



Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management  
Office of Land Revitalization & Sustainable Materials Management

# REVITALIZATION



*Environmental Protection Supporting Livable Communities, and a Sustainable Future!*



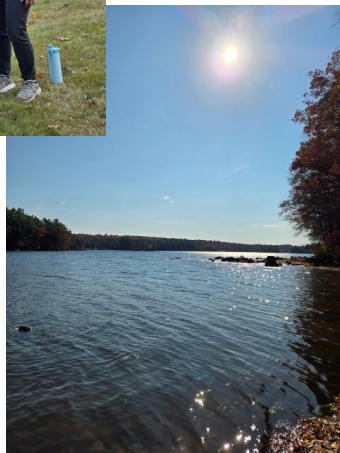
# RHODE

Issue 14 FALL 2024

## LRSMM STAFF READY FOR RIDEM'S SERVICE DAY



L to R: Trevor Moulton, Zac Chamberlin, Hannah Mitchell, and Filomena DaSilva



Above: Echo Lake, Burrillville

Service Day began on a Thursday in late October for several RIDEM staff looking to help clean a portion of a 235-acre property in Burrillville. The former Echo Lake Campground was purchased by the state a few years ago and has since been on RIDEM's radar to develop the most appropriate business structure for the property. State officials are working closely with the Town of Burrillville to make this happen. Learn more about this hidden gem [here](#).

### What is a Service Day?

Service Days are about gathering RIDEM staff from different offices to connect and learn about the beautiful resources available to the public while at the same time, giving back to the State by working together to leave a special place in better shape than what it was found. Staff learn about the site for the day, explore its surroundings, and then work as a team to accomplish the

Story continues on Pg.8

# LRSMM PARTICIPATES IN STEM EVENT



IN SEPTEMBER 2024 [#TEAMDEM](#) ATTENDED THE RHODE ISLAND NATIONAL GUARD'S STEM EXPLORATION OPEN HOUSE EVENT AT QUONSET NATIONAL GUARD BASE IN NORTH KINGSTOWN!

THE EVENT PROVIDED STUDENTS WITH AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HANDS-ON, INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCES TO EXPLORE STEM CAREER FIELDS ACROSS THE STATE OF RI. THE NATIONAL GUARD

PARTNERED WITH LOCAL COLLEGES AND EMPLOYERS SUCH AS UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND ENGINEERING, ELECTRIC BOAT, NASA AND MORE TO GIVE NEARLY 400 STUDENTS A CHANCE TO NETWORK AND LEARN FROM A VARIETY OF EXHIBITORS REPRESENTING THEIR STEM CAREERS.

Above: Jillian Thompson and Jessica Carney-Almeida, two of LRSMM's staff from the Office's UST Division, and Rhode Island National Guard personnel in the background as well as inset. We thank you for your service!



***Congratulations*** to Mark Dennen and Yan Li from the Office of LRSMM for being selected, among others at RIDEM, for the National Notable Achievement Award (NNAA) by the EPA. Their team won the category of "Outstanding Approaches to Achieve RCRA/TSCA (PCB) Permitting or Corrective Action Program Goals" where they were tasked with collaboratively designing and overseeing the implementation of added protective measures through a RCRA permit to address risks of concern at Safety Kleen in Cranston and the surrounding community.



# SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT GRANT OPPORTUNITIES SPONSORED BY EPA



## ***SWIFR Grants for Communities***

***Applications close on 12/20/24 at 11:59pm ET***

Grants for communities will provide approximately \$58 million in awards ranging from \$500,000 to \$5 million each. The entities eligible to apply under this announcement are political subdivisions of states and territories (such as counties, cities, towns, parishes, and similar units of government). For the full details, please visit EPA's [SWIFR Grants for Communities \[epa.gov\]](https://www.epa.gov/swifr-grants-for-communities) web page for more info and apply [here](#).

## ***Recycling Education and Outreach (REO) Funding Opportunity***

***Applications close on 12/20/24 at 11:59pm ET***

Recycling Education and Outreach grants will provide approximately \$39 million for one award, and the EPA requires that all applications for this funding opportunity be coalition applications. For more information on the entities eligible to apply, please refer to the Notice of Funding Opportunity. EPA seeks applications for one cooperative agreement that includes three projects: (1) developing and implementing a national consumer wasted food reduction campaign, (2) expanding the market for and sales of compost, and (3) increasing education and outreach to households on composting. For the full details, please visit EPA's [Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Program \[epa.gov\]](https://www.epa.gov/recycling-education-and-outreach-grant-program) web page for more info and apply [here](#).

## ***SWIFR Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia***

***Applications close on 3/14/25 at 11:59pm ET***

Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia will provide approximately \$20 million in awards ranging from \$100,000 to \$1.5 million each. The entities eligible to apply under this announcement are federally recognized tribes, including Alaskan Native Villages and former Indian reservations in Oklahoma. Intertribal consortia are also eligible to apply. For the full details, please visit EPA's [SWIFR Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia \[epa.gov\]](https://www.epa.gov/swifr-grants-for-tribes-and-intertribal-consortia) web page for more info and apply [here](#).



## **Varied Waste Collection Events Happening Throughout Rhode Island**

<https://www.rirc.org/announcements/events>

\* Eco-Depot-Saturday 11/23/24 8 am-12 pm  
Jenks Middle School  
350 Division St, Pawtucket

\* E-Waste-Saturday 11/23/24 9 am-1 pm  
Farm Fresh Farmers Market  
10 Sims Avenue, Providence

\* E-Waste-Saturday 11/23/24 9 am-12:30 pm  
Mount Hope Farmers Market  
250 Metacom Ave, Bristol

\* Eco-Depot-Saturday 12/7/24 8 am-12 pm  
Department of Public Works  
700 Allens Ave, Providence

# Various LRSMM Staff Present at ASTSWMO's Symposium in Oregon

In August 2024, the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO) conducted their State Superfund and Brownfields Symposium in Portland, Oregon. ASTSWMO's mission is to enhance and promote effective State and Territorial programs and to affect relevant national policies for waste and materials management, environmentally sustainable practices, and environmental restoration. Without the effort and involvement of the State/Territorial agencies and its members, this would not be possible. Several staff from the Site Remediation Program and Superfund Programs attended this symposium which takes place only



once every couple of years and where a variety of topics in both Superfund and Brownfields were discussed over the two-day conference. Rachel Simpson represented LRSMM's Site Remediation Program for the CERCLA Post-Construction Focus Group and presented on the Five-Year Review (FYR) Checklist Tool and Emerging Issues Impacting FYRs and O&M Transfer.

Patricia Burke represented Region 1 in the Investigation and Remedy Selection focus for ASTSWMO and presented on how to handle sites with Vapor Intrusion. The mission of this focus group is to research issues associated with the investigation of hazardous substances and the remedy selection process at Superfund sites. Patty and her focus group team members are currently wrapping up a

## REBUS PUZZLES

<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>

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## Symposium .....Cont'd from previous pg

Community Considerate Cleanup guidance document that focuses on strengthening community involvement and communication during waste site cleanup projects. The primary objective of this Symposium is to emphasize discussion and information-sharing opportunities among speakers and attendees regarding approaches and strategies used by State Superfund and Brownfields programs in sites across the country.

Additionally, Ashley Blauvelt had the opportunity to show off Rhode Island to her counterparts of other State Waste Site Cleanup Programs. As part of a panel session titled, *"Impact Messaging: Crafting your Brownfield Narrative for Sustained Funding"*, Ashley talked about Rhode Island's very successful Brownfields Remediation & Economic Development Fund, the *Brownfield Bond Fund*. The goal of the session was to provide helpful advice to state programs on how they may be able to make a case for brownfield funding by demonstrating what has worked in other states. Rhode Island's Brownfield Bond Fund is an excellent example of this and she was able to demonstrate how the Department has been able to adapt the fund to target Rhode Island's biggest needs as they've changed over the past decade, while maintaining the original intent of economic development through brownfield redevelopment. Ashley also demonstrated how to set and track metrics to show success and need as well as the importance of highlighting the projects in media to maintain support.

In a separate session, Ashley presented the Environmental Justice research tool and results that ASTSWMO's Remedial Action Focus Group recently completed. The Focus Group had asked State Cleanup Programs about public notice and Environmental Justice in their state's programs and solicited feedback on the types of barriers some state programs faced in developing/expanding an Environmental Justice program. Based on the responses received, the focus group was able to identify clear challenges many states face including, but not limited to, lack of guidance on what actions to take to support communities with Environmental Justice concerns, a need for additional funding or staff, and, in some cases, their state's political environment. After talking about the research tool, Ashley collaborated with a colleague from California and discussed each state's Environmental Justice programs, identifying parts that can work in other states. They aimed to reframe the idea of regulatory environmental justice programs from a large amorphous concept to a toolbox of smaller actions or tweaks that can be adopted into an existing regulatory framework to help improve outreach efforts – with or without a formal Environmental Justice program.

Ashley is currently involved with the Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council's (ITRC) Vapor Intrusion (VI) Pathway Evaluation and Mitigation Team, serving as a subgroup leader for the VI Mitigation subgroup. Over the past year, they have been reviewing and updating previous ITRC VI documents to create a new comprehensive web-based VI guidance and trainings, which is expected to be completed in early 2026.

## PFAS Conference Strengthens Staff Knowledge on Topic

LRSMM's Patricia Burke, Zac Chamberlin, Trevor Mouton, and Nick Noons attended several informative presentations relating to in-situ PFAS remediation at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Soils, Sediments, Water and Energy sponsored by the Association for Environmental Health and Sciences (AEHS) Foundation, Inc. at UMASS Amherst last month. AEHS is a non-profit, professional organization whose purpose is to facilitate communication and foster collaborative efforts among professionals focusing specifically on soil, sediment, and water assessment, cleanup, and protection. While gaining a greater understanding into the ever-evolving world of PFAS, each presentation provided an extensive background on Foam Fractionation, Underground Injection Control, Groundwa-



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# STAFF CORNER



Hannah Mitchell

I graduated with a B.S. in Marine Biology and a B.A. in Environmental Chemistry from Roger Williams University in 2023. I spent about a year working at an environmental lab in the Emerging Contaminants and Metals departments as a lab technician and analyst before accepting a position for the Office of LRSMM. My hobbies include baking, thrifting, and traveling, and my top 3 social media platforms are Spotify, LinkedIn, and TikTok!



Samantha Cucinotta

I graduated this past May from Stonehill College with a B.S. in Environmental Science. In my last year at Stonehill I completed a thesis in Physical Oceanography. I am excited to start my journey here at the DEM, and specifically in the Office of LRSMM! In my free time I like to cook, take walks on the beach, hangout with friends, and watch TV.



Eva Lareau

I graduated in 2023 from the University of Rhode Island with a B.S. in Environmental Science & Management with a focus on Soil Environmental Science. While completing my degree, I was able to gain a lot of field experience through my outdoor lab classes. After graduating, I worked for RIDEM as a park ranger at a state park and now am very excited to begin working as an Environmental Scientist for RIDEM's Office of LRSMM within the UST management program. In my free time I like hiking, listening to music, and going to the beach.

## PFAS .....Cont'd from previous pg

ter Recirculation, and many other topics. Staff are zealously enthusiastic about providing a nexus between the information they gathered at the conference and applying it to their remediation work throughout the State of Rhode Island!

Nick Noons presented the State of Rhode Island's PFAS priorities as part of a panel with fellow State regulators from the other New England states and New York. Rhode Island's priorities, including those of both RIDEM and RIDOH, include: promulgating PFAS Standards for soil and groundwater under the *Rules and Regulations for the Investigation and Remediation of Hazardous Materials Releases* (250-RICR-140-30-1), ensuring public water system compliance with the State PFAS Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) and the Federal MCL, looking to expand surface water and fish tissue testing, and implementing the Statewide PFAS Source Investigation Report through targeted private well sampling around known or suspected PFAS sources.

# Meet Our Winter Interns!



Jeremy Stadnick

I graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 2020 with a B.S. in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics. I previously worked as a Lab Technician at New England Testing Lab, and just before accepting this position I worked at the Coastal Resources division of the RIDEM. When I'm not here at the Office of LRSMM, I might be at my other job, Whalers, playing videogames, or spending time with my friends.



Gabriel Nahod

I'm a Technical Support Intern, helping with the clerical tasks that run the Office of LRSMM! It's my second season with this office and I'm so glad to be back. I was in school for Biochemistry & Computer Engineering at the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus. I like to read and write epic fantasy (think Lord of the Rings or Dragonlance) and I am a fledgling oil painter. I enjoy computer programming, 3D puzzles, and I know how to play the piano accordion.



## Office of LRSMM Staff



# Echo Lake.... From Front Pg.



RIDEM team hard at work clearing brush, breaking up old firepits and collecting trash around the Echo Lake Campground site



Right: Zac Chamberlin collecting all sorts of garbage from the site, while Hannah Mitchell (far right), works on her RIDEM pumpkin at the end of the day.



desired outcomes on that site for the day. This time, that included brush clearing, gathering trash, taking down and clearing out old wiring, and breaking apart dysfunctional fire pits. The day brought everyone closer together as they learned to communicate with their groups to get the task at hand completed. At the same time, staff grew in understanding each other's roles within the Department and how that may fit in with what they do on a daily basis. Following the manual labor, was a facilitated discussion of a pertinent DEM matter with a feedback session lead by the Service Day committee and Director Terry Gray. The day ended with some fun Fall activities and a brief wrap-up. All in all, the service day was a wonderful way to build morale and accomplish something as a group for the beautiful State of Rhode Island.





# OSCAR the Mascot

## Reducing Waste by Switching to Reusables

By: Lisa Brice

### MUGS

Invest in stainless steel or microwaveable ceramic to-go mugs for home use and coffee shop refills, as paper beverage cups are not recyclable.



### BOTTLES

Replace plastic bottled water cases with reusable bottles. Be careful to select BPA-free plastic bottles, stainless steel bottles, or glass bottles. You can also test the flow of water from your pipes and decide whether or not to use a house filter.



### SHOPPING BAGS

To save money, place reusable bags in car or doorknob for easy access as you walk out the door. They come in various sizes, shapes, colors, and patterns and can carry a variety of items.

### PRODUCE BAGS

Replace single use produce bags to enhance your reusable bag game! Mesh bags are excellent for purchasing dry food in large quantities.



### To-Go Ware

Consider switching to zero-waste meals if you or your children pack your own lunches. Buy reusable lunchboxes or bags, food and drink containers, utensils, and linen napkins.



For more info on switching to reusables, click [here](#).

To submit questions for our future editions of **REVITALIZATION RHODE** click [here](#).

## 'Twas the Night Before Christmas - UST version

By: Jillian Thompson & Mike Cote



'Twas the time before Christmas  
A whole year underground  
In tanks not so sound,  
Holes and leaks did abound.

Not a creature was stirring...  
But UST people were yearning  
For new people to appear

When just outside of the office  
There arose such a clatter  
We grabbed our hardhats and vests  
To see what was the matter.

What fun new faces  
They all made us laugh  
We knew in an instant  
Tanks had great new staff

Now a new team  
Leaks and holes are no more  
What a really great Christmas  
and cheers to 2024



### REBUS ANSWER KEY

1. Brownfields
2. Engineer
3. E-Waste
4. Superfund
5. Groundwater
6. Redevelop
7. Easement
8. Ocean
9. Trip Around the World