



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Donovan Grimwood of the Tennessee Small Business Environmental Assistance Program honored with Karen V. Brown Leadership Award

The National Steering Committee (NSC) of Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAPs) & Small Business Ombudsmen (SBO) have recognized Donovan Grimwood of the Tennessee Small Business Environmental

Assistance Program as the 2025 winner of the Karen V. Brown Leadership Award. This award acknowledges the accomplishments of an individual who promotes small business compliance assistance, sustainability, advocacy, and collaboration nationwide. These individuals have demonstrated leadership, innovation, dedication to environmental protection, and persistence in building strong local/state/federal partnerships for small business compliance assistance throughout their career as a SBEAP/SBO.

Donovan Grimwood was recognized for his leadership and participation within his state SBEAP as well as the National SBEAP. Donovan has been part of the TN SBEAP for over 26 years and during that time has directly assisted nearly 3,000 small businesses on a one-on-one basis, helping them understand the regulations that affect their businesses and how to be in compliance with environmental rules that help provide clean air, water, and land for all of TN, while also allowing for economic prosperity.

“He has and continues to be critical to the stability and continuity of the National SBEAP program,” said Belinda Briedenbach of the Idaho Small Business Development Center in the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. “Donovan is very passionate about his work and is always more than willing to share his knowledge.”

“Donovan has taken assistance to the SBA Office of Advocacy to a new level by serving on Small Business Advocacy Review (SBAR) panels,” said Tony Pendola of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. “He facilitates open discussion by humble example amongst the state SBEAPs. Karen was a very unique leader, but I don’t think anyone else exemplifies unique leadership like Donovan does!”

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 SBEAP/SBO is available at <https://nationalsbeap.org/>.

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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>. #SBEAP #SmallBusiness