



**SMALL BUSINESS
ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM**

Serving Small Businesses and the Environment

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Colorado Receives 2020 Small Business Environmental Assistance Program Excellence Award

The [National Steering Committee](#) (NSC) of [Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs](#) (SBEAPs) & Small Business Ombudsmen (SBO) selected the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment's Small Business Environmental Assistance Program to receive the 2020 Small Business Environmental Assistance Program Award for Excellence. This award category recognizes exemplary performance of one SBEAP/SBO or individual in the areas of compliance assistance, sustainability, advocacy, and collaboration at the national level. The SBEAP Excellence Award emphasizes state program or individual leadership where they have created resources and work products, promoted policy advancements, developed program innovations, and established new partnerships to build a strong network of small business assistance.

Colorado was chosen by the NSC for their leadership and outstanding efforts, from hosting the [2017 Annual SBO/SBEAP Training](#), to sharing information on Environmental Protection Specialist Kaitlin Urso's [brewery sustainability initiative](#), as well as Urso's experience with establishing sustainability strategies and quantifying air quality issues related to the [cannabis industry](#).

The nomination specifically mentioned Kaitlin Urso's leadership role in heading up a study to quantify how many pounds of [VOCs are released per pound of marijuana grown](#) to determine the industry's overall impact on the state's air quality, sharing air permitting information related to [cannabis extraction operations](#), and also leading the innovative [CO₂ Capture and Reuse Pilot Project](#) - where a brewery captured CO₂ from fermentation tanks, transferred it to a marijuana cultivation, and then released the CO₂ to supplement plant growth. Kaitlin Urso was able to reach a large national audience with her environmental outreach and elevate the SBEAP programs by speaking at numerous national conferences 2017-2020.

"Not only does the [Colorado SBEAP](#) serve as a vital resource for businesses in the state, but [Kaitlin Urso](#) is a leader in the national SBEAP network, benefiting small businesses nationwide. Of particular note is her cutting-edge national work with helping craft breweries and cannabis businesses reduce their environmental impacts." said Lisa Ashenbrenner Hunt, Chair of the NSC.

"We have long recognized that small businesses can play a vital role partnering with the state to reduce emissions, improve air quality and build a healthier, happier, more prosperous Colorado," said Jill Hunsaker Ryan, director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. "We're proud that our Small Business Environmental Assistance Program has received this award, and we intend to continue innovating and finding creative solutions to our state's most pressing environmental challenges."

The 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 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/> .



Kaitlin Urso, Colorado Small Business Environmental Assistance Program award recipient, and Jill Hunsaker Ryan, director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, remotely celebrating the 2020 Small Business Environmental Assistance Program Excellence Award each from their respective homes in Colorado to support social distancing in response to COVID-19.

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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>



[Kaitlin Urso](#) is a free environmental consultant for small businesses for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in Denver, CO. She has 10 years of technical environmental experience and a mechanical engineering degree from the University of Colorado. In her role, Kaitlin rotates through industries to focus on providing proactive environmental assistance to and create lasting program resources for. Kaitlin specializes in greening the brewing and cannabis industries.