



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 19, 2022

Contact: Renee Lesjak Bashel
SBEAP/SBO NSC Awards Subcommittee Chair
renee.bashel@wi.gov
608-347-7940

Abilene Boot selected for the Small Business Environmental Stewardship Award

The National Steering Committee (NSC) of Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAPs) & Small Business Ombudsmen (SBO) have recognized Abilene Boot Company with the 2022 Small Business Environmental Stewardship Award. This small boot manufacturer, **Abilene Boot Company**, based in Somerset, Pennsylvania, was recognized for its accomplishments in the areas of improving environmental performance, pollution prevention, and sustainability.

Abilene Boot was recognized for working with the Pennsylvania SBEAP, known as the Environmental Management Assistance Program (EMAP) of the Widener University Small Business Development Center (SBDC). EMAP provides free and confidential environmental technical assistance to all small businesses located and operating in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Together, Abilene Boot and EMAP evaluated their air quality compliance including reviewing their natural minor operating permit, looking at coating and adhesives usage, calculating their air quality emissions and quantifying volatile organic compound and hazardous air pollutant emission reductions for the small manufacturing operation.

EMAP consultant Carrie Wintersteen noted in her nomination that, “Abilene Boot has a strong commitment to environmental stewardship and to protecting their employees. They enlisted EMAP services as well as the IUP Safety Science Department to ensure they are protecting the environment and their employees from breathing in any potential harmful air emissions.”

Mr. Ross Auman, co-owner and operator of Abilene Boot, added, “One of my major concerns with operating a manufacturing facility was safety, creating our safety committee almost immediately. This committee addresses all factors of safety issues along with making environmental issues one of its top priorities focusing on the reduction of volatile organic compounds in any dangerous materials that were in use to create a safer environment for its employees.” Mr. Auman personally appreciates the interest and commitment of Abilene Boot’s management and factory employees that they have taken by always stepping forward with suggestions and opinions to help with safety and environmental conservation.

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 U.S. EPA Asbestos and Small Business Office.

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

###

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