

### (3) Compliance Advisory Panel

The Clean Air Act requires the establishment of a Compliance Advisory Panel to assist with small business compliance assistance. The panel will consist of seven members. Four of the members must be small business owners or representatives selected by the State Legislature and the Governor appoints two members to represent the general public. The seventh member is chosen by the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. The panel reviews program materials to ensure they are clear, understandable and effective. The Panel will make periodic reports on small business compliance and program activity effectiveness.



For information or assistance, call or write:

Tennessee Small Business  
Environmental Assistance Program  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor, L&C Annex, 401 Church St.  
Nashville, TN 37243-1533  
**1-800-734-3619**  
<http://tn.gov/environment/ea/sbeap/>  
**BGSBEAP@tn.gov**

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**SMALL BUSINESS  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM**

**FREE**  
and confidential help  
for small businesses

**1-800-734-3619**  
**TOLL FREE**



## **OVERVIEW**

The 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments established the framework for new environmental regulations that would have a significant impact for some small businesses. In many cases, small businesses could find these new regulations difficult to understand. As a remedy the Act required each state to establish an assistance program.

To effectively meet the compliance assistance needs of small businesses, Tennessee's Small Business Environmental Assistance Program addresses all environmental media (air, land, and water). The program provides free confidential technical assistance on questions regarding regulations and environmental compliance.

## **SMALL BUSINESS CRITERIA**

A company must meet certain criteria to qualify for assistance as a small business. A small business:

- Must have 100 or fewer employees
- Cannot be a major stationary source of air pollution or large quantity generator of hazardous waste
- Does not emit 50 tons or more of a single pollutant per year
- Does not emit 75 tons or more of a combination of regulated pollutants per year
- Meets the federal Small Business Act definition of a small business

## **SBEAP PROGRAM COMPONENTS**

The Small Business Environmental Assistance Program includes the following components:

- 1) A Small Business Ombudsman (Advocate)
- 2) A comprehensive environmental technical assistance program
- 3) A Compliance Advisory Panel

### **(1) State Ombudsman/Advocate**

The Small Business Advocate represents small business in air pollution regulatory matters. The Advocate identifies and proposes solutions to small business technical and compliance problems. Other Advocate duties include:

- Work with trade associations to bring about voluntary compliance
- Aid in investigating and resolving complaints and disputes involving small business
- Disseminate regulatory and technical information
- Provide assistance to and cooperation with other small business groups
- Provide direction to the technical assistance program.

### **(2) Environmental Technical Assistance**

The Small Business Environmental Assistance Program provides technical, administrative, and regulatory support for small business. The SBEAP staff serve as a liaison between the regulatory agency and the small business. The SBEAP does not have regulatory enforcement authority. Confidentiality is maintained when representing the interest of a small business. The types of assistance provided through the SBEAP include:

- Informing businesses of regulatory requirements that apply to them and the dates these requirements apply
- Maintaining a list of affected industry for information distribution
- Disseminating up-to-date information to the small business community, including easy-to-understand public information material
- Helping small businesses deal with specific technical, administrative, and compliance problems
- Making appropriate referrals to assist businesses with specific environmental problems
- Providing training opportunities.