

KAWERAK BROWNFIELD PROGRAM

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



DID YOU KNOW?

A new species of fungi named: *Ideonella sakaiensis* was discovered in 2016 that breaks down plastic thanks to its digestive enzymes. Nature is always looking out for ways to take care of itself, how amazing!

UPCOMING PROJECTS

MARCH

- Brownfield Program staff will be in Anchorage during 3/26-3/29 to attend ATCEM (Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management.)

APRIL

- Brownfield Coordinator will attend a 40 hour HAZWOPER training in White Mountain. Contact: wmocity@gci.net for inquiries.
- Brownfield Coordinator will attend a 7 Generations training in Anchorage through ANTHC. Contact: ceh@anthc.org for more info.

MAY

- Kawerak hosting first Environmental Summit in Nome during 5/29 & 5/30. Contact: environment@kawerak.org for summit info.
- Brownfield Coordinator will be attending a water & soil sampling training through Zender in Anchorage. Contact: info@zendergroup.org for more info or visit <https://zendergroup.org>.

JULY

- ChemTrack Phase II testing on Koyuk sites, (TBD).
- Brownfield team traveling to Council, White Mountain, and Golovin, (TBD).
- Brownfield team will visit Shishmaref, Savoonga, & Diomedes (TBD).

Microplastics found in seals

Studies have shown that spotted seals in the Bering Strait Region have microplastics present in their stomachs. The studies indicate microplastics have been present in their stomachs since at least 2012. We encourage your community to reduce single use plastics (bags, drinks) to help reduce community exposure to microplastic ingestion through harvest.



(PHOTO BY BUDD CHRISTMAN/NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION)

Kawerak Brownfield Department at AFE



Kayla Bourdon, Brandie Radigan and Carol Oliver enjoy the conference.

During the week of February 5th, the Kawerak Brownfield team presented at the Alaska Forum on the Environment's 2024 conference. AFE is an annual conference that takes place in Anchorage and focuses on a variety of environmental topics like contaminated sites, climate change, energy & more. Our Presentation was about our Brownfield Program Success Stories and to give tips for new Brownfield Coordinators in Alaska.

Recognizing Koyuk's Mary Lockwood for submitting a DBAC application!

We want to congratulate Mary Lockwood on all her hard work and submittal of the grant application, great work Mary! The DEC (Department on Environmental Conservation) Brownfield Assessment & Cleanup (DBAC) Services is a funding opportunity that you can apply for annually. You do **not** need a Brownfield Program in place in order to apply for this funding! Obtaining a DBAC will help your community with Phase I Assessments of sites and Phase II Testing, as well as Hazardous Building Materials Surveys, Cleanup Planning, Cleanup alternatives, Asbestos Abatement, Soil/Groundwater Cleanup, and Reuse Planning. The application opens annually in November. If you are interested please contact us for help with the application!

First Bering Strait Region Environmental Summit!

Kawerak will host our region's 1st Environmental Summit here in Nome during May 29th & 30th this year! We welcome all of our communities IGAP workers & assistants! Please reach out to environment@kawerak.org to register or for questions,.

For more information contact:

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Don't forget to check out our website at:
www.kawerak.org/brownfields

