



Nez Perce Tribe Recycling Program Newsletter—April 2020

'apaqa'áño' 'ee kaa 'epeqícxnu' wéetesne

- Respect and take care of the earth.

Nez Perce Tribe Water Resources Division - Solid Waste and Recycling Program

Lapwai Contacts: Jon Van Woerkom . (208) 791-3965 or Linda Nemeth . lindan@nezperce.org

Update and Status of the Solid Waste & Recycling Program

- Lapwai Community Recycling events & office collections are suspended in support of social distancing and the travel ban
- Tribal Housing Authority Lapwai Spring Cleanup was maintained through Spring Break and has just finished
- Tribal government waste continues to be hauled to the landfill
- Cardboard is still collected from Tribal cardboard bins
- Staff are using Personal Protective Equipment—wearing nitrile gloves with safety glasses and aprons available for use
- Work stations at the shop are spaced at least six feet apart
- Recycling that has been collected is allowed to sit for three days or more before being handled at the shop
- The shop continues to be closed to the public (as always)
- National waste and recycling associations' newsletters and guidelines are monitored daily for updates

We will be using this "down" time to get caught up on the huge backlog of recycling piled at the shop and take care of overdue maintenance of the shop and equipment. We appreciate your support and your patience and hope you can somehow store recycling until we can safely collect recycling again. Don't forget we can now recycle plastic bags/film—that does not take much space to store!

"Talkin' Trash"

You hear about the kid that threw his biology test in the trash, yet still managed to pass?

Turns out, it was bio-D-gradable!



Earth Day—April 22, 2020

The theme for Earth Day 2020 is climate action. One positive thing happening with the current COVID-19 pandemic, is that greenhouse gas emissions are temporarily down and air quality has temporarily gone up as governments react to the COVID-19 pandemic. This glimpse of what can happen in the environment if we make drastic, necessary changes will hopefully help the world make a profound shift to a more sustainable economy that works for both people and the planet, here on the Reservation and around the world. When the pandemic is past, societies may adopt some important measures that would lower emissions, from more teleconferencing to shortening global supply chains. But the most lasting lesson may be what the coronavirus teaches us about the urgency of taking swift action.



A big thank you to the NPT Tribal Housing Authority for holding their Spring Cleanup and using the Tribal Solid Waste Program for hauling. This year's Spring Cleanup totaled 15.1 tons of trash removed from Tribal homes and land. Thank you to all who took advantage of this awesome opportunity!

Qe'ciyéw'yew'



We're all in this together—Home alone, together...Stay positive, stay well!