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Nancy Larson of the Kansas Small Business Environmental Assistance Program honored with Karen V. Brown Leadership Award

The National Steering Committee (NSC) of Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAPs) and Small Business Ombudsmen (SBO) have recognized Nancy Larson of the Kansas Small Business Environmental Assistance Program as the 2022 winner of the Karen V. Brown Leadership Award. This award acknowledges the accomplishments of an individual who promotes small business compliance assistance, sustainability, advocacy and collaboration nationwide. These individuals have demonstrated leadership, innovation, dedication to environmental protection and persistence in building strong local/state/federal partnerships for small business compliance assistance throughout their career as an SBEAP/SBO.

Larson was recognized for her dedication to delivering compliance assistance to Kansas small business and industry and providing regional and national leadership in environmental compliance. She has worked for the K-State Pollution Prevention Institute, or PPI, since 2000 and has been the director since 2004. Under Larson's leadership, the PPI team has been recognized with several awards, including two NSC SBEAP Excellence Awards, the EPA Administrator's award, Most Valuable P2 Program, Kansas P2 award, National Champion for Change, and most recently with the EPA's Food Recovery Challenge award.

“Nancy emphasizes building and maintaining relationships with small businesses, trade associations and state regulators and believes it has been a key to PPI’s success and growth,” said Tony Pendola, Small Business Ombudsman/Small Business Environmental Assistance Program Director at the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. “Nancy also was able to advocate for small business in various ways, including changes to regulatory interpretations with regard to small business air quality enforcement, solvent distillation hazardous waste generation rates, the development of new air quality tools that helped small businesses determine their air permitting requirements and securing the confidentiality of the small businesses the Kansas SBEAP serves.”

The SBEAP/SBO NSC awards are the States’ premier awards program for recognizing outstanding environmental leadership among small businesses and small business assistance providers. These awards recognize small businesses, SBEAP/SBO programs and individuals, trade associations and other business assistance providers who have made significant contributions to protecting the environment. The awards program is sponsored by the SBEAP/SBO NSC in partnership with the U.S. EPA Asbestos and Small Business Office.

More information about the SBEAP/SBO is available at <https://nationalsbeap.org/>.

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About the Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs and Small Business Ombudsmen
The Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAP) and Small Business Ombudsmen (SBO) were created under Section 507 of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. For more than 25 years, the SBEAP/SBO have provided extensive, hands-on technical assistance to small businesses across the country to help them understand and comply with complex environmental regulations. The SBEAP/SBO website, <https://nationalsbeap.org/>, is a resource for program participants and small businesses. Find your state specific contact at: <https://nationalsbeap.org/states>. #SBEAP #SmallBusiness