

# **2013 IHS Green Champion Awards**

## **Change Agents Award**

### **Tucson Area Sanitation Facilities Construction Branch**

The Tucson Area Sanitation Facilities Construction Branch serves tribal members of the Tohono O'odham Nation with improved individual wastewater disposal systems. These improved systems replaced failed septic systems or pit privies (outhouses). Untreated wastewater polluted the home environment and posed a serious potential public health threat to residents and nearby community members. Since 2008, 84 homes have been served with new wastewater disposal systems as part of an interagency effort to provide modular bathrooms to tribal homes that lack basic sanitation. The outstanding dedication and effort put forth by the technicians and engineers have had a profound impact in reducing potentially harmful fecal contamination in tribal communities.

## **Energy & Fleet Management Award**

### **ANTHC - Rural Energy Health Clinic Retrofits/ARUC Program**

A combination of increasing energy costs and shrinking operating budgets is threatening the sustainability of the important healthcare provided at rural health clinics across the state of Alaska. In 2013 Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) partnered with local communities and tribal health corporations to develop and implement energy efficiency retrofits at 18 rural health clinics. The energy efficiency upgrades completed by this project are estimated to produce an operational cost savings of \$68,000 per year. Most importantly, this project promotes sustainable healthcare infrastructure, lowers the overall cost of healthcare, and leads to healthier rural Alaskan communities.

## **Water Use Efficiency and Management Award**

### **IHS Turtle Mountain Public Utilities Commission Metering Project**

The Turtle Mountain Reservation Public Utilities Commission (PUC) water system provides service to over 12,000 individuals through approximately 2,500 metered connections. Over 1,000 meters on the PUC system were approaching 30 years in age, substantially past their recommended replacement cycle. The Environmental Protection Agency, Indian Health Service, and Bureau of Reclamation funded the replacement of all water meters with magnetic meters and the installation of radio read transmitters.

This project was executed in large part by the cooperation and administrative efforts of the Turtle Mountain PUC staff. The PUC office staff input all the accounts for the new meters in their billing software, and updated water use data for the new system.

## **Environmental Stewardship Award**

## **Spirit Lake Health Center**

The Spirit Lake Health Center on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation strives to practice good environmental stewardship and to protect mother earth, by following a number of sound environmental practices that promote the overall efficiency of the service unit while lessening its environmental impact. This includes utilizing energy-efficient appliances, heating and cooling systems; lighting and reproducing systems; using environmentally-friendly products; and practicing recycling programs for paper, plastic, used copying cartridges, florescent lights, oil and paper. With the support of management, the entire staff of this service unit have formed voluntary programs that promote steps and activities to preserve the environment and conserve our natural resources.

## **Sustainable Design & Facilities Award**

### **Cheyenne River Health Center and Staff Quarters Innovative Energy Savings Design**

The Cheyenne River Health Center (CRHC) is approximately 138,000 sf with 10 beds, and started serving patients in January of 2012. The staff quarters (133 units) were completed in phases starting in 2011, and ending in 2013. One of the primary design goals for these facilities was to meet EO 13423 energy standards by targeting a 30 percent energy use reduction from a typical building complying with the ASHRAE standard. Many modern technologies were incorporated, including a high performance building envelope to limit infiltration, thermal insulation exceeding the ASHRAE standard, and advanced networked Digital Demand Controls. The staff quarters design also utilized ground source heat pumps and other innovations resulting in quarters 60 percent more efficient than the prescribed baseline.