

Montana

Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

JENNIFER COLLINS MAY 28, 2021 04:33PM

Big Wins

JENNIFER COLLINS JUN 08, 2021 01:35AM

- Despite travel and direct contact covid-related restrictions, the Program continued assisting small businesses with navigating environmental regulations primarily through email, Zoom, Teams, and phone correspondence. (The really big indirect win was that the usually computer technology-challenged Program manager (John) learned how to use Teams and Zoom proficiently to communicate with clients, well, sort of.)
- The Program executed an EPA-funded source reduction assistance grant aimed at the food and beverage industries in Montana. We assisted a water bottling company with using spring water to heat and cool the building, instituted waste reductions at a pasta manufacturing facility, and dialed-in efficiencies at a kombucha producer. The Program worked with the Montana State University's MT Manufacturing Extension Center on those source reduction assistance projects.

So much interesting fun in MT! – ANONYMOUS

Challenges

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- Shortage of engineers to review and process water, electrical, construction, and energy-related project submittals and designs.

External to your agency? – ANONYMOUS

2021 / 2022 Excitement & Priorities

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- Program newsletter development, resume on-site compliance assistance, source reduction assistance, etc.

On-site assessments are great ways to really connect with small businesses.....great priority! – ANONYMOUS

The SBEAP resource page has example articles you can cut and paste if you want! – ANONYMOUS

Help Wanted

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- Continued support from the National SBEAP as it's a great resource and its representatives are very helpful.

Structure and Stats (Where are you housed? and How many Full Time Equivalent (FTEs)?)

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- Housed in the Department of Environmental Quality's Energy Bureau; .50 FTE.
