

**Project Objective:**

The primary objective of the grant was to protect human and environmental health in the Native Village of Tununak by installing a new chain-link fence around the landfill to help contain trash from blowing onto the surrounding tundra, lakes, ocean and river. The second objective of the project was to hire youth to document the project and educate residents about the environment.

**Results:**

The fence was installed as scheduled, but missing pieces caused an unforeseen delay. The youth took pictures of the fence installation, interviewed elders about the environment, created 3 newsletters, attended the Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management and created a project power-point presentation to share with others. The missing fence pieces were received in early 2010 and the fence was completed in August 2010.

**Benefits:**

- Trash is not blowing all over subsistence gathering areas. Subsistence foods are extremely important to residents of the village. Keeping habitats safe help to ensure healthy foods & healthy residents.
- Landfill site has an improved layout which will result in better operation.
- Youth are more educated about the environment and more engaged in activities in the village.
- Residents are more aware of things that negatively affect environment.
- Tribe has gained a greater capacity to document and report on project processes and results.
- Cleaner, safer village to live in.
- Provided local hire & job skills to youth.

**Lessons Learned:**

- **Always inventory freight as soon as it arrives.** The fence was purchased in the spring of 2008. There was no funding to install it until receiving the CEDP grant. When installed in August 2009, it was realized that there were missing pieces. Initial calls to the vendor were unsuccessful. With the help from ANTHC, the mistake was found and the vendor supplied the missing pieces for free. If you experience difficulty with your project or vendor, talk to your grant manager or another agency. They may be able to assist in resolving the situation.
- **If there is heavy equipment available in the village...you may want to use it.** In many cases, if you let the equipment owners know what you are doing and how it’s benefiting the community, they may provide use of equipment as an in-kind contribution. After much difficulty digging 4 foot fence post holes, a bulldozer was eventually used to remove the first 2 feet of dirt and rock first. The use of equipment increased production.
- **If a fence is missing pieces or pieces are altered, it will not be as strong as it should be.** The missing pieces to the fence included about ¼ of the top support railings and gate posts. The first winter storm resulted in one corner of the chain-link becoming unsecured leaving a large hole. When the top railings were sent, they were cut in half in order to fit in the plane for transport. Although, they did have couplings to secure them back together, they were loose and the top railings weren’t as strong as they would have been if they weren’t cut.
- **Winter weather will probably cause delays.** If the project pushes into the winter months, it’s almost certain that weather will cause delays. Take steps to try to finish the project early.
- **Trash stinks.** Work with the Tribe or City to find a way to keep fires out of the dump while people are working. You might even want to create “No Burning” signs to display while workers are there.
- **If workers can’t work on the project – consider finding new ones.** The original crew hired to install the fence had other things going on by the time the missing fence pieces arrived. Since the project was already behind schedule, a replacement crew was hired to get the job done.

**For more information:**

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ANTHC project website: <http://www.anthc.org/chs/ces/hve/cedgr09.cfm>

# NATIVE VILLAGE OF TUNUNAK

## Landfill Fencing Project with Youth Involvement



Funding provided by ANTHC through the Community Environmental Demonstration Grant Program made possible with the Alaska Tribal Multi-Media Grant from the US EPA.



## Work performed before February 1, 2009

\* Ordered 200' X 300' chain link fence from McKinley Fence Co. in Anchorage. Shipped on Northland Barge Spring 2008.

\* Researched, prepared and submitted CEDP grant in December '08.

# \* PROJECT TIMELINE \*

Tununak's 2009 Community Environmental Demonstration Project Grant

