

Oklahoma

Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

JENNIFER COLLINS MAY 28, 2021 04:30PM

Big Wins

JENNIFER COLLINS JUN 10, 2021 12:31PM

- A. Our agency quickly converted to 100 % telework during the pandemic and recently have phased in
back to work with a new telework policy.
- B. OEA continued to serve the regulated community with permit and business assistance throughout
the pandemic. Since February 2021, permit and business assistance has increased dramatically.
- C. Assisted the Oklahoma Department of Commerce with permit and business assistance for projects
that have potential investments in our state of more than \$4 billion.
- D. Successful startup and training of ELMS champions and completion of three pilot projects was
accomplished in the past year.
- E. Over 160 environmental reviews have been conducted since January 1, 2021.
- F. Social Media increased - Increase in Facebook, twitter, and Instagram followers in last six month of
over 100 each respectively. Increase in YouTube video views by over 5000.

What types of content do you feature on Youtube? Are these training videos? – ANONYMOUS

Challenges

JENNIFER COLLINS JUN 10, 2021 12:31PM

The Office of External Affairs is currently rebuilding SBEAP within the Division.

2021 / 2022 Excitement & Priorities

JENNIFER COLLINS JUN 10, 2021 12:31PM

For the 2021-22 year, develop and implement strategies for both general and targeted outreach with the business community on multiple topics, including: specific industry needs and trends; changes to rules and regulations; voluntary compliance initiatives; pollution prevention and sustainability; etc.

Help Wanted

JENNIFER COLLINS JUN 10, 2021 12:31PM

The Oklahoma SBEAP program within OEA will be evaluating other EPA Regions SBEAP programs as well as starting a dialogue with our EPA contact in Region 6. Near term goal is to have a one-day meeting with EPA this fall. We will look to our colleagues for ideas from their respective EPA regions on quarterly and annual meetings that have been successful. We will look to the National SBEAP for assistance and guidance.

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

JENNIFER COLLINS JUN 10, 2021 12:32PM

The SBEAP program is housed within the Office of External Affairs (OEA) for the Oklahoma DEQ. Budgeted for 2.5 FTEs, which are currently vacant due to one employee retiring and the other moving on to the private sector the past two years.

Permit and business assistance is being conducted through other staff within OEA. Environmental reviews are done by OEA's Senior Manager. The Communications Director leads the agency's public affairs section and has been very successful in

outreach through social media. The Assistant Director has focused mostly on implementing ELMS training throughout the agency. Detailed technical assistance is being conducted by other Divisions as per our coordination.
