



2007-2008 ACHIEVEMENTS

State Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAPs) help companies comply with environmental regulations and implement sustainable best practices. Services are free and delivered without the risk of regulatory involvement. Originally created to provide assistance with air regulations, many of the state programs now offer waste and water compliance assistance to better meet small businesses' needs.

THE CLEAN AIR ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1990 REQUIRED EACH STATE TO CREATE A SBEAP COMPOSED OF THREE PARTS:

SMALL BUSINESS OMBUDSMAN (SBO)

State advocate, acts on behalf of small businesses in regards to environmental issues

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (OFTEN REFERRED TO AS SBEAP)

Provides small businesses with technical assistance and tools to help them achieve compliance with environmental regulations

COMPLIANCE ADVISORY PANEL(CAP)

Small business owners who assist and advise state SBEAPs

STATE OF THE PROGRAMS 2007-2008*

	Budget	Full-time Staff	Compliance Advisory Panels
Range	\$0 - \$2.5 million	0 - 15	Active CAP: 17 states
Average	\$237,000	Median 3	2 CAPs became inactive, 1 CAP lost

These programs receive no dedicated federal funding. Funding levels vary from state to state and are provided by state air permitting fees and other sources. Coordination and programmatic support for the state SBEAPs is provided through the US EPA Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman (ASBO), Office of Small Business Programs.

EXCEPTIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS: SUCCESS BY NUMBERS*

In 2007 & 2008 the estimated 206 people employed by state SBEAPs nationwide:

- reached an estimated audience of 3,580,000 people
- trained 70,702 people at 1,569 workshops
- responded to 179,312 phone requests for assistance
- provided 983,452 written assistance materials
- conducted 17,500 small business site visits

Helping state economies thrive by serving small businesses and the environment

*Based on information reported by state programs for the 2007-2008 Status of State Small Business Compliance Assistance Programs. Specific state information can be found in the report located at www.smallbiz-enviroweb.org/aboutus/reports.aspx.

BUSINESSES SERVED

State SBEAPs serve a variety of businesses including:

- Aggregate & Ready Mix Paving Material Companies
- Auto Body Maintenance, Repair & Refinishing
- Auto Salvage
- Cement Kilns
- Construction & Contractors
- Crematoriums
- Drycleaners & Laundry Services
- Energy & Biofuel Companies
- Gas Stations
- Grain Elevators
- Marinas
- Printing & Graphic Arts Establishments
- Small Manufacturers
- Trucking Companies

“Compliance with environmental regulations costs 364 percent more in small firms than in large firms.”

US Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy

SBEAPS AT WORK

MICHIGAN Michigan SBEAP developed an Environmental Results Program for drycleaners that included online tutorials, self-audit workbooks, and presentations to help owners and operators understand environmental regulations, improve their compliance status, and enhance the use of best management practices.

KANSAS 100 percent of Kansas SBEAP clients surveyed said they would use the program’s services again and recommend the services to others. The survey revealed that 97 percent of phone assistance clients made changes in their business practices following SBEAP assistance, and 84 percent reported an improved understanding of environmental regulations. Overall, SBEAP assistance helped lead to substantial reductions in hazardous air pollutants, solvent use, solid waste, selenium-contaminated waste, water use, and raw materials used for paint. An increase in mercury and paper recycling was also reported. \$32,834 was saved through pollution prevention measures.

GEORGIA Georgia SBEAP brought together businesses owners, technical college instructors and local, state, and federal enforcement representatives to develop a compliance assistance strategy for auto collision repair shop owners, and automotive paint manufacturers and suppliers. The SBEAP provides outreach to more than 3,000 automotive collision repair shops affected by the new area source rule regulating air pollutants.

TEXAS The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s EnviroMentor program matches small businesses and local governments needing hands-on compliance assistance with volunteer environmental professionals. In 2008, EnviroMentors provided assistance on 62 projects including air permit authorizations, petroleum storage tank compliance, storm water pollution prevention plans, Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure plans, public water supply issues, and wastewater treatment plant operations.

WHAT SMALL BUSINESSES ARE SAYING ABOUT THE SBEAPS

“I would not be in business today without the Louisiana SBEAP. As a taxpayer, it makes me feel good to know that this assistance is available and top quality.”

Louisiana Painting and Coating Operation

“Thank you for all the help you provided. Without your guidance I don’t know where I’d turn!”

Tennessee Dry Cleaner

“I would strongly recommend it for everybody... you read the regulations and you’re like, ‘How does everybody else interpret that regulation?’ So to be able to send an email, pick up the phone and call somebody, it’s invaluable.”

Ohio Medical Products Small Business Owner