

April Luncheon Speaker

SAEMS enjoyed two guest speakers at our April 25, 2012 luncheon. Greg Noble, (Davis-Monthan Air Force Base) presented several initiatives underway at D-M; a solar array saving over a half-million dollars per year; and a thermal ice storage system for the new chiller plant, modeled after the UofA plant; as well as other energy audits and LEED certified construction activities. John Karelis (Utilities Manager for Soaring Heights Communities at D-M) discussed how 400 residential roof-top solar systems, a 20-acre ground solar array, and other initiatives are leading Davis-Monthan AFB in sustainable energy programs. SAEMS also thanks Ryan Mielke of Lend Lease for helping coordinate our speakers.

July Luncheon Speaker

This month our luncheon speaker will be Dan Millis of the Sierra Club. Born and raised in Arizona, Dan Millis has worked on border issues since 2005. He is the Borderlands Campaign Organizer for Arizona's Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club. Dan is also a volunteer with the border humanitarian aid group No More Deaths, and is the recipient of the 2010 Derechos Humanos Corazon de Justicia Award for environmental work. Dan will tell us more about HR 1505, the border bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives last month. Dan will explain the dangers of losing important environmental protections, and how this bill is only disguised as a border security measure. If you plan to attend the luncheon, you can register and pay via PayPal at http://www.saems.org/luncheon_info_frameset.htm. Please note that luncheons will no longer be held at the Manning House. They are now held at the Hotel Tucson.

Save the Date! The Annual P2 Seminar is Approaching

SAEMS will be holding the annual P2 seminar on Wednesday, September 26. It will be held at the Hotel Tucson. Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for updates on the upcoming seminar!



Greg Noble and John Karelis spoke at the SAEMS April Luncheon.

City of Tucson Recycling Program Expands

On Monday, July 2, 2012, City of Tucson Recycling Collections were taken to a new, state-of-the-art recycling facility located at Ajo and Alvernon. The new facility will be able to sort and market a greater variety of materials which means recycling will be easier than ever, especially plastics. City of Tucson Environmental Services has entered into a contract with ReCommunity Recycling to process and market the recyclables collected by the City from Tucson residents and business customers. The new facility will use a combination of sorting machines to make the process easier and more efficient. For Tucson residents, the biggest change is that there will be less confusion about which plastics are recyclable. If it is a plastic container, it goes in the blue barrel. According to Fran LaSala, Waste Diversion Manager, "Our customers will be able to recycle a much greater amount of the plastics used in their homes and businesses. No looking at the numbers; if it's a plastic container, it's recyclable. For years, customers have asked us to take more plastics especially things like yogurt containers and butter tubs. We're happy to say we are now able to take those and more." Residents will receive a copy of the new list of recyclables in their July water bill. More information is available on the web at TucsonRecycles.org or by calling the Recycle InfoLine at 791-5000.

2012 RCRA Seminar Update

The annual RCRA seminar was held on Thursday May 10, 2012 at the Manning House. The event was attended by 160 people, including four students on scholarships, and raised over \$12,000 for SAEMS' scholarship fund. Topics included RCRA basics, an overview of communication changes with the GHS and Hazcom changes, pharmaceutical disposal, rule updates, common inspection errors and the U of A's spill response. In addition to the seminar, SAEMS celebrated our 25th anniversary with a special luncheon. The luncheon was hosted by founding members and culminated in a cake cutting. Thanks again to our fearless committee for organizing the successful event!

City of South Tucson Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program Update

SAEMS would like to welcome their newest members from the City of South Tucson's Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program (EWDJT): Cecilia Flores, David Bennett, Heath Quijada, Kristina Thysell, Martin Vasquez, Rene Hernandez, Richard Leon, Roberto Villarreal, Steve Quiroz, and Vera Conley. In April, these students began a four month comprehensive environmental job training program to prepare them for a position in the Environmental Workforce. The City of South Tucson would like to thank SAEMS members for all their support and a special thanks to members who are mentoring our students. If you have questions regarding the program and/or employment opportunities for this class or our 2011 graduates please contact Joel Gastelum, City of South Tucson, at 520-792-2424 or JGastelum@southtucson.org or Derek Koller at 520-551-7887 or dkoller@allwynenvironmental.com.



The SAEMS founders pose with the 25th anniversary cake at the 2012 RCRA seminar.

SAEMS members and volunteers enjoy the HHW volunteer appreciation event held on May 26, 2012.



SAEMS & HHW Volunteer Appreciation Event

SAEMS and Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) would like to thank each of our volunteers for their dedication to both organizations and for their service hours this past year. On Saturday, May 26th, SAEMS and HHW hosted a volunteer appreciation event at Hi Corbett Baseball field. Volunteers were treated to a picnic style lunch held in the Club House and then enjoyed the UA baseball team play against the ASU team ~ GO CATS! Over 50 volunteers and their guests attended. Special thanks to Cat Schladweiler, Seth Ruskin, Pat Hartshorne, Herb Wagner, Michael Dieckhaus, Michael Liberti, Ron Uhle, Lawrence Fahrney, Suzy Gershman, Barb Ricca, Ken Asch, Dale Keyes, Heather Shoemaker, Don Campbell, Tony Diaz, James Foley, Eric Hart, and Frank Bonillas.

Visibility to Improve at 18 Arizona National Parks and Wilderness Areas

The EPA is proposing to approve Arizona's air quality plan to control sulfur dioxide and soot at three power plants in the state. EPA is also proposing additional pollution controls for nitrogen oxide at those plants. These actions will improve visibility and human health at 18 national parks and wilderness areas, including the Grand Canyon, Saguaro National Park and the Petrified Forest. More than 11 million people visit national parks in Arizona every year. Yet for many visitors the spectacular vistas are veiled in haze, dulling the natural beauty. 90% of the time, the Grand Canyon's air is impaired by pollution. On average, pollution reduces the Grand Canyon's pristine natural visual range by more than 30%. EPA is proposing to approve Arizona's plan that controls emissions of sulfur dioxide and coarse particles from the older boilers at three power plants located in eastern Arizona. In addition, EPA is proposing a federal plan to limit nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions at these same three plants. EPA is soliciting public comments on the proposal through August 31, and will host a public workshop and hearing Tuesday July 31 in Phoenix. The deadline for final EPA action is November 15, 2012. For more information, including a map, please go to www.epa.gov/region9/mediacenter/azfip.