



EARTH DAY 2017

From the Environmental Management Office

April 22 was Earth Day, and the Tribe celebrated by hosting a gathering for all community members at the Cultural Center. The day began at 8 am with a community road clean-up. Tribal members and some community members teamed up to clean up various streets on the reservation. The trash sorting was conducted by the Natural Resources department, who estimated the clean up pulled in somewhere on the order of 250 lbs of trash, of which about 125 lb was recyclable, including about 40 lbs of glass bottles and 80 lbs of cardboard. Natural Resources delivered the trailer of trash to the North 40 recycling center at Ft. Independence Reservation. A HUGE thanks goes out to the folks who walked the walk and helped keep that trash out of the environment. Dave's All Vegan (well, not quite!) Catering served hearty breakfast burritos and fixings to the clean-up and other event participants. And a thanks goes out to all those who put in time to plan the event and make sure the day went smoothly.

KBPT was broadcasting from the event live on the air. The Water Quality Program educated attendees about groundwater pollution



using their groundwater filtering model, designed to visually demonstrate how pollution in surface water is transported to wells. The Food Sovereignty Program featured a seed-matching game using seeds from the Tribe's food garden, adjacent to the Cultural Center, and the Elders' Building garden. A lucky food-grower went home with a special raffle prize— a truckload of garden manure! The Public Works Department's informational booth demonstrating how to reduce residential water use. The Air Program featured a Healthy Homes collection of indoor air quality related items, such as a stove thermometer, carbon monoxide alarm, moisture meters, a radon kit, and lead paint kits. These items were included in the main event raffle. The raffle stand saw a lot of activity as EMO raffled off the air kits, crafts donated by the Cultural Center and artisan vendors, including jewelry, original art, and clothing, and over 70 plant starters for peoples' gardens, including lettuce, kale, and herbs.

Some other highlights included Toiyabe Dental Department's table about dental hygiene, and Owens Valley Wildlife Care's booth with native animals and birds. Live music by Rearview Mirror was enjoyed by attendees, prior to a special commemoration ceremony for efforts that led to 56 new residential solar installs on the reservation, bringing the total to 118 homes. The event featured speakers from GRID Alternatives, the Office of Indian Energy, and participation with Tribal leaders and members, High Point Solar, Sierra Solar, and Southern California Edison.

Pictures, Clockwise from left: Solar Commemoration Group; Water Quality demo by Billy Barlow and Maya Chuck; event-goers (and Tom Gustie III); Richard Fancher with KBPT Eagle Radio and support crew; Greg Graham and Lisa Castilone of GRID Alternatives, Chris Deschene-Director of DOE Office of Indian Energy, Leticia Gonzalez, Tim Willnik of GRID; Mervin Hess, BPT Administrator.