

For more information:

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ANTHC Project website: www.anthc.org/chs/ces/hve/community-environmental-demonstration-grants.cfm or Google: ANTHC grants.

Lessons Learned:

- Start composting early. For best results, compost needs heat and if it's started too late, it may not fully process.
- Community involvement and participation is critical. Without it, the project may not be as successful.
- The community is more engaged and involved in positive projects in the community.
- The projects have helped the community become more sustainable and self sufficient.
- Residents are more educated about indoor air quality. They are aware of hazards associated with common household cleaners and they know about some alternatives. This results in improved resident health and a healthier environment.
- Composting helps to reduce the amount of waste going into the village landfill.
- A healthy water supply in the community, free of arsenic contamination present in underground wells. The collection of rain water also helps to conserve the hauled water that is transported into the community.

Benefits:

Project Objective: The Native Village of Gakona received a CEDP grant to improve the water supply for their community garden, reduce solid waste through composting, and to improve indoor air quality in the village.

Results: The Tribe purchased 8 large rain barrels and a gutter system which was installed on two buildings to collect fresh rain water. Composting was implemented. Green cleaning kits and air purifying indoor plants were provided to residents. Educational materials were developed and shared with residents during each phase of the project. Materials are all available online.

NATIVE VILLAGE OF GAKONA

2011 Water, Composting, and Air Quality Improvement Project



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* PROJECT TIMELINE *

2011 Community Environmental Demonstration Project

- Prior

→ The Native Village of Gakona has an established garden, but water testing revealed that the well water used in the garden and through-out the village contained high levels are arsenic, unhealthy for residents to consume.
- Mar. '11

→ The Native Village of Gakona received a CEDP Grant from ANTHC.

→ An RFP was developed and distributed to seek quotes from contractors for the water catchment system.
- April '11

→ Since no reasonable quotes were received for the water catchment system, the Tribe decided to purchase the materials and hire local laborers to complete the project which save a large amount of money.

→ Educational materials were developed for the project.

→ Detailed plans were created for the project to keep employees on track with grant timelines.
- May '11

→ All supplies for the water catchment system and composting project were researched and ordered.
- June '11

→ All supplies were received. The water catchment system was installed and a composting training was conducted to educate residents about the projects. Home use compost buckets were provided to residents.
- July '11

→ The Tribe hosted the 1st of 3 healthy foods cooking demonstrations for residents to educate them about the benefits of eating fresh grown produce and to continue to encourage everyone to continue composting.
- Aug. '11

→ The Tribe researched and ordered supplies for their indoor air quality education efforts.
- Sept. '11

→ Because harsh household cleaning supplies and other hazardous chemicals are common in local households, the Tribe teamed up with youth to educate residents about the importance of indoor air quality. The group educated residents about proper storage and disposal, as well as healthier alternatives to the harsh cleaning supplies commonly used. Green cleaning kits were provided to residents that attended.

