



32nd PACIFIC ISLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING SYMPOSIUM

Wearing Strategies to Strengthen Resilience in the Pacific

AGENDA

**CROWNE PLAZA RESORT
SAIPAN, CNMI
JUNE 9-13, 2025**



DAY 1 – MONDAY, JUNE 09, 2025

7:30 AM – 4:30 PM

REGISTRATION – Azucena

<https://www.pietscnmi.com/> & Eventleaf Guide app

TRAINING & NETWORKING

TIME

HIBISCUS HALL/PLUMERIA

8:00 AM – 12:30 PM

2nd Annual CNMI Green Growth Convening

- Patricia Coleman, NMC-CREES

12:30 – 1:30 PM

NETWORKING LUNCH

TIME

HIBISCUS HALL

1:30 – 3:30 PM

Lithium-Ion Batteries – Island Cleanup and Disposal

- Chris Myers, EPA R9 Superfund and Emergency Management Division

TRACK LEGEND

Waste

Natural Resources

Water

Environment



DAY 1 – MONDAY, JUNE 09, 2025

8:00 AM – 8:50 AM

REGISTRATION – Azucena

<https://www.pietscnmi.com/> & Eventleaf Guide app

TIME	WASTE & ENVIRONMENT TOUR	WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES TOUR
9:00 – 10:00 AM	DPW Marpi Landfill - James Benavente, MES Typhoon Yutu Debris Waste Reduction Operation & Management - Manuel Camacho, OPD	Mangrove Planting – American Memorial Park - Zak Williams, PCRP
10:00 – 11:00 AM	Dept. of Public Works Transfer Station - Blas Mafnas, DPW - Greg Reyes, DEQ	Beach Clean-up – Tank Beach, Kagman Jacob Lizama & Anthony Castro, DEQ
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	A History of a Land Repurposed Puerto Rico Dump to Peace Park - CAPT Brian Bearden, USPHS/BECQ	
12:00 – 1:30 PM	LUNCH PROVIDED	
1:30-3:00 PM	Return to Azucena for afternoon Natural Resource Tour	Managing Food Waste Through Piggeries – Kumoi Farms Simon Kumoi & Manuel Camacho, OPD

TRACK LEGEND			
Waste	Natural Resources	Water	Environment



DAY 2 – TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2025

7:30 AM – 4:30 PM REGISTRATION – Azucena <https://www.pietscnmi.com/> & Eventleaf Guide app

TIME **OPENING CEREMONY - HIBISCUS HALL**

8:00 – 9:15 AM **Master and Mistress of Ceremony** – *Neil Taisican & Nora Vincent, BECQ*

Entrance and Posting of Colors – *Marianas High School - JROTC Color Guard*

Singing of the National Anthem & CNMI Anthem – *Dept. of Public Safety – Blues*

Cultural Welcoming – *Marianas Polksai Club*

Invocation - *Deacon Rosiky Camacho*

Welcoming Remarks

- *Honorable Governor Arnold Palacios*
- *Floyd R. Masga, BECQ – Acting Administrator*

Keynote Speaker – *Cheree Peterson, US EPA R9 – Deputy Regional Administrator*

GROUP PHOTO

9:15 – 9:30 AM **NETWORKING BREAK**

TRACK LEGEND			
Waste	Natural Resources	Water	Environment



DAY 2 – TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2025

BREAKOUT SESSIONS / TRAINING

TIME	HIBISCUS HALL	TIME	AZUCENA
9:30 – 10:00 AM	TRAINING: PFAS Mapping on Saipan - CDR Travis Spaeth, USPHS/BECQ	9:30 – 11:35 AM	Getting Started with Esri Story Maps (Data Management Systems) - Kathryn (Katie) Krueger, US EPA
10:05 – 11:35 AM	TRAINING: Challenges in Guam’s Drinking Water – PFAS Sierra Armstrong-Bettis and Nicole Diras, GEPA		
11:35 AM – 1:00 PM	NETWORKING LUNCH		
TIME	PLUMERIA		
1:00 – 5:00 PM	TRAINING: Basic Inspector – Classroom Training (4 hrs.) Scott Connolly & Andrew Zellinger, EPA R9 ECAD		
TIME	HIBISCUS HALL	TIME	AZUCENA
1:00 – 1:45 PM	Solid Waste / Data Systems Management - Bradley Nolan, SPREP WMPC	1:00 – 2:00 PM	PANEL: Guardians of the Green - Navigating Pesticide Enforcement in the Pacific - Maria Duenas & Veronica Fruge, GEPA - Zabrina Cruz, DEQ
2:00 – 2:45 PM	TRAINING: Guam’s Zero Waste Master Plan - Sabrina Cruz Sablan, GEPA	2:15 – 2:45 PM	TRAINING: Overview of Guam EPA’s Green Parcel and HMEP Programs - Chie Takase & Tasi Castro, GEPA

TRACK LEGEND

Waste	Natural Resources	Water	Environment
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DAY 2 – TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2025

2:45 – 3:00 PM	NETWORKING BREAK	
3:00 – 3:20 PM	Polystyrene Foam Container Ban in American Samoa - Kacey Iloilo, AS EPA	3:00 – 3:30 PM Community-based Forestry in the CNMI - Zak Williams, PCRP
		3:35 – 3:55 PM Cultural Site Restoration Project - BECHP/POPO/PNG
3:30 – 4:30 PM	Zero Waste and Resilience: Strategic Implementation at the Port Authority of Guam - Conchita Taitano, PAG	4:00 – 4:30 PM Building Community Resilience Through Home Composting and Local Food Production - Lessons from Guam's Zero Waste Initiative - Michelle Crisostomo, GSC

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2025

7:30 AM – 4:30 PM REGISTRATION – Azucena <https://www.pietscnmi.com/> & Eventleaf Guide app

BREAKOUT SESSIONS / TRAINING

TIME	PLUMERIA
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM	TRAINING: Basic Inspector - Classroom Training (4 hrs.) - Multimedia on-site inspections (Sign-up required) - Scott Connolly & Andrew Zellinger, EPA R9 ECAD

TRACK LEGEND			
Waste	Natural Resources	Water	Environment



DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2025

TIME	HIBISCUS HALL	TIME	AZUCENA
8:00 – 8:30 AM	Community Recycles Plastics - Jolly Ann Taisacan, MINA	8:00 – 9:30 AM	Stormwater and Nonpoint Source Pollution Project Planning and Funding Opportunities - Avra Heller, US EPA - Robbie Greene, PCRP - CAPT Brian Bearden, USPHS/BECQ - Henry Bautista, DPW
8:40 – 9:40 AM	DIY Zero Waste - John Katz, US EPA	9:35 – 10:15 AM	STORM DRAIN WALKING TOUR - Merrill Ayuyu & Olivia Tenorio, DEQ
9:45 – 10:00 AM	NETWORKING BREAK	10:15 – 10:30 AM	NETWORKING BREAK
10:00 – 10:40 AM	Regional Waste Management Resources - Bradley Nolan, SPREP	10:30 – 11:30 AM	TRAINING: Ridge to Reef – Pacific Islands’ Nonpoint Source Pollution Planning and Project Implementation - Olivia Tenorio, DEQ, Avra Heller, US EPA, Jewel Tuiasosopo, ASEPA, & CAPT Elizabeth DeGrange, USPHS/GEPA
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	NETWORKING LUNCH		

TRACK LEGEND			
Waste	Natural Resources	Water	Environment



DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2025

	HIBISCUS HALL	BECQ - DCRM LEARNING CENTER
1:00 – 3:00 PM	Grant Slam: How to Hit a Home Run with Your Grant! - Sorcha Vaughan & Carl Goldstein, EPA R9 Pacific Islands Office	LAB WORKSHOP: Laboratory Certification Program – An Overview - Juliette Fujihira & Rudy Paulino, GEPA American Samoa EPA -Laboratory Infrastructure - Jewel Tuiasosopo, ASEPA Determination of Nitrate – Nitrite as Nitrogen in Drinking Water, Surface Water, and Waste Water by Flow Injection Analysis (FIA) - Chat Bautista, DEQ
	NETWORKING BREAK	
3:30 – 4:30 PM	Capacity Building Opportunities and Outcomes - Bradley Nolan, SPREP	LAB TOUR: BECQ Environmental Surveillance Laboratory - DEQ ESL Staff

DAY 4 – THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025

7:30 AM – 4:30 PM REGISTRATION – Azucena <https://www.pietscnmi.com/> & Eventleaf Guide app

TIME	PLUMERIA
8:00 – 9:30 AM	MEETING: Pacific Islands Environmental Directors INVITATION ONLY
9:40 – 10:40 AM	WORKSHOP SESSION: Cohort Fellow Project for the Freely Associated States and Pacific Territories INVITATION ONLY

TRACK LEGEND			
Waste	Natural Resources	Water	Environment



DAY 4 – THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025

BREAKOUT SESSIONS / TRAINING

TIME	SITE INSPECTIONS	
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM	TRAINING: Basic Inspector – Air & Stormwater on-site inspection (Sign-up required) Scott Connolly & Andrew Zellinger, EPA R9 ECAD	
TIME	HIBISCUS HALL	AZUCENA
8:00 – 8:40 AM	Dieldrin in Guam's Drinking Water - Juliana Mendoza, GEPA	NETWORKING: Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery INVITATION ONLY
9:00 – 10:15AM	PANEL: Coral Reef Conservation in the CNMI - Dr. Lyza Johnston, Ph.D., & Ilan Bubb JAMS - Steve McKagan, NOAA Fisheries - Sean MacDuff, MTMNM	
10:15 – 10:30 AM	NETWORKING BREAK	
10:30 – 11:30 AM	PANEL: Coral Reef Conservation in the CNMI (Continuation) - JAMS, NOAA, & MTMNM	PANEL: CNMI Small Community Exempt Landfill - Panelist DEQ & OPD
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	NETWORKING LUNCH	

TRACK LEGEND			
Waste	Natural Resources	Water	Environment



DAY 4 – THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025

1:00 – 2:30 PM	PANEL: Preserving Our Lands Legal Frameworks, Local Initiatives, and Community-Driven Conservation in the CNMI - David Cabrera, DCRM	1:00 – 2:00 PM	Department of Defense Activities in Micronesia - Mark Cruz, JRM
		2:05 – 2:30 PM	USDA Rural Development Funding Opportunities - Joseph M. Diego, USDA
2:30 – 2:40 PM	NETWORKING BREAK HIBISCUS HALL		
TIME			
2:40 – 3:40 PM	TRAINING: State Implementation Plan Development – What You Need to Know CAPT Elizabeth DeGrange, USPHS/GEPA		
3:50 – 4:30 PM	DOCUMENTARY: Voices of the Pacific Bradley Nolan, SPREP		

TRACK LEGEND			
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DAY 4 – THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025

TIME	CLOSING CEREMONY – HIBISCUS HALL
5:00 – 6:00 PM	Master and Mistress of Ceremony – <i>Neil Taisican & Nora Vincent, BECQ</i>
	Inspirational Speaker – <i>Sheila Babauta</i>
	Student Representative, 19th CNMI State Board of Education – <i>Vinnie Juan Sablan, Speaker of the 20th CNMI Youth Congress</i>
	Appreciation Message – <i>Jared Vollmer, EPA Pacific Islands & Mexico Border Manager & Zabrina Cruz, DEQ Director</i>
	Traditional Dance Performance – <i>Refaluwasch Cultural Club (RCC) – Marianas Polksai Club – America Samoa</i>
	Passing the Torch to the Next PIETS Host Islands – <i>Justin Pangelinan, PIETS Chair, Olivia Tenorio, PIETS Co-Chair, & DEQ Director</i>
	Closing Messages – <i>Laura Ebbert, EPA EJCEER Division Director</i> – <i>CNMI Delegate Kimberlyn King-Hinds</i>
	Retiring of Colors – <i>Marianas High School - JROTC Color Guard</i>
	Benediction - <i>Reverend Michael Rogers</i>

TRACK LEGEND			
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DAY 5 – FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2025

CLEAN LAND & WATER

CROSS-AGENCY PARTNERSHIP TOUR

Check-in time 7:30 AM
 Visit <https://www.pietscnmi.com/> to learn more

CLEAN LAND & AIR

COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM TOUR

7:00 AM & 8:00 AM
 Visit <https://www.pietscnmi.com/> to learn more and book a flight

TIME

MANAGAHA, SAIPAN

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

CONSERVATION SITE

- CNMI DFW: Terrestrial Conservation on Mañagaha
- DEQ: Water Quality Monitoring Team
- **LUNCH**
- Island Cleanup
- Return to Saipan

TINIAN

Tinian North Field Air Curtain Burner Operations

Best Practices

- 513th Expeditionary RED HORSE Squadron Airman

LUNCH

Agroforestry Plot Tour

- NMC-CREES Tinian Site

TRACK LEGEND

Waste	Natural Resources	Water	Environment
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32nd PACIFIC ISLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING SYMPOSIUM

WEAVING STRATEGIES TO STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE IN THE PACIFIC

Si Yu'us Ma'ase yan Ghilisow to all Partners!

