

EPA CELEBRATED THE ADMINISTRATOR'S 25TH SMALL BUSINESS AWARD CEREMONY ON MAY 21, 2015

On May 21, 2015, EPA held the Administrator's 25th Annual Small Business Awards Program Ceremony. The recipients of the EPA Administrator's Awards were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the EPA Small Business Program. This year there were four recipients: OSWER for Outstanding Direct Procurement Program Achievement (Group Award), Region 6 Procurement Team (Group Award), Environmental Quality Management, Inc. for Outstanding Accomplishments by a Small Business, and Weston Solutions, Inc. for Outstanding Accomplishments by a Large Contractor.

The OSBP Director Award recipients were recognized for having met or exceeding the small business goals in at least four of the five small business procurement categories. These recipients were Regions 4, 6, 7, and the Office of Acquisition Resource Management. The coveted OSBP Director's Crystal Duck Award was presented this year to Region 6, the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, and the Office of Acquisition Management, Business Analysis and Strategic Sourcing Service Center for showing a strong commitment to EPA's Small Business Programs and for performing activities resulting in significant accomplishments within their program office/region.

OSBP Director Awards were also given to James McDonald, Assistant Regional Administrator, Region 6, the EPA Regional Small Business Coordinators and the EPA Regional Small Business Liaisons for their outstanding support to EPA's Small Business Program. Special recognition also went to Jerry Dodson who retired after serving many years as the RTP Small Business Coordinator.

**DO YOU HAVE ARTICLES FOR THE
SMALLBIZ NEWSLETTER?**

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Kimberly Patrick, OSBP Acting Director, Jack Greber, SB Winner, and Stan Meiburg, Acting Deputy Administrator

Food Waste in Iowa - What Can You Do To Break the Cycle

In the United States, 40% of food is wasted annually, most of which ends up in the landfill where it produces methane gas as it decomposes. It is also reported that more than 20% of all methane emissions in the United States originate from our landfills. We know its danger as a potent greenhouse gas, but it also has been shown to have a warming potential of 21 times that of carbon dioxide which has a direct negative effect on our air quality.

One of the best ways to help alleviate this problem is through education. The Iowa Waste Reduction Center has developed case studies, tool kits, videos and more to teach businesses, landfill operators and communities about the options that exist to reduce food waste. These resources can be found at foodwaste.iwrc.org and a workshop is being held on August 20, 2015 in Cedar Falls, Iowa to learn how to develop your own compost operation.

North Carolina Saves Big on Summertime Gas Repeal

Tony Pendola, PE currently serves as the Small Business Ombudsman for the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Tony laid out a strategy to meet with senior management in North Carolina's Division of Air Quality (DAQ) and enlisted their help in verifying the science supporting the repeal of the summertime gasoline requirement. DAQ presented a strong case based on the science and EPA granted the repeal. On May 30, 2014, the EPA rule became final, making North Carolina the first state in the country to request and receive a reprieve from the summertime gas requirement. This represents a rate difference of approximately seven cents per gallon. Estimates are that citizens and visitors to the triangle and triad metropolitan areas saved between \$18M and \$35M for the partial season last year alone with much greater savings to follow.

While the chemistry involved is as complex as refining, Tony explained that, in general, three ingredients are required to produce ground-level ozone. They are sunlight, nitrous oxides (NO_x) which are chiefly produced from power plants and automobiles, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Being blessed with a plethora of pine trees, North Carolina has an abundance of naturally-occurring VOCs. Therefore, lowering the volatility of gasoline in the June through September ozone season should not significantly impact ozone emissions.

The states of Florida, Alabama, and Pennsylvania have also followed suit. Tony estimates that there are literally BILLIONS of dollars of savings in other NO_x-limited metro areas around the country. He encourages other SBEAPs to impel their states to do the same as this is a rare and excellent opportunity not only to save small businesses but to save money for everyone. For more information, please view the following video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h6-msFCMGJU>

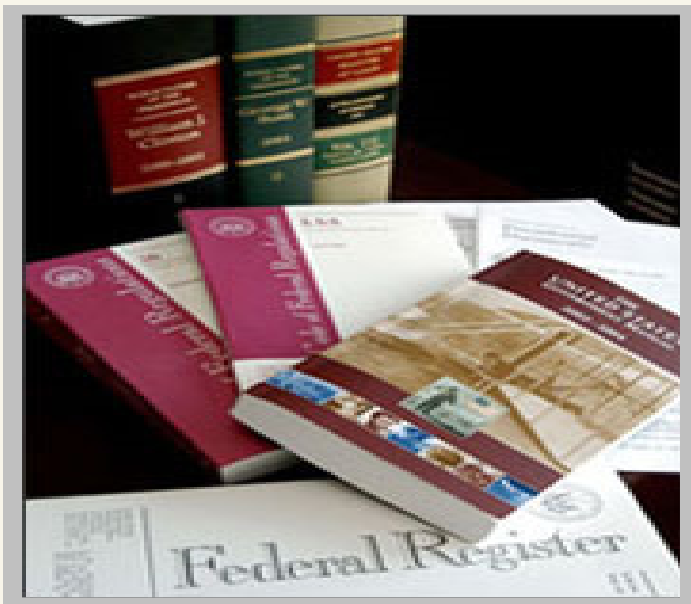


The EPA Small Business Policy

promotes environmental compliance among small businesses by providing them with special incentives. Read more about this policy at:

<http://www2.epa.gov/enforcement/small-businesses-and-enforcement>

EPA FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICES

**EPA Proposes Increases in Renewable Fuel Level**

The EPA has announced proposed volume requirements under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) Program for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016, and also proposed volume requirements for biomass-based diesel for 2017. The proposal would boost renewable fuel production and provide for ambitious yet responsible growth over multiple years, supporting future expansion of the biofuels industry. "This proposal marks an important step forward in making sure the Renewable Fuel Standard Program delivers on the Congressional intent to increase biofuel use, lower greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy security," said Janet McCabe, the Acting Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Air. "We believe these proposed volume requirements will provide a strong incentive for continued investment and growth in biofuels." EPA will hold a public hearing on this proposal on June 25, 2015, in Kansas City, Kansas. The period for public input and comment will be open until July 27. EPA will finalize the volume standards in this rule by Nov. 30. For more information, visit:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/6424ac1caa800aab85257359003f5337/4f4bb602ad5b51b985257e54004b6e5f!OpenDocument>

SUBJECT: Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District, Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-06-05/pdf/2015-13680.pdf>

Federal Register: Vol. 80, No. 108 / Friday, June 5, 2015 / Rules and Regulations

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Proposed Rule

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking direct final action to approve revisions to the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District (EKAPCD) and Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) portions of the California State Implementation Plan (SIP). These revisions concern volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from polyester resin operations and oil-water separators.

SUBJECT: Idaho: Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-06-02/pdf/2015-12932.pdf>

Federal Register: Vol. 80, No.105 / Tuesday, June 2, 2015 / Proposed Rule

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Proposed Rule

SUMMARY: Idaho has applied to the EPA for final authorization of certain changes to its hazardous waste program under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), as amended. RCRA allows the EPA to authorize State hazardous waste management programs if the EPA finds that such programs are equivalent to and consistent with the Federal program and provide adequate enforcement of compliance. The EPA has reviewed Idaho's application, has preliminarily determined these changes satisfy all requirements needed to qualify for final authorization, and is proposing to authorize the State's changes.

12th Annual National Small Business Contracting Conference – Summit July 9, 2015 – 8 am to 4 pm

The 2015 National Small Business Contracting Summit – DC Summer Conference is being presented jointly by [The American Small Business Chamber of Commerce](#) and the [U.S. Women’s Chamber of Commerce](#). It will be held in Washington, D.C. at the Embassy Suites Hotel.

This popular event boasts a robust agenda that includes:

- Increased focus on assuring small business federal contractors secure our fair share of federal contracting (taxpayer) dollars
- Access to federal agencies and prime contractors (scroll to the bottom of the page to see the list of agencies and prime contractors who have been invited)
- Timely education and information on current trends, opportunities and threats to small business contractors
- Legal education important for teaming, joint ventures and related topics
- Connections to potential teaming and joint venture partners
- Taking new ground – setting a course for the future with specific FY 2015 objectives
- Influence on The Hill — connecting votes to action for our congressional leaders

Click here to register: <http://www.americansbcc.org/meetings/viewevent.aspx?eventId=185>

www.epa.gov/osbp

SBA Awards Grants to 20 Universities and Organizations to Support R&D, Small Business Innovation

The U.S. Small Business Administration has granted \$100,000 awards for FY 2015 to 20 state and local economic development agencies, business development centers, and colleges and universities to support programs for innovative, technology-driven small businesses under SBA’s Federal and State Technology (FAST) Partnership Program.

FAST is designed to stimulate economic development with outreach and technical assistance to science and technology-driven small businesses, with a particular emphasis on socially and economically disadvantaged firms, helping them to compete in federally-funded research and development through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE
FAST PROGRAM AND TO SEE A
LIST OF THE RECIPIENTS, GO TO:**

<https://www.sba.gov/content/sba-awards-grants-20-universities-and-organizations-support-rd-small-business-innovation-1>

