



# SMALL-BIZ @EPA

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE  
SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

NOVEMBER 2019

Fostering  
Partnerships

Improving  
Accessibility

Environmental  
Compliance Assistance  
Programs



The Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman (ASBO) Program at EPA advocates for small business concerns and, partners with a variety of stakeholders, including; state Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAPs), small business trade associations, EPA program offices in both headquarters and regional offices, as well as the Small Business Administration (SBA) and other federal agencies, as a way to reach out and support the small business community. These partnerships provide the information and perspective EPA needs to help small businesses achieve their environmental performance goals. This is a comprehensive program that provides networks, resources, tools, and forums for education and advocacy on behalf of small businesses across the country.

## SmallBiz@EPA Bulletin

If you have any topic for Submission:

- Upcoming Events
- Success Stories
- New Assistance Tools
- Technical Updates
- Regulatory Updates
- Stories to Reach the Small Business Community
- Updated Contact Info.

## Submission Guidelines

- Submissions brief -150 words or less
- Suggest a title for the submission
- Include a website link to more information on the topic
- Always include a contact name and phone number or email to be included in publication
- Articles should be submitted by the 15th of each month.

**DO YOU HAVE ARTICLES FOR THE SMALLBIZ@EPA NEWSLETTER?**

**FORWARD TO:**

**SHEILA SHEPHERD AT: [SHEPHERD.SHEILA@EPA.GOV](mailto:SHEPHERD.SHEILA@EPA.GOV)**

**OR**

**ELNORA THOMPSON AT: [THOMPSON.ELNORA@EPA.GOV](mailto:THOMPSON.ELNORA@EPA.GOV)**

# EPA Announces Requests for Applications for the 2020 Environmental Education Grants Program

EPA is pleased to announce the availability of up to \$3 million in funding for locally-focused environmental education projects under the 2020 Environmental Education Grant Program. EPA will award three to four grants in each of the agency's 10 regions. Interested group must submit their application by Jan. 6, 2020, to be considered. The Requests for Application (RFA) is posted on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

In addition to other environmental topics, the 2020 Environmental Education Grants Program will fund education-based projects pertaining to marine debris mitigation, food waste and loss reduction, and recycling. Funded projects will both increase public awareness on various environmental matters and enhance participants' abilities to make informed decisions on environmental issues prospectively.

## **Additional Background on How to Apply:**

Applicants must represent one of the following types of organizations to be eligible for an environmental education grant:

local education agency, state education or environmental agency, college or university, non-profit organization as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code noncommercial educational broadcasting entity, tribal education agency (which includes schools and community colleges controlled by an Indian tribe, band, or nation and which are recognized as eligible for special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians and which are not administered by the Bureau of Indian Education.) Applicant organizations must be located in the United States or territories and the majority of the educational activities must take place in the United States; or in the United States and Canada or Mexico; or in the U.S. Territories.

Each RFA contains complete instructions for submitting a proposal, including all required information and limitations on format. A summary of the required information is below. Read the RFA thoroughly for application procedures. All applications must be submitted through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

Find the forms on the "Application Forms" tab. Materials should be submitted in the following order:

- Two Federal forms: Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424) and Budget (SF 424-A)
- Work Plan (up to 8 pages):
- Project Summary (recommended 1 page)
- Detailed Project Description
- Project Evaluation Plan
- Detailed Budget Showing Match and Subawards (not included in the page limit)
- Appendices (not included in the page limit)
- Timeline
- Logic Model Showing Outputs and Outcomes
- Programmatic Capabilities and Past Performance
- Letters Stating Responsibilities of Partners, if applicable

# EPA Awards First Installation of \$40 Million Grant to Puerto Rico Solid Waste Management Plan



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is awarding a \$6.2 million to the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) as the first installment of a \$40 million grant for hazardous and solid waste management financial assistance. This funding is awarded through the Supplemental Appropriation for Disaster Relief under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, which provides supplemental appropriations to respond to and recover from recent hurricanes and other disasters. This massive amount of waste produced by the storms largely went to these landfills, crippling solid waste infrastructure in Puerto Rico. Equally important, it is expected that EPA's approval and financial backing of DNER's waste management work plan will aid Puerto Rico's post-storm landfill issues and develop a long-term sustainable solid waste program that addresses historic shortcomings and increase preparedness for managing waste from future storms. The work is expected to take 7 years and DNER proposes to implement the grant work plan activities in two phases. Phase I, funded by the \$6.2 million installation, will begin shortly after grant funds are received with EPA oversight and includes hiring and training staff, conducting a solid waste characterization study, updating Puerto Rico's integrated solid waste management plan, and updating solid waste regulations to adequately design, construct and operate landfill systems. A solid waste characterization study followed by a market analysis allows the government to understand the composition of materials

discarded in the waste stream. Waste characterization data is collected by taking samples of waste and sorting it into material types, including recyclable items such as newspapers, cardboard, plastic bottles, glass bottles and jars, tin cans, and small appliances. This study is the first step in developing and updating the integrated solid waste management plan and evaluating ways to reduce and manage waste and cut disposal costs. Additionally, the data collected will inform and assist the government of Puerto Rico when making future policy and regulation decisions in its efforts to improve its landfill operations. Once DNER is ready to start Phase II of the work plan activities, EPA will collaborate with DNER to approve the plan and award the remaining \$33.8 million in grant funds. Phase II will use the grant funds for more staffing and training, providing outreach and technical assistance, conducting permit and landfill closure plan reviews, and conducting non-hazardous waste compliance and enforcement activities. Throughout the process, EPA will continue to work closely to provide support to DNER and the Puerto Rican government as they work with local offices and other stakeholders to maintain a sustainable solid waste program.

For further information contact: Tayler Covington  
212-637-3662 [covington.tayler@epa.gov](mailto:covington.tayler@epa.gov)



# **Navigating the Jungle of Environmental Regulations- Where Can I Start?**

Many new or expanding businesses have questions on what environmental regulations pertain to their proposed operations. Many business professionals start with an internet search and get lost in the jungle between federal and state requirements or are at various stages of the planning process.

Contacting your state's Small Business Environmental Assistance Program can set you up for success and help you understand the process. They can help determine what permits or information would be helpful to gather in assessing what environmental programs apply. SBEAPs have helped facilities reduce costs by proposing options that still meet regulatory requirements but with less expense. SBEAPs can often give estimates on permitting timeframes and help with understanding technical information. Contacting your representative early in the process can prevent project delays and increase your compliance understanding.

Find your Small Business Contact at this link: <https://nationalsbeap.org/states>

# Small Business Environmental Assistance Program



Dear SBEAP:

At my small business, I have a non-emergency engine and heard it may be subject to an air quality permit, even though no other process of my business emits regulated air pollutants. Is that correct? Will I need a permit and where can I turn for permitting help?

Thank you, Eddie Engine

Dear Eddie:

I am assuming your engine is either compression ignition or spark ignition. Compression-ignition engines fire diesel fuels. Spark-ignition engines fire gasoline, natural gas, propane, landfill gas and other gaseous fuels, or can be dual-fuel engines. Electric motors and compressors do not emit air pollutants. Engines are considered stationary when they stay in one location at a facility, performing only one operation. Other engines are considered portable if they are on a skid, have handles or wheels, and can be moved to different locations within a facility for various operations and do not remain in one on-site location for longer than one consecutive 12-month period. If any of the above describe your engine, it is subject to new air quality regulations because, collectively, combustion emissions can have a significant impact on air quality and public health.

Despite EPA providing excellent resources on its [engines page](#), the regulations are fairly complicated. The good news is that most of our states host a Small Business Environmental Assistance Program or SBEAP that can help businesses such as yours navigate complicated regulations. The SBEAPs can also help identify the correct paperwork and answer questions related to what is needed on the paperwork or permit application.

The [National SBEAP's environmental compliance page](#) has [engine resources](#) and also lists air permit tools by state. Most small businesses prefer to simply contact their own state SBEAP and you can find your state contact at <https://nationalsbeap.org/states>.



## EPA FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICES

**SUBJECT: Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio and West Virginia; Attainment Plans for the Steubenville, Ohio-West Virginia 2010 Sulfur Dioxide Nonattainment Area**

<http://www.epa.gov/dockets/contacts.html>

Federal Register: Vol. 84, No. 204,  
Thursday, October 22, 2019/ Rules & Regulation  
AGENCY: EPA  
ACTION: Final Rule

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is approving, under the Clean Air Act (CAA), two State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision submittals, submitted by Ohio and West Virginia, respectively. The Ohio and West Virginia submittals include each State's attainment demonstration for the Steubenville Ohio-West Virginia sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) nonattainment area. Each SIP contains an attainment demonstration, enforceable emission limits, control measures and other elements required under the CAA to address the nonattainment area requirements for the Steubenville Area. EPA concludes that the Ohio and West Virginia attainment plan submittals demonstrate that the provisions in the respective SIPs provide for attainment of the 2010 primary SO<sub>2</sub> national ambient air quality standard NAAQS in the entire Steubenville Area and meet the requirements of the CAA. EPA is also approving into the West Virginia SIP new emissions limits, operational restrictions, and associated compliance requirements for Mountain State Carbon, and approving into the Ohio SIP the limits on emissions from Mingo Junction Energy Center, JSW Steel, and the Cardinal Power Plant. This final rule is effective on November 21, 2019.

For further information contact: Marilyn Powers  
(215)814-2308 email at [powers.marilyn@epa.gov](mailto:powers.marilyn@epa.gov)

**SUBJECT: N-Methylpyrrolidone (NMP); Draft Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Risk Evaluation and TSCA Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC) Meeting; Notice of Availability, Public Meeting, and Request for Comment**

<http://www.epa.gov/dockets/contacts.htm>

Federal Register: Vol. 84, No. 246,  
Thursday November 7, 2019/Notices  
AGENCY: EPA  
ACTION: Notice

**SUMMARY:** EPA is announcing the availability of and soliciting public comment on the draft Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) risk evaluation of N-Methylpyrrolidone (NMP). The purpose of the risk evaluation process under TSCA is to determine, upon issuance of a final risk evaluation, whether a chemical substance presents an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment under the conditions of use, including an unreasonable risk to a relevant potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulation. EPA is also submitting the same document to the TSCA Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC) for peer review and is announcing that there will be an in person public meeting of the TSCA SACC to consider and review the draft risk evaluation. Preceding the in-person meeting, there will be a preparatory virtual public meeting for the panel to consider the scope and clarity of the draft charge questions for the peer review.

For further information contact: Dr. Stan Barone  
(202)564-1169 email at [powers.marilyn@epa.gov](mailto:powers.marilyn@epa.gov)