergic to mold spores.

Consider installing exhaust fans in the kitchen or bath-

rooms where you live, if you do not have them. Exhaust fans reduce the build up of moisture with which molds need to grow.

For more tips & suggestions, please visit Mold Basics at www.epa.gov/mold/moldbasics.html

~This info came from EPA.~

What Should Stay Out of the Landfill

In our community, we do have an issue with what should stay out of the landfill.

It is summertime and we do have a lot of old frozen foods that get thrown into our dumpsite. Any frozen foods should be disposed of at the Outside Beach or thrown into the bay.

When frozen food's are thrown into the landfill, the sun and warm weather starts to make it ferment and the scent can be carried from a

distance away. The dumpsite alone already has a strong smell to it and we do not need anything else in it to make the smell any worse then it is.

If any hunters go hunting and bring their catch back into the community, please dispose the remaining carcasses at the outside beach.

In addition, please dispose of any used oil, gas, antifreeze, paint etc. at the designated locations clearly marked at the

dump. There should not be any household or vehicle batteries thrown in the landfill as well. They can be placed into the containers, to the left side of the Haz-Mat Building, which is clearly marked. You can also place any fluorescent light bulbs in the Haz-Mat building. All these items identified should not be thrown into the dumpsite and the burn box. Thank you and please dispose your waste properly.



Invaders-What's Heading North?

The European Green Crab was caught in March off of Vancouver Island in British Columbia. Of the approximately 300 crabs taken that day by Canada's Depart. of Fisheries & Oceans for research and monitoring purposes, all but two were green crabs, according to Dan Gilson, a citizen's council project manager who went along to observe. The green crab is an invasive species that has been migrating up the West Coast since the early 1990s and has now reached Canada. Canadian scientists are finding that the green crabs can shed their shells and grow new ones in water colder than 50 degrees Fahrenheit, a sign they might be able to survive in Prince William Sound if introduced in tanker ballast water. Because green crabs can threaten other species when they invade an

area, the council runs its own green crab trapping program in the Sound to detect their arrival, if and when it happens. So far, none have been found.

~This information came from May 2008 newspaper: The Observer~

The Green Crabs do have a devastating effect on the marine environment. One such effect has been the elimination of native, or local, species. Introduced species often prove to be very strong competitors for food and space, and they can also bring with them parasites that may infect native species.

The green crab lives in a wide range of salinities. It is also a voracious predator, feeding on commercially valuable oysters and young Dungeness crabs.

If you are worried or wondering if they have reached

Alaska, there will be a Crab monitoring below the Westside of the Hatchery on June 5th. The goal for this monitoring is to identify local crabs and to search for the Invasive European Green Crab.

The monitoring that will take place that day, involved crab traps set along the beach and identify and measure all crabs and fish found in the traps. Kachemak Bay Research Reserve will provide all equipment, oversight and training. All ages are welcome to attend the training.

There will be another Green Crab Monitoring sometime in August. We will inform everyone for the set date and time of next monitoring. Thank You!

"Dispose of fish or animal carcasses at the outside beach instead of the landfill site."



The European Green Crab

New Lead Rules

In order to better protect children from lead based paint hazards, EPA issues its new rules for home improvement contractors and maintenance professionals that renovate or repair pre-1978 housing, child-care facilities or schools that contain lead-based paint. Under the new rules, workers must follow lead-safe work practice standards to reduce potential

exposure to occupants to dangerous levels of lead resulting from renovation and repair activities.

The new requirements are key components of a comprehensive Federal effort to eliminate childhood lead poisoning. These include programs to educate parents and caregivers to keep their housing clean and well-maintained, to make sure their young children

wash their hands frequently and eat nutritious food, and to talk to their doctor about testing young children for lead poisoning. For more information or to obtain copies of the rule and supporting materials, please see:

www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm

If you have any questions, please give Russell Clausen a call at 206-553-1171

Choose Energy Star Labels When Buying TV's

The Environmental Protection Agency is trying to encourage consumers that receive over the air broadcasts, either through "rabbit ears" on their sets or a roof antenna, on analog TV sets to extend the life of their TV by purchasing a digital converter box. For consumers that choose to buy a new digital TV, EPA recom-

mends energy efficient sets with the ENERGY STAR label.

The Digital Television Transition & Public Safety Act of 2005, is requiring all full-powered television stations will broadcast only in digital. Anyone that is subscribed to TV services such as, cable, satellite or televisions with digital tuner will not be af-

ected by this transition.

For more information on recycling of unwanted TV's, where to find energy efficient TV's, & additional resources such as the TV Converter Box Coupon Program, visit this website: **www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/recycle/ecycling/tv-convert.htm**.

"In order to better protect children from lead based paint hazards..."

Carbon Footprint

Carbon Footprint is a "measure of the impact human activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of green house gases produced, measured in units of "carbon dioxide". It is meant to be useful for individuals and (or organizational) impact in contributing

to global warming. A conceptual tool in response to carbon footprints are carbon offsets, or the development of alternative projects such as solar or wind energy or reforestation. A carbon footprint can be seen as a subset or earlier uses of the concept of ecological footprints. A

carbon calculator can be found at:

www.caboncounter.org

If you need additional information on the Carbon Footprint you can log onto the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website:

www.epa.gov

Recycling

We are still encouraging the community to start recycling the Plastics #1 & #2. There are two containers at the dumpsite for recycling of the plastics. The signs above the containers show and explain which plastics go where. When recycling of the plastics you will need to take the lids off of any that you are recycling before disposing of in the containers. Some of you may be thinking, “Why can’t we recycle plastic bottle caps as well?” The bottle caps are made of a different plastic resin than the containers. They are usually made of #4 PP (polypropylene) because this material is more rigid than the other resins and works well for the strength needed for a beverage cap.

One community member

asked us, “Where do the plastics go after we drop them off?” The plastic bottles, jugs, & film are baled by type & shipped to Seattle to be sold to recycling brokers, who sell them for use in a variety of new products. These may include fleece clothing, t-shirts, sleeping bag & jacket filling, plastic car bumpers & other auto parts, office supplies, recycling bins, trash bags, grocery bags, and flower pots.

You are only recycling if you sort the plastics properly and put them in the correct plastics recycling bin. If your plastics are contaminated or if you leave materials at the recycling center when no bins are available, you are only creating headaches for the recycling center employees, by generating unnecessary trash

(all plastics are discarded if not sorted or left outside a bin), and jeopardizing the future of plastics recycling in Anchorage for everyone.

Also, we are still recycling the aluminum cans. The container for the cans is right next to the plastic containers where they have always been located.

To start and do the recycling, the Environmental Program will keep encouraging the community to recycle what should and cannot be thrown in the landfill with environmental education in the newsletters or any flyers that will be in the mailboxes and signs that will be posted around the community. Thank You!

~Some information came from the Anchorage Recycling Center Flyer~



Grocery Bags

The Environmental Program here in Port Graham is encouraging our residents to recycle the plastic grocery bags.

The Plastic Grocery Bags are a # 2, which can be recycled here in our community. At the landfill site, there is a container for the plastic grocery bags to get

disposed of. If you do place the grocery bags in the container, make sure you cover the container back down with the lid so we do not have a problem with the bags flying around our landfill and in our community. These bags are a hazard to our land, birds and animals. By recycling, we

will do good by our environment by disposing of the bags properly.

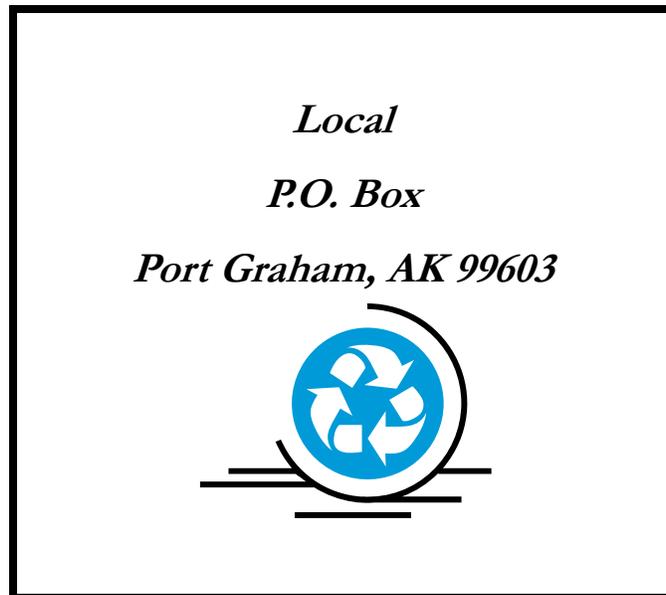
To replace the bags, we have purchased canvas bags to use at the stores to reduce the use of plastic bags. Once you have gotten a bag, please return them to the stores when finished with them. Thank you!



Environmental Program
P.O. Box 5510
Port Graham, Alaska 99603
Phone: 907-284-2227
Fax: 907-284-2222

Port Graham Village Council Members:

Patrick Norman-**First Chief**
Martin Norman-**Second Chief**
Deborah McMullen-**Treasurer**
Agnes Miller-**Secretary**
Stella Meganack-**Member**
Walter Meganack, Jr.-**Member**
Melvin Malchoff-**Member**



FUNDING FOR THIS PUBLICATION WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S (EPA) INDIAN GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (IGAP)

Alternative Uses for Common Household Products

- Tuck a fresh sheet of **Bounce Fabric Softener** in your belt to repel mosquitoes, dissolves soap scum from your shower doors with a used sheet, or eliminate static electricity on your TV screen by wiping with a used sheet to prevent dust from resettling.
- **Coca-Cola**, one of the most popular soda pops in the country, has some interesting alternative uses. The citric acid in Coke, can clean your toilet bowl. Pour one can into the bowl and let sit for one hour, then brush and flush clean. Clean the corrosion from your car battery cables by pouring a can of carbonated Coca-Cola over the terminals to bubble away the corrosion. A cloth soaked in Coke applied for several minutes on a rusted bolt will loosen it. And if you pour a can of Cola into a load of greasy work clothes, add detergent, and wash in a regular washing cycle, the soda will help to loosen the grease stains.
- **Efferdent Denture Cleaner** will also clean your toilet bowl, just drop several tablets into the bowl, scrub and flush. This product will also clean a thermos bottle; fill the bottle with water, drop in three tablets and let soak for an hour or longer. This technique will also work on glass vases.
- **Jif Peanut Butter** can be used as a tasty alternative shaving cream, avoid extra crunchy though. It will also remove bubble gum from hair, rub a dollop of Jif into the bubblegum and then comb out.
- **Listerine Mouthwash** can be used to cure acne, dab with a cotton ball on blemishes. Listerine will also eliminate mildew odors, wipe surfaces with full-strength product. Listerine can also be used as a deodorant because it helps kill the bacteria that cause perspiration odor or use it to disinfect wounds.