

# Investing in America through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

## Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants

### Tribes and Intertribal Consortia Fact Sheet

## Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska

### Selected Grant Recipient

**Name:** Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska  
**Project Location:** Unalaska, AK  
**Project Title:** Development and Implementation of Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska's Aleutian Island Region Recycling Center and Program

### EPA Information

**Region:** EPA Region 10

### Grant Funding: \$1,186,754

The Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska will build a recycling hub, implement a recycling program for the Aleutian Island chain, and provide recycling education. The Tribe will achieve these objectives by creating a recycling program on the island of Unalaska, increasing capacity by hiring recycling staff and volunteers, creating a series of products from recycled materials to be reused locally, selling recycling end-products within the Tribe, and raising awareness about recycling programs to other Aleutian Island Tribes and Communities. Through these efforts, recycling will be made available to the entirety of the Aleutian Island chain.

### SWIFR Grants to Tribes and Intertribal Consortia

The 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides the largest EPA investment in recycling in 30 years to support National Recycling Strategy implementation and build a circular economy for all. As part of the Investing in America agenda, this funding supports improvements to waste management systems and programs, allowing resources to be used more efficiently and reducing the impact on the climate. SWIFR Tribal grant funding can be used to develop or update post-consumer materials management plans; establish or optimize collection and management of materials; fund infrastructure, technology, or other improvements to reduce contamination; enhance markets for recycled commodities; and increase the diversion, recycling rate, and quality of materials collected. These grants also advance the Justice40 Initiative, which aims to ensure that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to communities that have historically been underserved and overburdened by pollution.

EPA will make the award to the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska once all legal and administrative requirements are satisfied.

### Highlights

- Establishes a recycling center in the Aleutian Islands.
- Increases recycling capacity to handle the solid waste hurdles that arise from an increased population in a remote area during fishing seasons.
- Develops end-markets to use recycled material for construction.

