



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**June 10, 2019**

Contact:

Lisa Ashenbrenner Hunt

SBEAP National Steering Committee Chair

WI Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

Phone: (608) 266-6887

Email: [lisa.ashenbrennerhunt@wisconsin.gov](mailto:lisa.ashenbrennerhunt@wisconsin.gov)

**Kansas program receives 2019 Small Business Environmental Assistance Program Excellence Award**

The National Steering Committee of Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs, or SBEAPs, and Small Business Ombudsmen, or SBO, has selected the Kansas Small Business Environmental Assistance Program to receive the 2019 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 a state program or individual leadership that has created resources and work products, promoted policy advancements, developed program innovations and established new partnerships to build a strong network of small business assistance.

Kansas was chosen by the SBEAP/SBO national steering committee for its leadership and outstanding efforts through participation on national subcommittees, particularly as Chair of the Educational subcommittee; being a regional representative to the national steering committee, and its support for all SBEAPs/SBO through sharing of training videos and materials on federal rules, maintaining the National SBEAP website and email lists and providing ZOOM meeting services.

“Not only does the Kansas SBEAP serve as a vital resource for businesses in the state, but program staff members are leaders in the national SBEAP network, benefiting small businesses nationwide. Of particular note is their creation and maintenance of the National SBEAP website, which allows SBEAPs across the country to share ideas and resources, greatly increasing the programs’ effectiveness and efficiency,” said Lisa Ashenbrenner Hunt, national steering committee chair of the SBEAPs/SBO.

“We are humbled to be honored with this award by our state peers. In our line of work we learn new things daily and could not have the program we have in Kansas without help from other state SBEAPs,” said Nancy Larson, director with the K-State Pollution Prevention Institute and Kansas SBEAP.

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.

The NSC Awards were presented at the 2019 Annual SBEAP/SBO Training in Chicago, IL, May 15, 2019.

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>.*