



Department of  
**Environment &  
Conservation**

# Introduction to the TN and National SBEAPs

# TN Small Business Environmental Assistance Program Staff



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# Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

- **A Small Business...**
  - Has 100 or fewer employees.
  - Is not a major source of air pollutant emissions.
  - Is not a large quantity generator of hazardous waste.




# Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

- SBEAP consultants provide **technical assistance** on any environmental question a small business may have.
- Determine if environmental permits are needed for site-specific activities
  - Water, Air, Solid Waste, Underground Storage Tanks, etc.
- Guide small businesses through the permitting processes;
  - Complete applications, perform calculations, develop documentation tracking resources
- Help with site specific technical, administrative, and compliance problems;
- Provide outreach and training; and
- Perform file searches and provide guidance.

## Other great qualities not listed in the name...

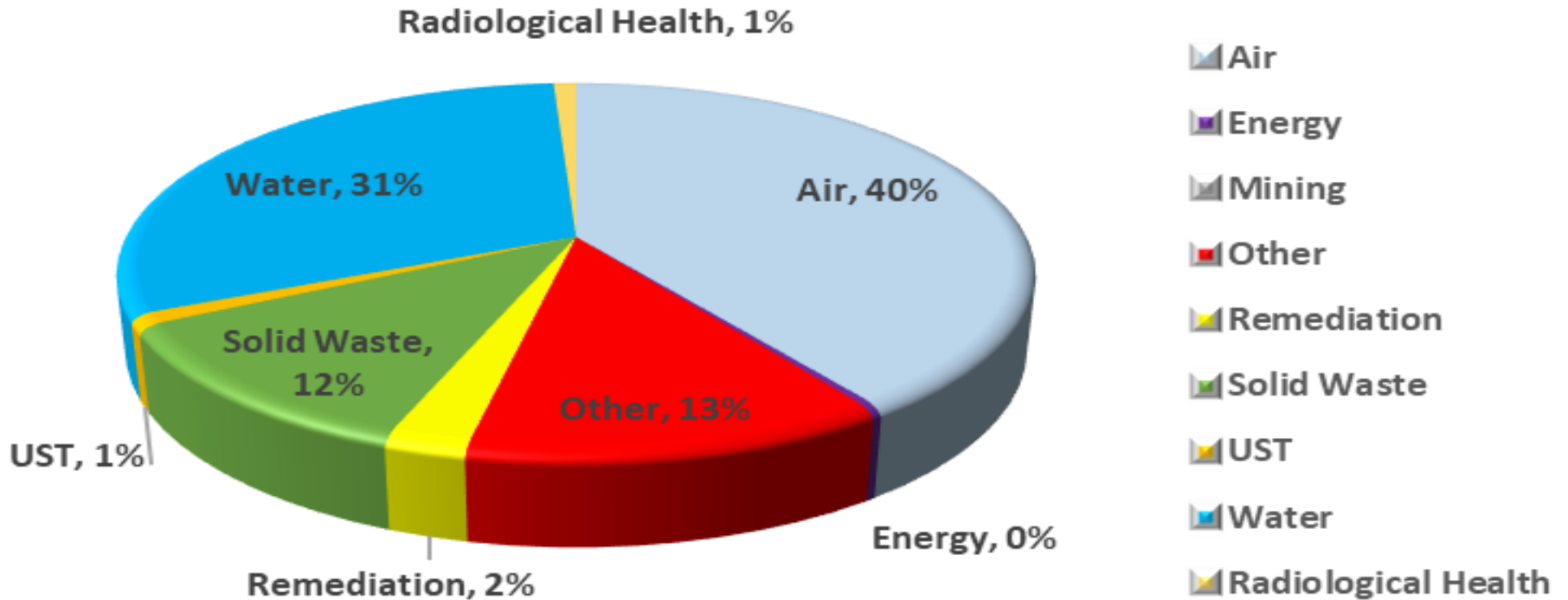


- Assistance is
  - There is no charge for asking for help.
- Assistance is 
  - No information is shared with regulatory agencies, unless the client gives SBEAP permission.



# Where we've assisted in 2023

## Assistances by Regulatory Area



# Why an SBEAP?

- There are approximately 32.5 million small business in America (SBA.gov 2021)
  - Compare to only 20,516 large businesses
- Data Axel lists a potential 58 million business with less than 100 employees (about 15.8 million verified).
- Many are classed as nonemployer firms (81%).
- Avg. startup is 15.3 employees per business and only 48.9% make it past 5 years.
- Businesses are subject matter experts in their business, but that does not make them experts in all the rules that impact them.

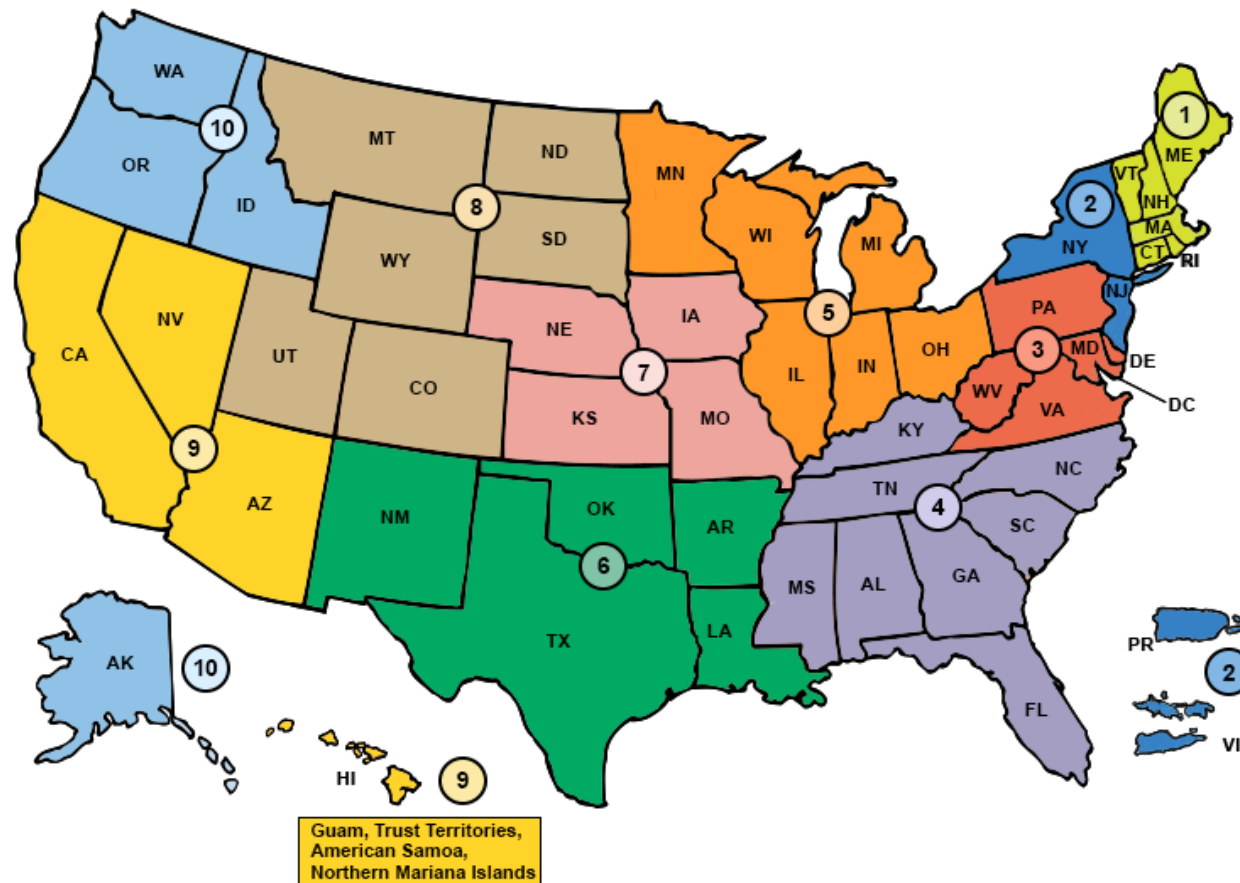
# Why an SBEAP?

- Clean Air Act, as Amended in 1990
  - Section 507 in each state:
    - Mandates the establishment of a small business stationary source technical and environmental compliance assistance program.
    - Outlines the role of the Small Business Environmental Ombudsman
    - Provides for the creation of a Compliance Advisory Panel (CAP)
- The Clean Air Act Amended 1990 also required Title V (major source) fees to fund SBEAPs
  - Majority of SBEAPs are funded mostly by Title V fees, but some also get EPA grants or additional funds from state sources or share of Federal sources sent to states like Environmental Protection Fund.



# Where are the SBEAPs?

Click on the State that you want information on. Most states list a contact that can provide confidential, environment compliance assistance at no charge for your small business. If you can not find the information you need, please [email](#) or call 800-578-8898.



# Where are the SBEAPs?

- State environmental regulatory agencies
  - Air Division
  - Executive Department
- State universities
- Small Business Development Centers
- Economic development agencies
- Other state agencies such as commerce
- Staffing ranges from 0.25 FTE to 41 FTE
- Our impact: 2 to 3 million clients served and assisted annually

# How does this help regulatory divisions?

- Allows for direct answers to small business questions
  - Promotes greater understanding and less confusion of requirements
  - Facilitates more complete and accurate permit applications
  - Teaches more accurate records and reporting
  - Provides Air Pollution Control agencies better understanding of activities at a business
  - Fosters relationships with small businesses which makes them more willing to ask for help to be in compliance rather than wait until enforcement
  - Encourages getting into and maintaining compliance rather than a revolving door of enforcement

# Making connections

- The National SBEAP is organized through the National Steering Committee
  - Multiple subcommittees, including the Technical Subcommittee
- Allows for a wide range of connections and training on multiple topics
  - Examples include Solar Panel Recycling, Alternate Refrigeration
  - Connects with many groups: EPA, ASHRAE, A&WMA

# How to get more information

- TN SBEAP: <https://www.tn.gov/environment/sbeap.html>
- TN Small Biz Buzz (Facebook):  
<https://www.facebook.com/TNSmallBizBuzz>
- TN SBEAP Quarterly Newsletter:  
<https://www.tn.gov/environment/sbeap/newsletter.html>
- National SBEAP: <https://nationalsbeap.org/>
- National SBEAP X: [https://twitter.com/National\\_SBEAP](https://twitter.com/National_SBEAP)

# Final Comments?

