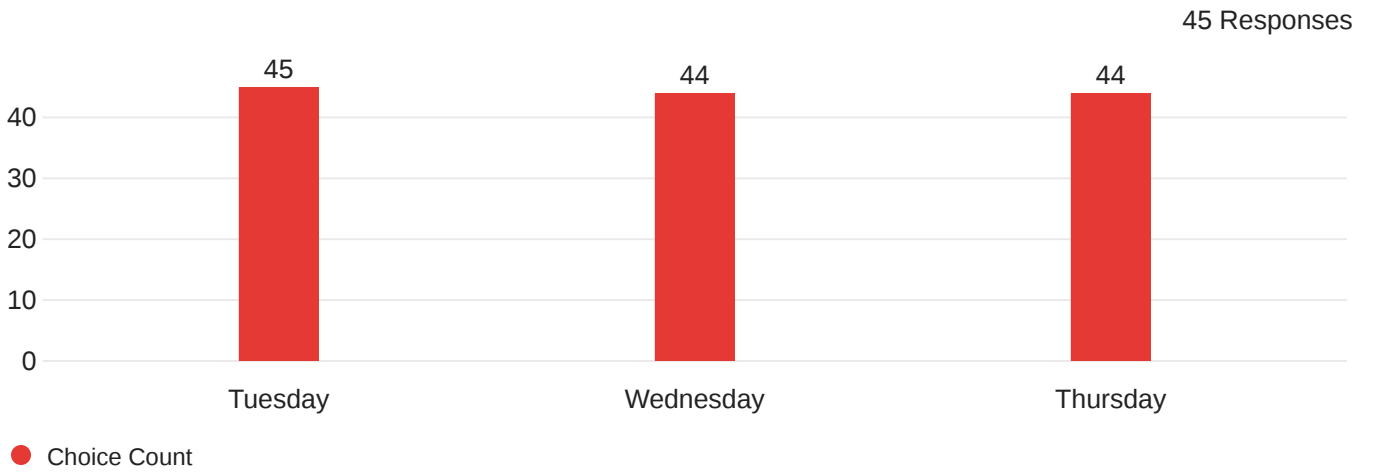
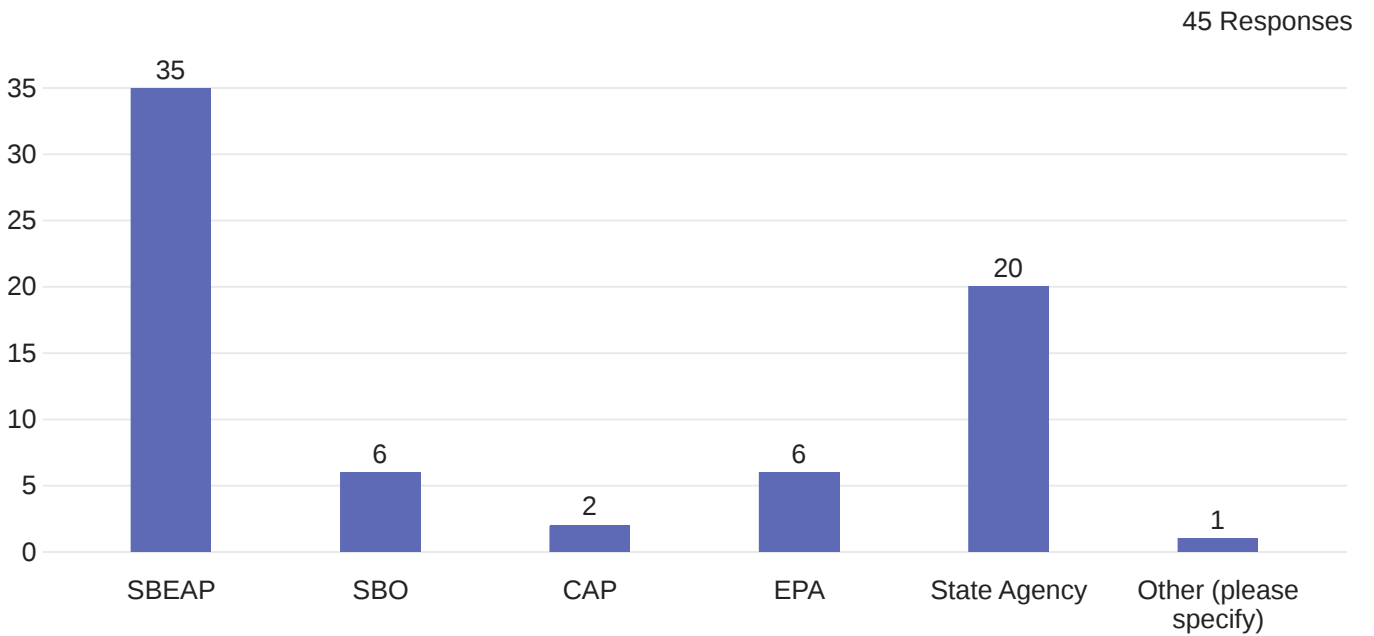




Q1 - Days attended (check all that apply)



Q2 - Who are you representing? Check all that apply. - Selected Choice



Q2a - Other (please specify)

Academic

Q3 - On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, please rank the overall content of the training.

Field		1	2	3	4	5	Total				
Choice Count	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	20.45%	9	79.55%	35	44

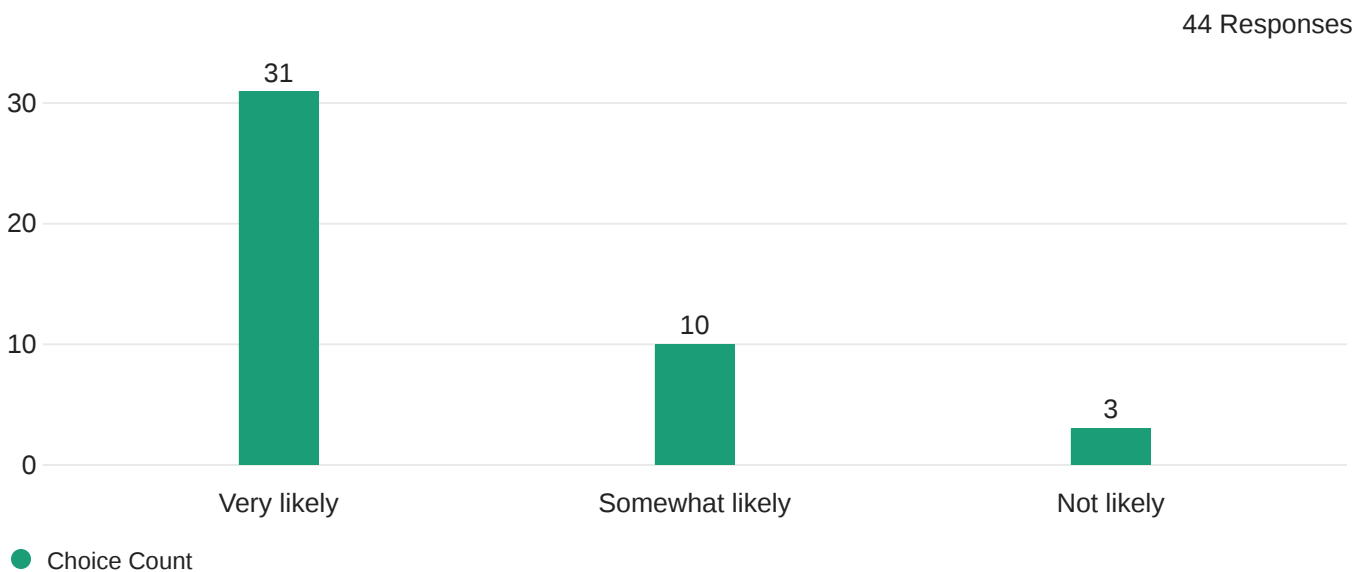
Q4 - On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being not important and 5 being extremely important, how would you rank the importance of this information to your profession?

Field		1	2	3	4	5	Total				
Choice Count	0%	0	0%	0	5%	2	39%	17	57%	25	44

Q5 - On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate the facilities used for this training?

Field		1	2	3	4	5	Total				
Choice Count	0%	0	0%	0	7%	3	43%	19	50%	22	44

Q6 - What is the likelihood you will make changes as a result of what you learned?



Q7 - If likely, what will the changes be?

Hopefully implementing some other strategies/resources that other SBEAPs are using. AI, partnering with consultants, EJ community outreach to businesses, etc.

Bring back some opportunities our state may be able to utilize in our programs.

Incorporate AI as a tool to assist businesses.
 Generate newsletters to push out EPA updates.
 Use survey monkey to gather feedback on SBEAP assistance

The training helps to learn what other state SBEAPs do to build trust with regulated entities, to help those entities and track how we can show others what we do as simply as possible to demonstrate that our programs fulfill a need. I hoping to make more use of AI tools in preparation for a site visit by helping me to collect information prior to the visit.

Uncertain at this time...

Use of AI, outreach, measurement/metrics

going to look into TCTAC for Nevada, NCMS, and compliance assistance center
 we are newly moderate nonattainment for ozone so we are promulgating solvents regulations and I will look into
 turi solvent replacement website
 look at implementing more customer surveys after assistance.

(1) Data gathering; (2) Use of AI tools; (3) customer feedback.

Attempt to implement some different outreach and metric strategies.

Explore possibilities in our state's audit policy, brownfields, radon and ideas from networking

Make inquiries responsive to questions/comments from SBEAP reps in my region

Changes in our marketing and outreach for our state SBEAP Program, as well as more research on resources that can be used including the Self-Auditing Policies.

I will try to reinforce my relationship with our small business.

F/u on metrics ideas and "Articulate" software that MN uses.

Initiating contact between consultants and the state agency to promote SBEAP. Creating webinars and powerpoints to post to our website to promote our program.

See if we can incorporate metrics more, and AI.

Improvement in technical assistance to small businesses, marketing & outreach.

Programmatic operational changes -- such as program marketing and tracking of additional metrics/how we track

Utilizing the resources mentioned in training such as OpenEI databases

start marketing our services to TCTAC. Investigate opportunities to use predictive modeling and AI.

Q8 - What were the top three sessions that you found helpful?

- 1) The EPA policy and regulatory sessions
- 2) The Rapid Fire Tech Talks from the states
- 3) The "Ask the G.O.A.T" session (sharing successes and failures).

US EPA's Compliance Assistance Centers; Ask the GOAT; Updates from US EPA.

The AI session, The EPA upcoming rule updates, and the final session where we all talked about what we do in our states and asked each other questions.

AI - Jeremy Hancher's presentation
Writing Grants - Belinda's presentation
networking with peers

Rapid tech talks, AI, storytelling

AI, PFAS/AERR updates, self disclosure policy

Laying Down the Tracks: Regional to Local Environmental Justice Spurs; We do A-mazing Work. How do we tell that story?; Full Steam Ahead: Rapid Fire Tech Talks

The lightning talks, Brownfield Tour, We do A-mazing Work. How do we tell that story?

Storytelling for Grant Seekers, AI use for Small Business Assistance, Self-Disclosure Policies

Upcoming Regs; compliance assistance centers; rapid fire tech talks

Storytelling for Grant Seekers - Belinda's presentation on this was awesome and inspiring! Thank you!
Everything on Thursday. All great!

Open discussion: Where do State SBEAPs fit in with EJ?
States' Compliance Initiative and Self-Disclosure Policy
Full Steam Ahead: Rapid Fire Tech Talks

*I also loved the High Weather Impacts Across the Nation - relevant but not as directly relevant to our programs... but really, really great information and presenter.

OAQPS Updates, Leveraging AI Tools, EPA's Compliance Assistance Centers and High Weather Impacts Across the Nation (Krissy Hurley). There are four sessions. I even wanted to add a fifth session.

updates from EPA
ask the GOAT
AI tools

Open discussion on EJ; Rapid fire tech talks; storytelling

AI, outcomes metrics, and audit/self-disclosure policy

1. Day 3 Ask the GOAT!
2. Day 3 We do A-mazing Work!
3. Day 1 Regional to local EJ

1. Rapid Fire Tech Talks
2. PFAS and AERR Updates
3. Leveraging AI Tools

Tools for Small Business Assistance & Outreach
Regulation Update
Audit Policies

1. Overall networking opportunities
2. Open forum on day 3 - "Ask the GOAT"
3. PFAS and AERR updates

Q9 - How can the training be improved?

I think having high-quality presentations on a diverse range of topics was very good, so I would keep a focus on maintaining that standard.

Technology can always be a challenge, but some areas of improvement could be:

The microphones. They didn't always work properly or consistently. This interrupted the flow and made it difficult for people in the back.

For the virtual presentations, the only sound appeared to be from the laptop speakers, which made it difficult to hear. An external speaker would make it easier for everyone to hear what the virtual presenters are saying.

Also, for the virtual presenters, the web camera of the laptop in the room was facing away from the audience, towards the wall or the moderator. This made it easier for the moderator to see the audience, but it made it so the presenter was mostly looking at a quiet, blank wall. Having the computer turned around so the presenter can see the audience in the room would improve the experience for them.

While this was my first conference and I have nothing to compare it to, I thought it was a really well organized conference with a variety of topics covered. Only negative was the hotel conference room. It seemed a little small for the group and had some challenging sightlines.

More time for Q&A/Discussion after each session - maybe that means less sessions or shorter presentation times so that there is more space for discussion after. I would love a session to have each state talk about what their program does or give a 5min overview of their program with highlights. Don't take time away from breaks - if a session runs over, the time should be deducted from the next session rather than breaks. Maybe we set a timer and when there are 5min left, and then 2 min left, we give the heads up to the speaker to keep it on track.

Agenda was really packed. I liked having speakers over lunch, but some longer breaks would be nice to allow more time for networking, checking email, and stuff like that, since there wasn't time for that during lunch.

Wish the field trip was on the first or second day

room with no columns, chance to test sound system prior to event.

It may be useful to have an optional sessions covering the basics of what the SBEAP is and does, how the national network operates, and what some of the acronyms are. This would be helpful to those who are very new to their programs. I have spoken with folks who have joined their programs within six months before the training, and a session like this would help orient them so they can make the most of the training.

I think if each region SBEAP group shared their meeting minutes or recorded meetings I could learn a lot about what other states are doing

We've got to get away from sitting in one room all day, listening to and viewing powerpoint presentations. No matter how engaging the speakers are, it's hard on our minds and bodies to sit and focus all day.

It might be nice to have a little more time to have lunch without a formal presentation. Had the weather not been so beautiful, it might not have been a big deal; but it was really hard not to be able to take a break outside and have lunch every day. I like a packed agenda, but this one just gave us very little downtime other than breaks.

Would it be possible to allow for electronic submittal of questions from the audience during a presentation? Even if the presenter(s) were unable to answer the questions during the allotted time, they could address them at a later date and time. Would it be possible that during a presentation, it could also be viewed using a WiFi connected device so that participants at the back of the room could follow and read? Could EPA provide their OAQPS updates subtopics, e.g., 2024 upcoming rules, Polyether Polyols Production NESHAP? I was attempting to transcribe from my viewing of the presentation and fell behind very quickly. Would it be possible to include speaker bios and presentation summaries in the agenda?

Need a break right after lunch, going nonstop from a mid morning break to a mid afternoon break is a bit too long.

The meeting room felt cramped at times but understand budget constraints. Overall training was great!

For the state gift exchange encourage gifts that can be flown on a plane with. Some gifts had to be traded or given away because they had too much liquid or were too big.

Remove training during lunch to allow for more informal networking with colleagues.

Networking is an important part of the conference. Allow for longer breaks. I like the lunch time presentations--it would be nice to have additional time to get up, walk, and network though. Incorporate more audience conversations/participation into each session if possible--interaction, discussion--harder to do but more valuable than talking heads. I realize the space limitations but would be ideal to have round tables for meals to facilitate discussion. Perhaps have a roster of attendees available on web if not on paper--lots of new faces--could have photos too!

More relaxed lunch breaks to allow for more networking with other SBEAPs.

A little more space (breather) for breaks.

Attendees should be provided a list of other attendees' names and contact information for easier follow-up. This would also help put names & faces together easier as there were lots of new people.

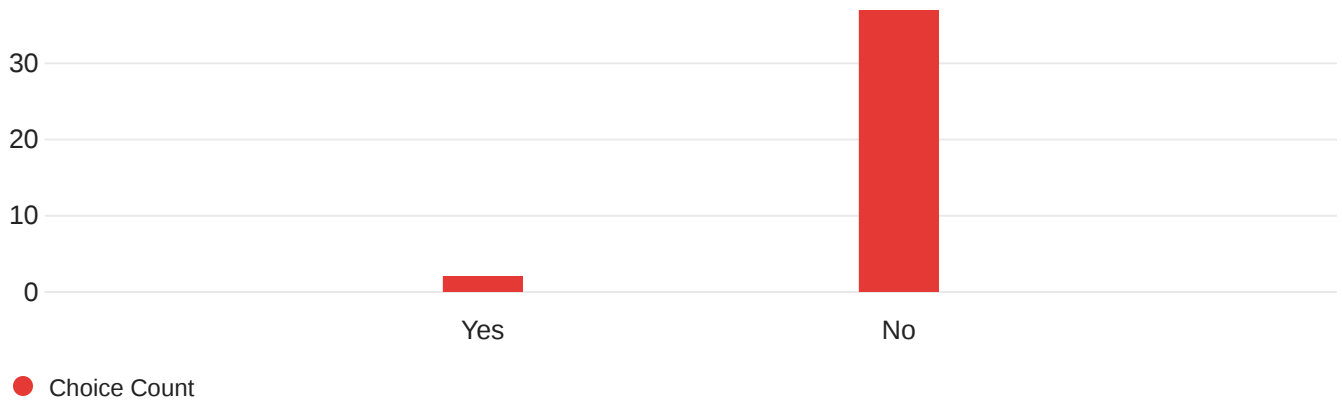
More breaks are needed in-between sessions to stretch legs.

Overall, the training was an overwhelming success; hats off to Dononvan, Crystal, and TDEC for putting on and hosting a fabulous training!!! A+++

Blocking out lunches as a full break and not a working break. I enjoyed the interactive nature of Ask the GOAT, which allowed each states to highlight real time issues they are facing and talk through solutions. I found this to be the most learning focused and effective part of the training as a newer staff member. Training focused SBEAP information was also very helpful, but didn't feel as if it were the majority of the sessions on the agenda.

Q10 - We are seeking a state to host the 2025 Annual Training and potentially a different state to lead the planning. Is your state interested in filling either role or both? If yes, please include which state.

39 Responses



Q10_1_TEXT - Yes - Text

TN can help with the agenda planning.

Maybe - prob help but not host or lead.

Q11 - Please share other comments regarding the 2024 or 2025 Annual Training.

Please share other comments regarding the 2024 or 2025 Annual Training.

This was my first time attending an SBEAP Annual Training. Thank you all for including the RASBLs and I hope we can get even more turn out next time!

TDEC did a great job and Chattanooga was an ideal location to host the event. I left overwhelmed with information and a better appreciation for the National SBEAP. There are some good people doing some great things!

This training was terrific. I learned SO much and made incredible connections. Thank you so much, Crystal and Donovan, for hosting us! Can't wait for the next one!

Crystal and Donovan really went above and beyond to make the training not only informative but also really fun. I had a great time.

Sorry, too new to handle the training but appreciate all the work everyone put into the training!

I loved the energy brought to the training by the coordinators. Their enthusiasm was contagious. The venue was spectacular. It was nice to get out and enjoy the weather after being indoors all day so I would prefer to keep it in a state/time of year that would be conducive to that. I really enjoyed the unique insights the other states had about metrics, EJ, upcoming rules, working with AI, etc.;

TN fully supports the idea of splitting the responsibilities of hosting the training.

I thought training was very useful. I felt that it offered great information and resources for newbies like me as well as more seasoned SBEAP folks. The fact that so many different programs and states were represented made for a better mix of attendees and for networking. I would consider the ability for everyone to travel as a consideration for upcoming trainings (ie while I love Oregon, if that means we lose all the east coast attendees, it might not be worth it being hosted there - Central locations seem idea for best participation -- that's a gut feeling so might not bear out.

Job well done. Great location and things to see; I personally appreciate getting to see new locations and learn about local issues like the "cleaning up" of Chattanooga's air. I like our approach of moving the annual training around and appreciate that we don't meet in the same big city or cities over and over but see different communities and environments (even if it does mean an extra flight connection). Great topics and speakers. Great site visit. Crystal and Donovan were excellent hosts who obviously put a tremendous amount of time and effort into the planning and execution of a great annual training.

Overall I was really impressed with the agenda, planning, hotel, Chattanooga, and fun activities!! Tennessee and other organizers did an outstanding job!!

I had a fantastic time. Learned a lot and loved making new contacts.

A location that has adequate electrical outlets would be nice.

EPA needs to understand how important this training is to the SBO/SBEAP programs to better serve small businesses in accordance with Section 507. Thus, it is crucial that they continue to provide support for this training on an annual basis.

Generally speaking, EPA needs to do a better job overall to stay engaged, not only be present (in-person vs virtual) but to participate, and interact with the state SBO/SBEAPs. I was pleasantly pleased to see the attendance of the three RSBLs who all seemed interested in the training.

Disappointed to hear no updates on EPA small business handbook.

The hotel, facilities, and food were top-notch.

TDEC did an awesome job in hosting the training. Donovan & Crystal went above and beyond. They deserve a raise or a small stipend for their efforts!

Chattanooga was a fun location with plenty to see and do.

The Brownfields tour was interesting and useful. Great to walk around town and see a facility with your own eyes. It was helpful to get the state and local perspectives from various TN speakers - all provided great presentations.

Great event!

Keep the annual in-person conferences going.

Thanks again for an incredible conference experience.

My first one. I liked it, and I felt it was very productive.

Thanks.

It was great! I learned many things. I can't wait for next time.

Crystal and Donovan did a great job planning and leading the training. Very organized and fun!

Absolutely fantastic job; great hotel space despite the pillar, great food, and a wide variety of engaging topics. We need in person to connect and inspire new leaders