



NATIONAL COMPLIANCE ADVISORY PANEL

MEMBERS

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- Factsheet -

The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 required the creation of Compliance Advisory Panels (CAPs) in all US states and territories as part of a three-tiered national program to help small businesses comply with Clean Air Act requirements. Each CAP is responsible for determining the overall effectiveness of its own state Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) and to provide guidance on priorities and approaches to help small businesses.

During the 2001 annual national conference of the state Small Business Ombudsmen/Small Business Assistance Programs, state CAP representatives voted to create a national "steering" committee to represent the interests of and provide a national coordination vehicle for state CAPs; thus, the National Compliance Advisory Panel (NCAP) was created in 2001. The National CAP is comprised of one representative from each of the ten EPA regions, two members-at-large, the Vice Chair of the SBO/SBEAP National Steering Committee or his/her designee, the EPA SBO, and an EPA NCAP Liaison. The Steering Committee Vice chair and EPA representatives are an integral part of the NCAP, but serve in an advisory capacity to the membership, and have no voting rights. The NCAP is led by a Chair and a Vice Chair elected by the voting members. The National CAP is supported by the EPA SBO.

The official responsibilities of the NCAP include:

- Serving as conduits for information to other CAPs in their respective regions;
- Advising the EPA SBO on small business issues and the effectiveness of the State Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAPs);
- Reviewing proposed and existing regulations as they affect small businesses;
- Ensuring that regulations are written in understandable, clear, laymen's terms;
- Assisting states where CAPs do not exist or are weak;
- Acting as a unified voice to the U.S. Congress;
- Assisting state or territory CAPs, Ombudsmen and/or SBEAPs as needed and requested;
- Advising the Agency of the small business perspective on environmental issues.

The NCAP adopted the following as its Mission:

The purpose of the National Compliance Advisory Panel (NCAP) is to foster small business success through improved environmental performance by:

- *Assisting in the development, implementation, and continued improvement of the state CAPs pursuant to Section 507 of the Clean Air Act as amended in 1990.*
- *Facilitating communication among businesses, state programs, Small Business Ombudsman (SBO)/Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) Steering Committee, and the US Environmental Protection Agency.*
- *Promoting and marketing existing state program components:*
 - *Small Business Ombudsmen*
 - *Small Business Assistance Programs*
 - *Compliance Advisory Panels*
- *Promoting program transition to providing multimedia assistance*