



# Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs

## 2004-2005 ACTIVITY REPORT SUMMARY

- Over the last two years, we have assisted small businesses over 2,400,000 times, giving assistance that they desperately need on environmental issues.
- On-site visits, workshops, toll-free hotlines, and publications are primary methods for the programs to reach out to the small business community.
- Program staff are on the road, in meetings, on the phone, and on the internet to help small businesses understand the Clean Air Act requirements and how to implement them.

- The programs represent the interests of small businesses in the rule making process at both the state and national levels.

### WHO ARE WE?

- Established by Congress as part of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990
- Programs consist of 50 states, 2 territories, and the District of Columbia
- Provide free, non-regulatory technical assistance, publications, and tools to help small businesses comply with environmental regulations
- Each program is designed to meet the specific needs of local small businesses
- Advocate for small businesses on environmental issues
- Advisory panel of small business owners and state appointees to advise on program content
- Support and coordination provided by the US EPA Small Business Ombudsman and Federal Small Business Technical Assistance Program

### HOW ARE WE FUNDED?

- Programs receive no federal funding
- Supported by state air permit fees
- Average program budget around \$300,000
- Average staffing of about 4 full-time employees

### HOW ARE WE HELPING?

- In 2000, we helped 850,000 businesses
- In 2005, we helped 1,300,000 businesses, an increase of 53%



Assistance Provided By Type\*

 Publications 1,834,048	 Email 221,662
 Seminars/Workshops 332,134	 Permit Assistance 14,319
 Hotline 204,100	
 On-site Visits 12,683	

\* Based on responses from 48 programs in 2004 and 47 programs in 2005

### WHAT BUSINESSES DO WE HELP?

- Paint and Paint/Coatings
- Construction/Contractor
- Printing/Graphic Arts
- Metal Fabricating/Finishing
- Attorney/Consultant/Engineer
- Furniture Manufacturer/Repair/Wood Finishing
- Dry Cleaners/Laundry Services
- Auto Body Maintenance/Repair/Refinishing
- Others

To find out what is going on with your state's Small Business Environmental Assistance Program, visit [www.smallbiz-enviroweb.org](http://www.smallbiz-enviroweb.org) or call 1-800-368-5888.

# Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs



## EVERY PROGRAM A PARTNERSHIP

Each program is comprised of three parts:

- A technical assistance component to provide detailed help that small businesses need
- An ombudsman to advocate on behalf of small businesses within the regulatory environment
- An advisory panel made up of small business owners and representatives to consult and advise on program content

Locally and nationally programs build working partnerships to include:

- Trade Associations
- Pollution Prevention Programs
- Small Business Development Centers
- Other State and Local Agencies
- The Business Community

## PROGRAMS HELPING PROGRAMS

Through many different mechanisms and efforts Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs share their various experience and resources to assist businesses all around the country at very little cost.

## 2004-2005 Highlights:

- 2,400,000 client assists
- 22,000,000 visits to our online resources for small businesses
- 117,000 small businesses trained on environmental regulations
- 1,800,000 publications distributed

## WHAT ARE SMALL BUSINESSES SAYING?

"You provide a fantastic service! Having access to experts who can explain in a professional and pleasant manner should be a "LAW" all by itself!"

"Starting a new business can be an overwhelming process. We had no idea where to begin. All small companies should be aware of this kind of help, it was just what we needed."

"Our Company has always complied with environmental standards. When we went to the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program for help filling out required paperwork, the

program not only helped us with that issue, but provided valuable recommendations on how to reduce our air emissions. The availability of free technical assistance was a key factor in identifying changes to meet our environmental goals."

"You are one of the best resources for a small business I have ever encountered. In addition to your help with our permits and our record-keeping, we learned a great deal about our operation. This has made us a better company."

## "A Case for Success Serving Small Businesses and the Environment"

A recent study by a State Small Business Environmental Assistance Program found that the program provides benefits to its clients that are, on average, three times the cost of the program.

Potential benefits provided by Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs include: reductions in permitting costs and in potential fines, efficiency improvements, healthier work environment, as well as reductions in workload for regulatory agencies.

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