

# WELCOME!

## Before we get started...

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- Today's webinar is scheduled to last 60 minutes.
- All participants will be muted.
- Submit questions via the Chat or Q & A button at the bottom of your screen.
- A copy of the presentations is available in the Chat box.
- A recording of this presentation will be available at [www.epa.gov/tribal-lands](http://www.epa.gov/tribal-lands) in approximately 2 weeks.
- Please contact Paige Weiler ([paige.weiler@erg.com](mailto:paige.weiler@erg.com)) if you are having technical issues with the webinar.



Let's Talk About It:

# New Year's Resolutions for Tribal Waste Management



# Setting Goals

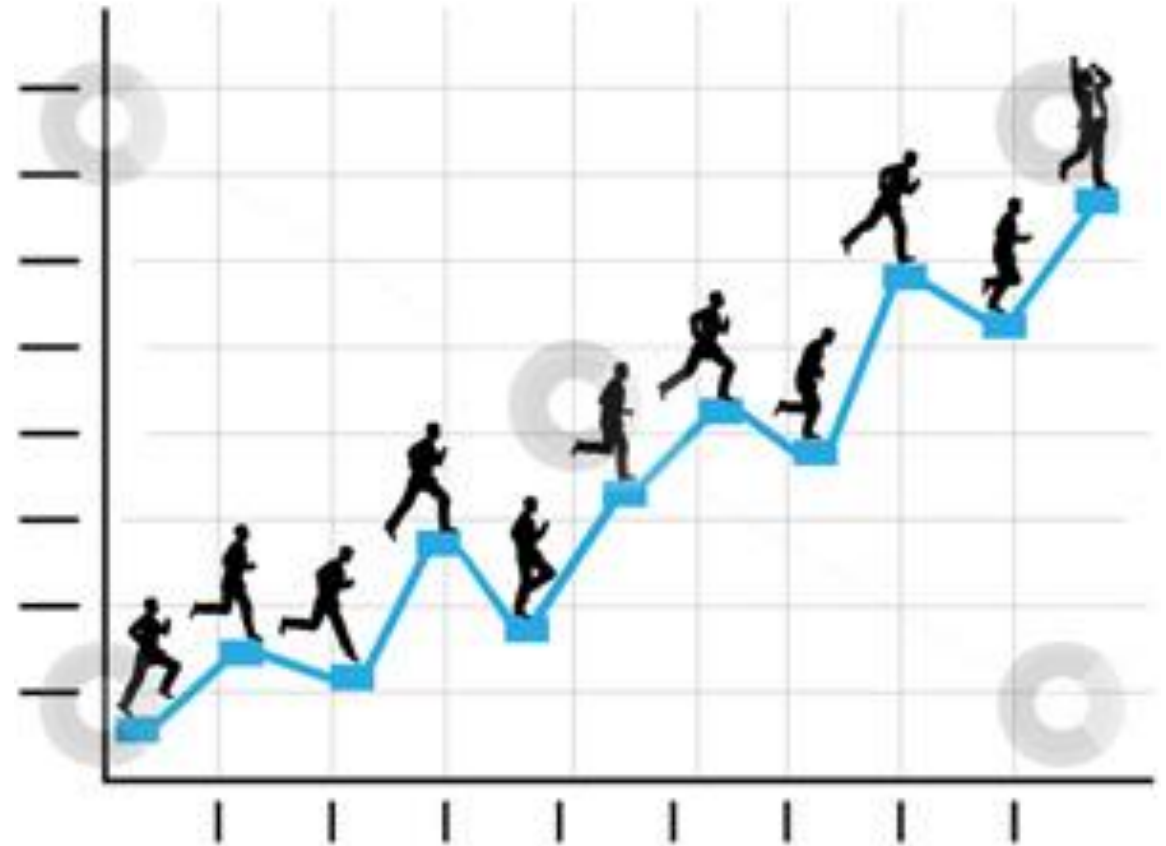


- A good New Year's resolution starts with thinking about what you want to achieve in the coming year.
- Think SMART and set specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound goals (SMART)

# Tracking Progress

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- ✓ Use a journal or planner
- ✓ Create a spreadsheet
- ✓ Set baselines from past years
- ✓ Use visualization tools
- ✓ Involve the community



# Building Accountability

- Explore ways to hold oneself accountable, such as sharing goals with other departments and agencies.
- Fed Family goals – working more collaboratively and syncing up of grant funds so they work better for tribes.
- ORCR is in talks with multiple federal agencies to pool funds and labor to clean up solid waste





# Staying Motivated

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- Set small, achievable milestones
- Find a supportive community
- Seek out new challenges
- Keep things in perspective
- Reward yourself for progress



# Celebrating Success

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- Take the time to celebrate
  - Share your success with others
  - Reflect on what has worked well
- 
- EPA is celebrating the release of the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program (SWIFR) and Recycling Education and Outreach (REO) Grant Program!

The image features a silhouette of a person in mid-air, jumping from a large rock ledge on the left to another on the right. The background consists of layered, misty mountains under a soft, blue-toned sky, suggesting a dawn or dusk setting. The overall mood is one of challenge and perseverance.

# Overcoming Setbacks

- Adjust your goals as needed
- Seek out support
- Keep a positive attitude
- Learn from your mistakes
- Stay focused on your long-term goals

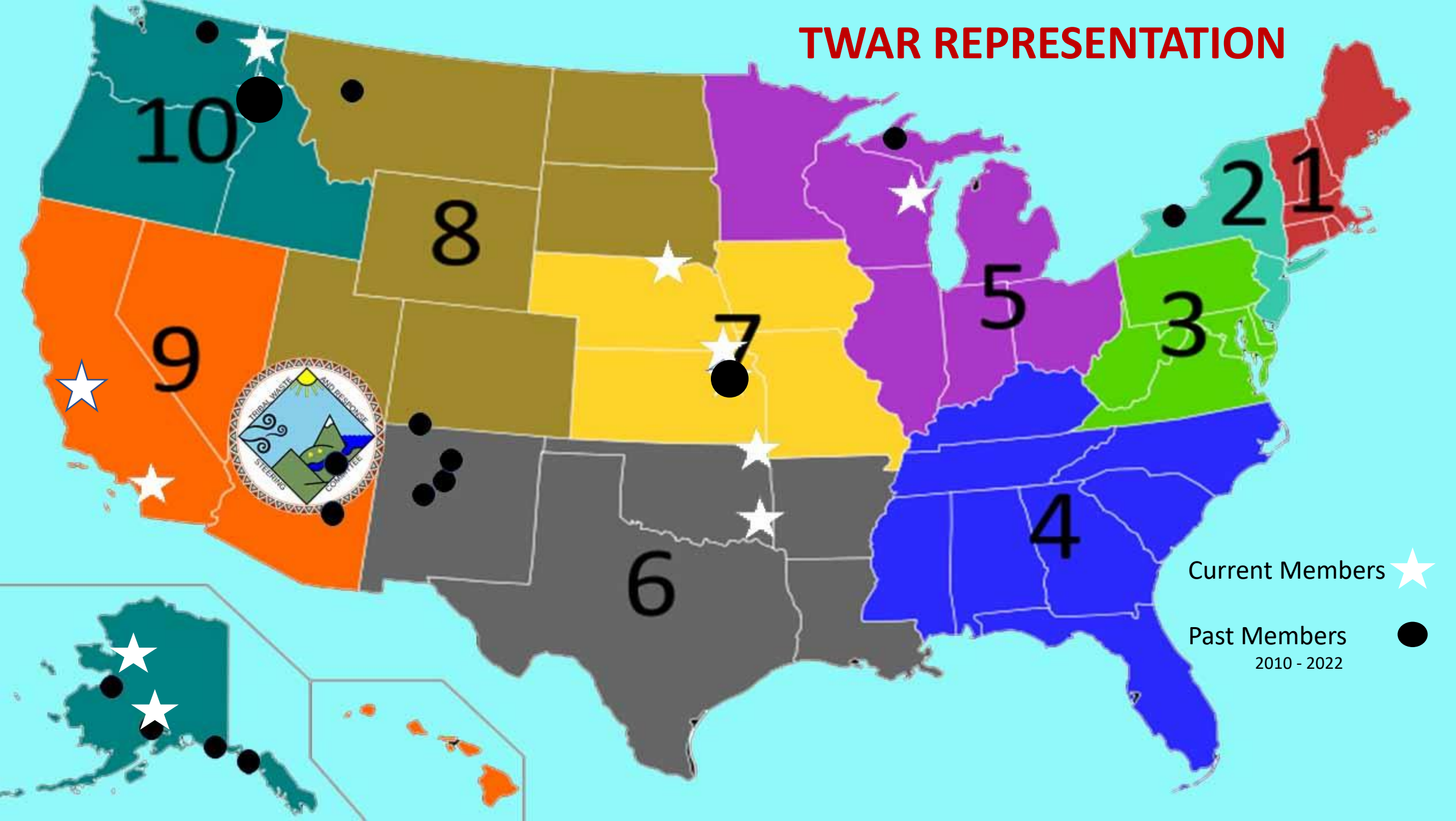


# TWAR SC : Resolute

We Resolve



# TWAR REPRESENTATION



WARNING:  
Hazardous materials  
present at this site.  
No Trespassing.



# Our Playground

Emerging Contaminants  
Solid and Hazardous Waste  
Brownfields  
Underground Storage Tanks  
Superfund  
Federal Facilities  
Emergency Management and Response

*Priorities  
Lifecycle  
Document*

**Deconstruct**

**PD**

**EPA**

**Feedback**

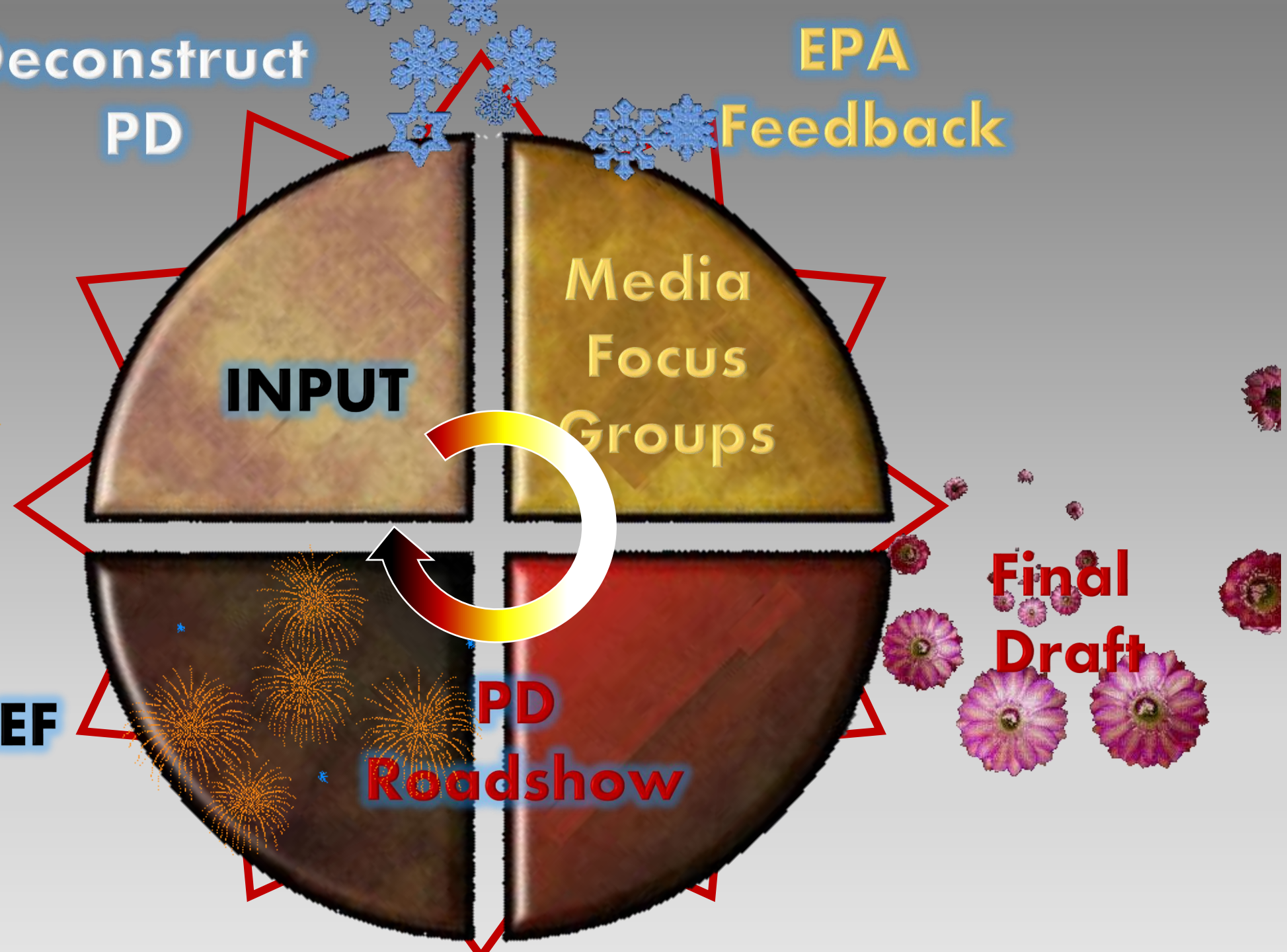
**INPUT**

**Media  
Focus  
Groups**

**TLEF**

**PD  
Roadshow**

**Final  
Draft**



# Priorities Change

## Solid/Hazardous Waste:

- Identify roles and responsibilities of other federal agencies to maximize and link resources.
- Provide resources to develop and implement integrated waste management plans unique to each Tribe with the goal of creating a foundation for sustainable waste programs both economically and environmentally.
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Statute change related to the definition of Tribes.



## 2015

to make plans for their program  
plans. When data is collected from  
the data may be used and answer  
or if it will be made public.

- EPA should directly support Tribal sovereignty and security. A grow waste management concerns (such as using compost to grow with Tribes on this issue, but also Agriculture.
- When designing solid waste treatment ensure Tribal involvement in the
- Continue to provide funding to support Tribal case studies in order to as

## Solid/Hazardous Waste

## 2022

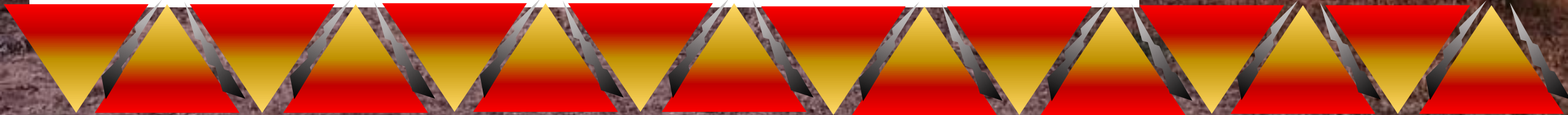
- The reduction of materials that end up in our waste stream (including single use resources, excessive packaging, etc.) needs to be a priority for EPA when they develop guidance, outreach, and regulations as well as in their discussions with industry groups. Recycling alone will not solve the problem of plastics contaminating the environment.
- Tribes can be, and often already are, leaders in their regions addressing waste reduction, recycling, and composting. For Tribes to fully collaborate with EPA in achieving our mutual goals (such as the recycling goal of 50% by 2030) additional funding is necessary so Tribes can enact effective and efficient procedures and operate appropriate facilities.
- We strongly encourage EPA to collaborate with Tribal professionals in developing outreach materials, creating training/technical assistance activities, and securing sponsors who can contribute to initiating and maintaining recycling so, they can better assist EPA in reaching meaningful recycling, composting, and waste diversion goals.
- For local and regional recycling operations to maximize their impact, they need buyers for their feedstock who can manufacture useful products. EPA should use its influence and authority to encourage the development of regionally based operations that use recycled materials, and should provide a list of potential buyers of recyclable materials by type and region to Tribes.
- While we recognize that EPA cannot change the way wSTARS is utilized by IHS, the Agency should cooperate and collaborate with both Tribal professionals, as well as IHS, to ensure operational and data consistency across the Regions and that adequate funding and resources are available for Tribes to address illegal dump sites. In addition, when requirements are changed for Tribes to access funding, these changes need to be clearly and consistently communicated to Tribes.
- We encourage EPA to fully implement the recommendations developed by the Infrastructure Task Force (ITF) work teams, and continue to engage in cross-agency collaborations.
- Prioritize funding and resources to the EPA Regions to hold waste stream audits on-site for Tribes. Some Regions are doing this, and the process of conducting a waste audit provides multiple benefits. EPA should also provide funding and resources to Tribes to conduct their own waste audits, as well as assisting more Regions to provide this service. An area for improvement is that EPA must follow-up after these audits, across all Regions, to ensure that Tribes have the data necessary



# EPA RESPONSE

## Introduction

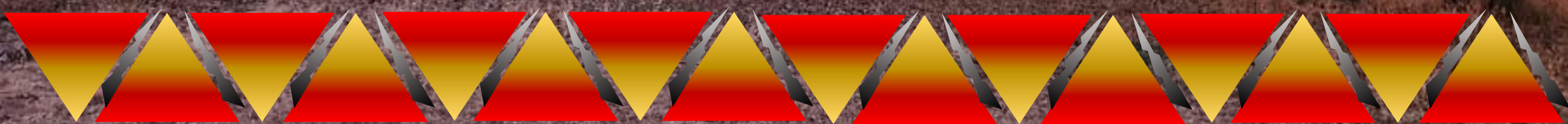
We value the time and effort that the Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee (TWAR SC) puts into developing your annual Priorities Document. We are grateful for the input you collect from Tribes and for the expertise and insight you provide to EPA on cleanup and response programs. We consider this important input as we develop OLEM policies and programs and make budget decisions for coming years. For example,

1. We have **referenced and quoted** past Priorities Documents during our budget discussions with the Office of Management and Budget to highlight the unique needs and priorities of Tribes.
  2. We got **inspiration** from the Priorities Documents for some of the tribal-specific projects in our [EJ Action Plan: Building Up Environmental Justice in EPA's Land Protection and Cleanup Programs](#).
  3. OLEM staff reference the Priorities Document when developing workplans and budgets, designing projects, and for **long-term planning**.
  4. The National Tribal Caucus quotes the TWAR SC Priorities Document in its entirety in their annual budget document which is distributed to the EPA Administrator, Deputy Administrator, Assistant Administrators and Regional Administrators.
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# But What Is Your **PRIORITY**?

Develop Region-specific resources Tribal recycling centers could work with, and advocate for the development of end-use facilities utilizing source materials that are accessible in under-served parts of the country.





# But What Is Your **PRIORITY?**

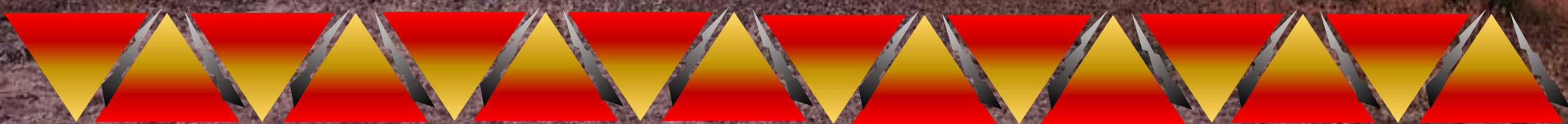
Increase waste diversion competency and knowledge by creating a solid waste guide to buy-back programs in Indian Country.









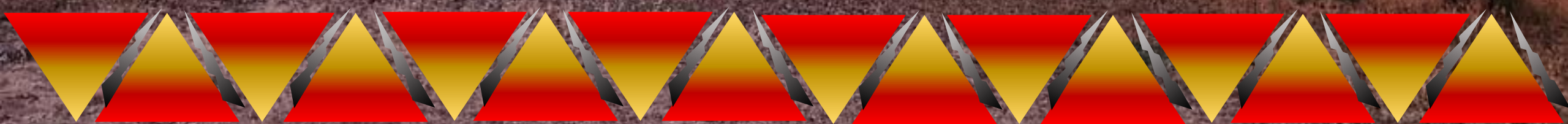
# But What Is Your **PRIORITY**?

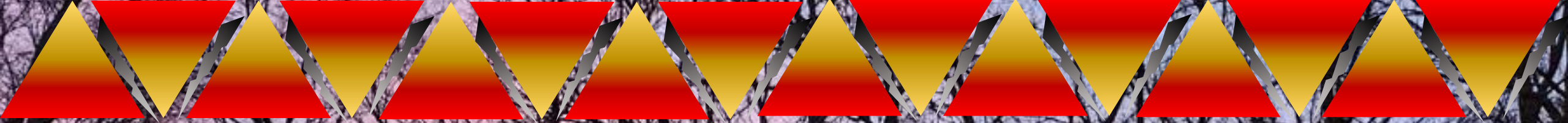
Long-term funding to sustain inherently challenged Tribes and Alaskan Native Villages needs to be diversified to help with effective management and develop new capacities for managing solid and hazardous waste.






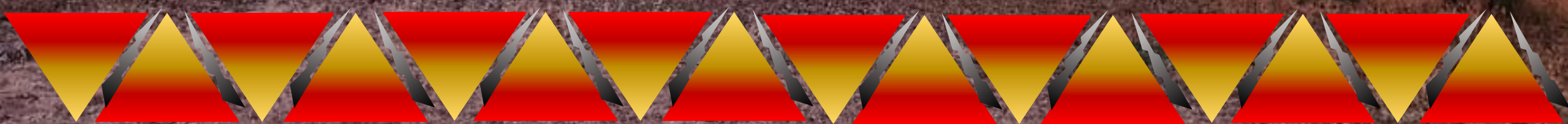


# But What Is Your **PRIORITY**?

-  Assist Tribal communities in retreat from climate change to address solid waste issues in both their old and new homes.
  -  We request funding to assist Tribal programs with implementing and maintaining activities aimed at efficiently managing construction & demolition waste, abandoned vehicles, and other types of non-Municipal Solid Waste affecting their lands and communities.
  -  We emphasize the need for concrete and measurable actions to reduce packaging and utilize more sustainable alternatives.
  -  Support initiatives addressing food sovereignty and security and other related concerns, as well as food waste.
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# But What Is Your **PRIORITY**?

-  Continue to implement the recommendations of the Infrastructure Task Forces and demonstrate how effective they have been to Tribal solid waste programs, as well as encouraging future such collaborations.
  -  Collaborate with Tribal professionals on outreach, engagement, training, and technical assistance focused specifically on composting and other waste diversion goals.
  -  Collaborate with Tribal staff when designing and delivering EPA trainings, and work with Tribal colleagues to identify new Tribal professionals with stories and resources to share.
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# Areas where EPA is seeking TWAR SC input:



Buy – Back Programs



Composting and Waste Diversion



TriWaMaWeBaTory –



Food Sovereignty and Security



Other Tribal Professionals -

# Building Partnerships & Strengthening Relationships



- Go to conferences, webinars and workshops
- Join the [National Tribal Waste Management Peer Match Program](#)
- Community outreach
- Contact local stakeholders
- Engage with TWAR leadership

# Supporting Professional Development

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- Send staff to waste management trainings
- Research certifications needed to accomplish the goals of the program
- Integrate technology into daily activities to expedite processes



# Evaluating and Improving Current Programs

- Gather feedback from stakeholders
- Analyze data
- Reflect on your successes and challenges
- Implement changes
- Continuously evaluate and improve





# Discussion and Questions



Thank  
you