

# Green Matters

DPW, Environmental Natural Resources Division Newsletter

~Fort Gordon, Ga.



## Upcoming Events/ Training

- ◆ November is Native American Heritage Month. Fort Gordon is holding its annual Native American Heritage Command Program at Alexander Hall on 19 November at 1330.
- ◆ Dec 2 SPCC/Spill Training, 0900-1300, Bldg 11307
- ◆ Dec 2 1st QTR FY15 EQCC Mtg, 1300-1400, Darling Hall, GC Conf Rm
- ◆ Dec 3 Hazardous Materials/Waste Refresher, 0830;0945 Bldg 11307
- ◆ Dec. 9-10 Hazardous Materials/Waste Mgmt Course, 0800-1600 Bldg 11307
- ◆ Dec 16 Storm Water Industrial Training, 0900-1300, Bldg 11307

# Greening the Army



The Army's objective is to manage our resources in a "green" manner. Net-Zero is an all-inclusive method to tackle energy, water, and waste. This methodology is composed of five interdependent steps: reduction, re-purpose, recycling and composting, energy recovery, and disposal.

By the year 2020, the U.S. Army's goal is to attain installations with a net zero in waste, water, and energy- 5 installations for each. So what actually does it mean to have a net-zero installation?



A Net-Zero energy installation will make as much energy on base as it uses- No waste.



A Net-Zero water installation will conserve the amount of water that it uses and returns it back to the watershed.



A Net-Zero waste installation reduces, reuses, and recycles to produce a zero landfill waste.

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This proposal will grant \$7 billion in contracts over a period of 30 years to businesses that create sustainable endeavors at Army installations. These efforts are important to the Army because "Net Zero is a force multiplier, enabling the Army to appropriately steward available resources, manage costs and provide our Soldiers, families and civilians with a sustainable future."( [http://www.army.mil/article/51085/Net\\_Zero/](http://www.army.mil/article/51085/Net_Zero/))



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Nov. 2015

## Burning Greener and Wiser this Winter

This winter what will be your means for staying warm? Many people have fireplaces and wood stoves and choosing to burn wood this winter can be a greener choice if done correctly. In North America, wood is inexpensive and easily attainable. It's a renewable resource, so therefore it is a green choice for heating our homes. Keep in mind the following information when wanting to burn wood efficiently and keeping it "green".

Stoves made before 1990 aren't as efficient at burning wood. This wastes firewood, pollutes the air and generates dust in your home. Having an EPA-certified appliance can save you money, fuel, and keep the atmosphere cleaner. They are up to 50% more energy efficient and use one third less wood for the same heat. They also are greener for the environment by reducing wood smoke pollution indoors and outdoors. Toxins from wood burning include carbon dioxide, methane, and black carbon. Health issues such as cancer, asthma, etc. are reduced when these pollutants are nonexistent to minimal.

Wood smoke can also reduce visibility creating a haze in the atmosphere that effects environmental and aesthetic damage to our communities and scenic areas such as parks and preserves.

Fireplaces are a less efficient way to heat your home. Most of the heat generated by fireplaces goes right up the chimney and creates 20 times the amount of air pollution. They do not burn as cleanly as EPA-certified wood stoves.

If you currently have a fireplace, you should **not** use it as a primary source of heat. The draft from fireplaces can cause warm air to be pulled up and out the chimney instead of heating your home. In combination with a heat pump, it forces the heat pump to work harder. Also, when burning with a fireplace/woodstove be sure to choose the right wood. Make sure the wood is dry and "seasoned". Wet or damp wood will create excess smoke. Hardwoods tend to burn longer such as Hickory, Oak, Sugar maple, and Beech.

Greener and more energy efficient choices for heating include gas, pellet or EPA certified wood fire place inserts. The EPA and manufacturers are in the process of working to bring cleaner burning fireplaces to the market through a voluntary fireplace program. "The Burn Wise is a voluntary partnership program of the U.S.EPA that emphasizes the importance of burning the right wood, the right way, in the right appliance to protect your home, health, and the air we breathe." (*United States Environmental Protection Agency*).

If you do burn wood for heat, follow these tips to create the least amount of smoke/air pollution:

1. Burn dry wood
2. Wood that has been "seasoned" for at least a year burns best.
3. Burn small fires to ensure that all the wood burns completely.
4. Keep it HOT. If you damper the stove down this cuts off the air which in turn waste wood and creates more smoke with little heating.
5. If you can see the smoke coming from the chimney, then you are wasting fuel, and the fire needs more air and/or possibly drier wood.



Nov. 2015

## Fort Gordon and Native American Tribes

Before being forcibly removed in the 1820s-30s, the Cherokee, Creek, and Catawba Tribes were present on and around the Fort Gordon area. The result of their occupation and use of the land is still present through the many hunting and camping archaeological sites found on Fort Gordon. While many of these sites are small, they continue to hold significance to the Native Americans from this region.

Fort Gordon is directed, through a few federal regulations, to protect cultural and archaeological resources important to the history of Native Americans. As part of this responsibility, Fort Gordon must notify the Tribes through letters and/or face-to-face consultation meetings about projects that may have an adverse effect on Native American cultural resources. The installation consults with nine different Federally recognized Tribes, the majority being independent Tribes affiliated with either the Creek or Cherokee.

One way in which Fort Gordon has worked to improve communication with the Tribes is through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This document formalizes when and how Fort Gordon will contact Tribal leaders and representatives on issues related to Native American cultural resources on the installation. As each Tribe is a sovereign nation, they individually decide if they want to have an MOU with Fort Gordon or to continue to follow the procedures laid out within certain federal regulations. Currently Fort Gordon has a signed MOU with four Tribes.



Col Barker and Charles Coleman (Thlopthlocco Tribal Town) MOU Signing Ceremony

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

**November is Native American Heritage Month. Fort Gordon is holding its annual Native American Heritage Command Program at Alexander Hall on 19 November at 1330.**

# Compliance Points to Ponder

## **Asbestos/Lead Reminders**

When renovating or painting make sure to submit a DO form 4283 before ANY work is started. No sanding or puttying of walls, or no drilling should be done until a 4283 has been submitted and/or approved by DPW Environmental. For units wanting to do work themselves, there is a Self-Help Class offered at the U DO IT classroom the first Wednesday of every month at 0800. For more information/questions please contact the Asbestos/Lead program manager, Mr. Ulysses Price at 791-9652/2526.

### **Industrial Stormwater**

- Make sure stormdrains are free, open, and unclogged
- Landscaping/Erosion Control items should be covered and contained to prevent contaminants from entering the storm drain.
- Drip pans should be placed under vehicles at motor pools for vehicles being parked for more than 24 hours.
- Batteries should be stored inside.
- Piles of Trash/Debris/Recyclables should be covered on a pallet off the ground.
- Trash Bins should be closed at all times never stored near any stormdrains.

### **Storage/Handling Essentials for POLs** ***(Petroleum, Oils, Lubricants)***

- Proper container/compatible material
- Secured/tightened lids, plugs, etc.
- Spill buckets/Drip pans—keep clean/free of water
- Secondary containment sufficiently sized
- Properly labeled
- Regular inspections
- Document (training, repairs, spills, containment draining, regular briefings/exercises, etc)
- Compliant housekeeping/BMP practices



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**GREEN MATTERS-706-791-2526**

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### **SOURCES**

<http://www2.epa.gov/burnwise/burn-wise-best-burn-practices>

<http://www.motherearthnews.com/renewable-energy/wood-heat/how-to-choose-a-woodstove-zm0z11zphe.aspx>

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/91br023.pdf>

<http://www.motherearthnews.com/renewable-energy/other-renewables/army-net-zero-initiative-zmgz13amzsr.aspx>

