

# WHY 7 GENERATIONS?

- Creates community involvement and ownership to the planning process.
- Increases local knowledge and capacity.
- Potentially dangerous health risks are identified and prioritized.
- Solutions and resources are discussed.
- Clearly outlines what needs to be done to create Tribal Environmental plans locally.
- EPA requires that ALL Tribes who receive IGAP grants to have an EPA-Tribal Environmental Plan.
- Creates direction for new staff.
- Increased opportunity for funding resources.



## Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

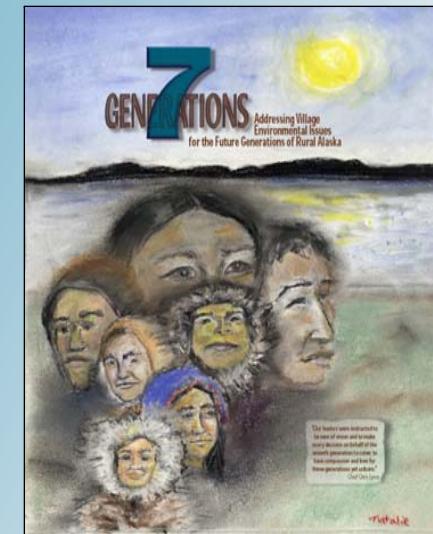
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# 7 GENERATIONS

*Addressing Village Environmental Issues for the Future Generations of Rural Alaska*



Environmental Planning Tools for Healthier, more Sustainable Alaska Communities

# COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

## What is 7G Environmental Planning?

7G Environmental Planning is the process of identifying, assessing and coming up with solutions to environmental concerns. The goal of environmental planning is to improve the environment and the health and welfare of people.

Communities in rural Alaska are faced with many unique and complex challenges. Building community strength to identify and solve these issues is a powerful process that can lead to a healthier and more sustainable community.

7 Generations is designed for environmental staff, community leaders and community planners in rural Alaska. 7 Generations teaches a community-based approach for identifying, prioritizing, planning and managing environmental issues such as drinking water, waste water, solid waste, fuel storage, air quality, energy use, climate change, emergency preparedness, etc.

*"You know we always had our hands out. We were hoping that some miracle would happen that would help us survive in our land. And, today we are finding out that we are the ones who have to take the lead. We have to be the ones to initiate. We are the ones who have to do something in our community. We are the ones who have to teach in order for those younger ones to know."*

*~ Clarence Alexander - a former First Chief of Fort Yukon and one of the original founders of the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments*



## Environmental Planning Steps

### Step 1: Put together a planning team

- A planning team may include environmental program staff, community leaders, youth, elders, teachers, health aides, other concerned residents.
- Invite people to join your planning team and hold regular meetings to discuss all environmental and health concerns all team members have.

### Step 2: Develop a vision for the future

Ask your planning team:

- Where did we come from?
- Where are we now?
- Where are we going?
- Where do we want to be?

### Step 3: Define your community's needs using environmental assessments

- Use the Technical Environmental Assessment to gain a better understanding on environmental issues your community may or may not have.
- Use the Village Environmental Assessment to identify and prioritize your community's environmental issues based on information from your community members.

### Step 4: Identify possible solutions

- Determine all possible solutions to the issues identified. **Every idea is a good idea!**
- Involve community member as much as possible when identifying solutions. Connecting people to the real issues in the community builds a stronger educational experience and benefits the community.
- Include both short-term and long-term solutions.
- Network with other communities. They may have found workable solutions to similar issues.

### Step 5: Put the plan together

- It is important to put the plan down on paper. It will ensure that the issues identified will be visible and addressed even if there is staff turn over.
- GAP workplans will need to be linked directly back to EPA-Tribal Environmental Plans.

### Step 6: Carry out your plan

- Develop timelines for each task.
- Research costs and possible funding.
- Determine who will be involved and responsible for each task.

### Step 7: Evaluate your plan

- Develop a good monitoring system that measures the tasks and the accomplishments. It will help you determine if the actions taken have been effective.
- Take before and after photos.
- Give feedback to the community on work that has been done and what still needs to be worked on.

*ANTHC offers 7 Generations Environmental Planning workshops throughout the year.*

*We are here to help you develop your plan every step of the way.*

*For more information and training schedule please visit:  
[www.anthc.org/chs/ces/hve/](http://www.anthc.org/chs/ces/hve/)*