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







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

Received CEDP funding and attended grant orientation during the Alaska Forum.

Feb. '09

Ordered personal protective gear for the workers with funding from the Alaska Forum for protection from potential hazards in the landfill.



4 ft. holes were dug and 68 fence posts were set. Initially started digging the holes manually but found it easier to take 2 ft. off top with the bulldozer first. This increased production.

July '09

Aug. '09

With help from ANTHC, worked with McKinley & Northland to determine what happened to missing fence pieces. Based on fence invoice & bill of laden for shipping, it was determined the pieces never made it to the barge. McKinley provided missing pieces free but needed to cover additional air freight.

> The first big winter storm blew a part of the chain-link from the fence posts. The damage was caused by not having all the necessary parts to properly build the fence in July.

ANTHC was able to increase the original award to pay for the air freight for fence pieces and additional personnel costs for the work crew. Subaward was modified.

Ordered educational signs for the landfill fence from Warning Lights of AK.

Drafted youth job descriptions & posted at the school.

March '09

April '09

Created & posted job description for fence supervisor and work crew. Posted in stores & post office.

May '09

The landfill site was assessed by supervisor.

Sept. '09

Oct. '09

Nov. '09

Dec. '09

Jan. '10

Two youth were hired utilizing Tribal hiring policies to conduct research on environmental topics, create community newsletters, interview elders about the environment and document the project.



Hired 1 site supervisor and 3 people to help install the fence using Tribal hiring procedures.

June '09

Fence installation complete but there were pieces missing. This included the entry door posts and about ¼ of the top support pieces.



Youth created a power-point to educate others about the project.

Requested necessary parts from Mckinley Fence Co. and received them air freight. on Lynden & ATS.

additional fence parts in Dec. but due to severe weather needed to request an extension from ANTHC.

Received





Site was prepared for fencing. A bulldozer was used to push trash into a trench, compact, then cover with soil to help minimize the smell & the workers contact with potential hazards. Scattered trash was cleaned up along fence post diameter.

Because of summer subsistence activities and other work opportunities, the original work-crew hired for the fence project were no longer available. New workers were hired. All the top railings were installed but it turned out that since they were not connected directly to the chain-link and they had been cut in half before shipping, they were not sturdy. The crew ended up chopping down the posts about a foot with a sawsall, reconnecting the top railings to them and securing them to the chain-link. This made the fence more durable.

> A long cold winter prevented any work to be performed.

Feb-Apr '10 | May-Jul '10

Fence project complete

August '10