Welcome

Small Business Environmental Assistance Program’s Annual Training
September 8-11, 2020
Denise Sirmons
Office Director

EPA’s Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization
EPA’s Associate Deputy Administrator

Douglas Benevento
Small Business Environmental Assistance Program's Annual Training
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The Office of Small and Disadvantage Business Utilization (OSDBU) is responsible for the oversight and execution of EPA’s small business programs, as mandated by statute, regulations, executive orders and policies.
ASBO: One Program, Two Distinct Roles

**EPA Asbestos Ombudsman**

**EPA Small Business Ombudsman**
Established under Section 507 of the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments (42 U.S.C. § 7661f(d)).
ASBO: Three Cross-Cutting Functions

Advocate
We advocate for small business interests during the EPA rulemaking process

Connect
We serve as the EPA small business liaison and connect small businesses to federal, state and local resources

Serve
We provide hotline assistance to the general public and fund a national website to support small businesses in environmental regulatory compliance
OSDBU’s Strategic Goals 2018-2022

Vision: *A Small Business First* culture that is fully integrated into EPA’s core operations, programs and acquisitions over the next five years.

1. Equip and engage OSDBU’s workforce as a professional cadre of small business experts
2. Operate as a valued partner in the work of EPA
3. Serve as an effective advocate and resource for small businesses
4. Continuously improve operational efficiency and effectiveness
ASBO’s Small Business Experts

1. Equip and engage OSDBU’s workforce as a professional cadre of small business experts

- Three new team members
  - Small Business Ombudsman promoted from within
  - New program analyst with asbestos and rule-writing experience
  - New S.E.E. brings perspective from outside EPA

- Staff training and team development
2. Operate as a valued partner in the work of EPA

- **Inreach**
  - EPA program offices (e.g., Air, Water, Land, Chemical Safety)
  - EPA Regional Offices
  - EPA regulatory planning committee and policy office

- **Outreach**
  - State SBEAPS and Ombudsmen
  - Small Business Trade Associations
  - Federal Agencies and general public
3. Serve as an effective **advocate and resource** for small businesses

- **EPA Rule Development**
  - Member of EPA’s Regulatory Steering Committee
  - Communicating Agency rulemakings and small business engagement activities via monthly bulletin and outreach events

- **EPA Cooperative Agreement**
  - Fund and oversee Nationalsbeap.org website
  - Support annual SBEAP Training
4. Continuously **improve** operational efficiency and effectiveness

- **Internal Operations**
  - EPA’s ASBO Program Charter to clarify role and align within Agency
  - Adapting to virtual collaboration environment

- **Communications**
  - Redesigned the SmallBiz@EPA newsletter based on reader feedback
  - Finalizing outreach materials and program guide to define and market ASBO Program and partnerships
NEW! Outreach Materials

Trifold brochure

Promotional Flyer
ASBO Goals: FY2021-2022

- Develop ASBO reporting strategy and recommendation plan
- Improve communication channels throughout the country on environmental small business topics
- Support meaningful engagement with small business trade associations
- Strengthen internal EPA partnerships in ensuring early and two-way small business engagement opportunities
ASBO Team

Paula Hoag  EPA’s Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman (ASBO)
Lea Carmichael  EPA ASBO - Program Analyst
Elnora Thompson  EPA ASBO - Management Analyst
Harriet Edwards  ASBO Hotline Staff/EPA S.E.E. Grantee
Chester Eiland  ASBO Hotline Staff/EPA S.E.E. Grantee
Samuel Gila  ASBO Communications Staff/EPA S.E.E. Grantee
Contact Us

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epa.gov/resources-small-businesses/asbo

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