

Sustainable Evaluation Tool

Susanna Trujillo, EPA Region 8



Agenda

- Tools
- Integrated Waste Management Plan
- Sustainability Workgroup
- What is a Sustainable Waste Management Program?
- Region 8 report
- Sustainable Evaluation Tool Demonstration
- Resources & Contacts
- Questions



Tools for Solid Waste Management

- Tribes have identified solid waste issues as a top priority
- 2005 - 2007 Region 8 led the effort between EPA Regions and HQ, other federal agencies and tribes to work together to identify ways to address solid waste issues in Indian country
- Result: Workgroups formed and developed tools
 - IWMP
 - Sustainable Evaluation Tool

Integrated Waste Management Plan

- A long term plan that characterizes the current waste management program and assesses future waste management options for the tribal community.
- The template identifies the 5 critical elements of a plan
- Not just a description of standard operating procedures for handling the current waste stream!



Sustainability Workgroup

- ▶ Sustainability Workgroup est. 2006
'Help tribes create sustainable, well-managed infrastructure systems in order to ensure that reservation populations receive basic public services in a manner that is environmentally protective and economically viable'
- Need to comprehensively evaluate the sustainability of a solid waste management program.



What is a sustainable solid waste management program?

- Sustainable waste management systems tend to share attributes in 7 key indicator areas.
 - Planning
 - Financial viability
 - Management
 - Staffing
 - Operations
 - Coordination
 - Compliance & Enforcement



Sustainable Evaluation Tool

- Goals of the tool
 - Evaluate a current program for evidence of the 7 key indicators of a sustainable program.
- Self Evaluation
 - Tool could be used to supplement other review processes or establish a baseline
- Reporting
 - Results can identify areas of success and weakness



Sustainable Evaluation Tool Pilot

- Five R8 Tribes volunteered to participate in a pilot study to test the tool.
- Tribes completed the Sustainable Evaluation Tool without assistance or facilitation.
- 16 R8 Tribes have completed the tool with EPA administering it.




The following slides present results of 16 EPA Region 8 tribal programs.

- Averaged results indicated that planning and compliance & enforcement are areas with the weakest scores and the greatest need for assistance.
- Results are used to identify areas of opportunity for targeted assistance, specific areas where training, technical assistance, and financial resources would have the greatest impacts.



Overall Score and Summary


Key Indicator/Rank (lowest to highest)	% of Total Possible
Planning (2)	51.9%
Financial Viability (5)	60.2%
Management (7)	80.8%
Staffing (6)	70.1%
Operations (4)	59.9%
Coordination (3)	53.0%
Compliance & Enforcement (1)	47.2%
Overall Score	59%




Key Indicator	Targeted Assistance
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide technical assistance for drafting plans (IWMP, capital improvement plans, staffing plans, operations and maintenance plans).• Identify plan implementation best practices and provide support to revisit and update plans on a regular basis.• Discuss strategies for tracking plan implementation.• Share resources for how to calculate potential impacts of future development.• Evaluate model plans and their role in established programs.



Key Indicator	Targeted Assistance
Financial Viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Support for development of a rate structure that includes affordable rates that are affordable and adjust as needed.● Provide planning support to develop adequate reserve accounts for contingencies and capital improvements.● Share approaches and tactics for how equitable provisions are made for the elderly and low income.● Discuss how collaboration between tribal departments and tribal enterprises can provide in-kind solutions with cash value to reduce costs.● U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD) grant application process



Key Indicator	Targeted Assistance
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss the benefits of a utility board or independent body and strategies for developing such a board.
Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create templates and model staff training plans to support staff training plan development.• Conduct trainings in a forum, which maximizes staff time and financial resources.
Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide training on how to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the waste system.• Best practices for implementing measures to reduce waste or pollution.• Identification of resources for addressing unresolved problems.



Key Indicator	Targeted Assistance
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion of best practices for coordination with other tribal departments.• Best practices for coordination with stakeholders to create a sustainable program that is consistent with tribal mission and beliefs.• Implementation support for changes in long standing behavior and practices.
Compliance & Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refer to model codes and provide waste code development training.• Provide code implementation support and best practices.• Enforcement training including a “train the trainer” for enforcement officers to share their knowledge of enforcement with tribal police and courts.



Sustainable Evaluation Tool Demonstration

- Who uses the tool?
- How does the tool work?
- How do you score questions? What is the scoring key?
- How do you interpret the overall score and results?

EPA Contact Information

Region 1 – Juiyu Hsieh

617-918-1646

hsieh.juiyu@epa.gov

Region 2 – Lorraine Graves

212-637-4099

graves.lorraine@epa.gov

Region 4 – Davy Simonson

404-562-8457

simonson.davy@epa.gov

Region 5 – Dolly Tong

312-886-1019

tong.dolly@epa.gov

Region 6 – Roger Hancock

214-665-6688

hancock.roger@epa.gov

Region 7 – Gayle Hubert

913-551-7439

hubert.gayle@epa.gov

Region 8 – Susanna Trujillo

303-312-7008

Trujillo.susanna@epa.gov

Region 9 – Michelle Baker

415-972-3772

Baker.michelle@epa.gov

Region 10 – Fran Stefan

206-553-6639

stefan.fran@epa.gov

Questions?

