

Backhaul Alaska Bulletin – Summer 2018

Backhaul Alaska Program, Pilot Program 1

Successful Training Kick-Off!

June 24-29 2018, Anchorage, AK



Greetings rural Alaska waste backhaul stakeholders!

The Backhaul Alaska Program continues to develop, and the pilot program is fully underway. We from the Solid Waste Alaska Taskforce want to tell you about the successful piloting of the Backhaul Alaska Uniform Training.

Training Results On June 24th – 29th, 2018, *thirty-four individuals from sixteen Backhaul Alaska pilot communities flew into Anchorage to take the training.* The Curriculum was funded by USEPA and developed with the expertise of our Curriculum Advisory Board who last year volunteered their time to meet in Senator Murkowski's office multiple times. The full training is comprised of three University of Alaska, Fairbanks classes. *Twenty participants opted to register and earn three UAF course credits.*

The grueling training started Sunday evening with a pizza dinner generously donated by Moose's Tooth. It concluded successfully on a Friday for 33 participants after five days straight of 8 am to 6 pm instruction. The following communities now have an official Backhaul Alaska approved signer(s) on their staff. Signers are able to supervise backhaul preparation of lead acid batteries, e-wastes, and fluorescent lights. They can then sign off on the shipment so that the materials may be picked up by participating plane and barge carriers for recycling or safe disposal. Congratulations are in order to:

- Alakanuk
- Arctic Village
- Chefornak
- Ekwok
- Golovin
- Koliganek
- Nightmute
- New Stuyahok
- Nome
- Nulato
- Pilot Station
- Russian Mission
- Toksook Bay
- Unalakleet
- Unalaska
- Venetie

Topics The topics covered in the 5-day training conducted included:

- Identification of Hazardous Materials
- The Hazard Classification System
- Using the Hazardous Materials Table
- Packaging
- Markings and Labels
- Placards
- Shipping Papers
- Segregation
- Understanding of the HMR Training Requirements
- Requirements for Incident Reporting
- Security
- Loading
- PPE
- Lifting Safety
- Mercury and Battery Spills
- Backhaul Budgeting
- Social Marketing
- And more...

The delivery format was not just classroom lecture. After working on computers in MS Excel to learn backhaul budgeting and planning, participants were provided hands-on packing training, practice, and testing for spent lead-acid batteries, fluorescent lights, and electronics at Total Reclaim. The class also visited the Port of Anchorage where a Matson employee discussed containers, and then toured Central Recycling.

Participants provided written and verbal feedback each day and which we are still reviewing. Participants were pleased with the wide breadth of training they received, and particularly enjoyed learning social marketing skills they could use in strategizing best ways to improve community involvement.

Action Plans Participants were given a blank action plan template at the beginning of the course and were encouraged to fill out sheets each day as they learned the different topics. During the last three hours. They filled out a full action plan to take home and implement. Each community shared their priority goals and steps.

Partners Multiple partners made this training a success. The Solid Waste Alaska Taskforce thanks these generous partners for their commitment.

Instructors were from the following entities:

- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
- Alaska Occupational Health Safety
- Central Recycling
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Kawerak, Inc
- Native Village of Ekwok
- City of Golovin
- Rural Utility Business Advisor Program
- Total Reclaim
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- US Dept. of Transportation
- Zender Environmental Health and Research Group

Our primary funders included:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs – Pilot Training instruction and preparation, participant travel
- USEPA - Curriculum development, planning and development support,
- Participant Tribes -Travel funding for additional participants

Additional entities that provided their generous support were members of the Curriculum Advisory Committee:

- Interstate Batteries,
- AML,
- Ryan Air,
- Total Reclaim,
- Crowley, and
- Matson

Please contact info@BackhaulAlaska.org if you are interested in helping out.

For more information about Backhaul Alaska go to www.BackhaulAlaska.org