

S m a r t B u s i n e s s L e a d e r s A r e . . .

getting the
GREEN
back

G r e e n i n g t h e E n v i r o n m e n t

G r o w i n g
t h e E c o n o m y



a guide to Assistance Programs available through EPA's New England Office

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StarTrack encourages companies to undertake environmental management system and compliance audits, then be certified by an independent third party—a trusted source other than the government or the company itself. StarTrack participants qualify for facilitated access to EPA's assistance programs, fewer inspections, and enforcement discretion; they may also be eligible for streamlined permitting and reporting requirements, if they certify that their performance goes beyond compliance.

The New England Environmental Assistance Team (NEEATeam)

stands ready to help businesses incorporate pollution prevention technologies into their compliance strategies. We have targeted our initial efforts in the following sectors: printing, metal plating /finishing, computers/electronics, wood product coating, auto repair/finishing, municipalities, and technical, trade, and vocational schools.

"We can continue to put the public health first, but at the same time, under current law, we can operate in more flexible, common sense, integrated and less burdensome ways."

—Carol Browner, EPA Administrator

Background

During the past 25 years, EPA's New England Office has attained environmental improvements by creating and enforcing regulations, bringing some of the most recalcitrant of companies into compliance with the threat of enforcement. We recognize that the majority of businesses are law-abiding and work hard to follow the rules and stay profitable. And we recognize that enforcement must continue to be an important part of our work, to insure a level playing field for all businesses. The programs outlined in this brochure represent important new ways we can assure compliance.

Tips Hotline

Complying with environmental laws isn't always easy, but our assistance programs make it possible for New England businesses to "Get the Green Back." While EPA has adopted a variety of new tools to assist responsible businesses, we haven't forgotten those who break the law. On behalf of the overwhelming number of companies who have seen the light, we'll continue to pursue those who dare to compromise the quality of New England's environment. Tell us who they are. All calls are confidential, and anonymous tips are welcome. Call 1-888-EPA-TIPS.

Call 1-888-EPA-7341

visit our website:

<http://www.epa.gov/region01>



United States
Environmental
Protection Agency
Region 1, New England

EPA 901-K-001
April 1997

Smart Business Leaders Are . . .



Greening the Environment

Growing the Economy

"By promoting money-smart, environmentally sound ideas, we are helping New England businesses improve the environment *and* their bottom lines."

—John P. DeVillars,
Regional Administrator,
U.S. EPA Region 1, New England

Call: 1-888-EPA-7341

Introduction

a guide to Assistance Programs available through EPA's New England Office

At EPA's New England Office, we recognize that businesses and industries are key players not only for New England's economy, but for her environment as well. EPA has reinvented itself to better help the business community improve environmental performance by offering a menu of bold, new voluntary programs. We now have the nation's largest office dedicated solely to helping businesses take care of the environment. We seek to tap corporate innovations and professional knowledge to bring about even greater environmental results.

EPA's New England Office reaches out to businesses with user-friendly assistance programs designed with one thing in mind: helping New England businesses improve their environmental performance while preserving their financial health—or to put it more simply, "Get the Green Back."

These programs provide businesses with information on and access to compliance and pollution prevention assistance, regulatory flexibility, public recognition, green technologies, environmental management systems, and our small business ombudsman. This brochure provides a sampling of our innovative assistance programs.

Green Technology

The **Center for Environmental Industry and Technology (CEIT)** capitalizes on the region's rich environmental industry, promoting innovative technologies that help protect public health and the environment while growing the regional economy. CEIT is a catalyst for bringing new environmental technologies to the marketplace by providing the following: improved access to state and federal programs and funding; opportunities for technologists to demonstrate the potential of their product; and expanded access to investors and other sources of capital.

Recognition

A bold new regional recognition program open to any New England business, municipality, or organized group, **Partners for Change** suggests ways to improve environmental performance and provides resources, information, support, and encouragement. To be recognized as a Partner, develop environmental goals for your organization and share them with employees, undertake at least one activity that results in a substantial and permanent environmental benefit, and fill out the simple application to tell us what you did. If you meet the requirements, EPA will recognize you with a window decal, a certificate, the right to market yourself as a Partner for Change, and more.

Regulatory Flexibility

Project XL encourages corporate ingenuity to test innovative, real-world strategies that achieve cleaner and cheaper environmental results than traditional regulatory approaches. We encourage companies to find a better way to get the job done than the regulations require, and in return, EPA will rewrite the rule book. The goal is to accelerate environmental and economic progress while improving the regulatory system.

Small Business Assistance

The **Small Business Ombudsman** serves as a liaison between small businesses and EPA's New England Office, facilitating communications between the small business community and the agency. This office provides regulatory/technical assistance information, technical literature, and speakers, interfaces with small business trade associations, and assists small businesses during enforcement actions.

Smart Business Leaders Are . . .

getting the
GREEN
back

Greening the Environment

Growing the
Economy

1-888-EPA-7341

<http://www.epa.gov/region01>

Smart Business Leaders Are . . .

getting the GREEN back

a guide to
Assistance Programs
available through
EPA's
New England Office

		all New England businesses	all high-performance New England businesses	all small businesses in New England	technologists, entrepreneurs, and any firm in the environmental technology industry	metal plating and finishing	wood product coating	auto repair and finishing	printing	computers & electronics	schools
Technical Assistance	New England Environmental Assistance Team					●	●	●	●	●	
	CLEAN				▲	★		★			
	WasteWi\$e	●	●	■	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Green Technology	CEIT			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	Green Lights	●	●	■	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	ENERGYSTAR	●	●	■	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Management Systems	StarTrack		●								
	Environmental Cost Accounting	●	●	■	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Regulatory Flexibility	Project XL	●	●	■	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Common Sense Initiative (CSI)				●			●	●		
Recognition	Environmental Leadership Program (ELP)		●								
	Partners For Change	●	●	■	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Safe Drinking Water Business Award Program	●	●	■	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Environmental Merit Awards	●	●	■	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Small Business Programs	Small Business Ombudsman			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Small Business Compliance Incentive Policy			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	

● - eligible ■ - eligible if under 100 total employees ★ - eligible in the state of Maine ▲ - eligible in the states of Maine, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire

* companies with a strong environmental compliance record

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Assistance Programs

**For information call:
1-888-EPA-7341**

**visit our website at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region01>**

Technical Assistance

NEETeam - A full range of compliance assistance activities including training, compliance manuals, over-the-phone tech and compliance assistance, referral to state on-site assistance providers, and more.

CLEAN - Help for on-site compliance and pollution prevention audits, offering limited enforcement amnesty in return for a commitment to incorporate a pollution prevention program.

WasteWiSe - Information and assistance for solid waste reduction and recycling opportunities.

Green Technology

CEIT - Addressing the needs of the environmental industry by:

- improving the industries' ability to access state and federal programs;
- increasing access to technology demonstrations;
- increasing access to capital;
- removing regulatory and institutional barriers facing the environmental industry; and
- marketing environmental products and technologies.

Green Lights - Information and referrals for on-site energy-efficient lighting audits.

ENERGYSTAR - Information and guidance to business owners seeking energy savings through facility improvements and office equipment purchases.

Management Systems

StarTrack - Enables companies to pilot environmental compliance and management system audits in combination with third party certification. Participating companies benefit from limited enforcement amnesty, no routine inspections, simplified reporting, and expedited permitting.

Environmental Cost Accounting - Publications and information about ECA benefits, system options, and expert assistance referrals.

Regulatory Flexibility

Project XL - Provides flexibility concerning current regulatory approaches while encouraging real-world tests of innovative strategies that achieve superior environmental results.

Common Sense Initiative - A national initiative examining a full range of environmental requirements impacting six industrial sectors. CSI proposals can result in cleaner, cheaper, smarter changes to regulations, enforcement programs, reporting and record keeping requirements, and permitting programs.

Recognition

Environmental Leadership Program - (ELP) Recognition of companies that are environmental leaders. ELP encourages development, demonstration, and testing of innovative and comprehensive approaches to increased environmental compliance and pollution prevention.

Partners For Change - Information, resources, support, and recognition for undertaking environmental actions that are economically feasible.

Safe Drinking Water Business Award Program - Recognition for New England businesses that have helped protect drinking water supplies.

Environmental Merit Awards - Recognition for environmental leaders judged on the following: promotion of innovative ideas, techniques, or technologies; ability to assess an environmental need; accomplishment of stated goals; ability of the program to be replicated or shared; collaboration with others; and long-term environmental benefit.

Small Business Assistance

Small Business Ombudsman - Serves as an advocate for small businesses.

Technical Assistance

COMPLIANCE LEADERSHIP THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITING AND NEGOTIATION (CLEAN):

CLEAN offers small and medium-sized businesses free, on-site compliance and pollution prevention audits, as well as limited enforcement discretion for violations discovered during the process, in exchange for an agreement to correct violations and undertake a "beyond compliance" pollution prevention project. EPA's New England Office has awarded \$300,000 in grants to non-government organizations — the University of New Hampshire, Maine Center for Technology Transfer, and Narragansett Bay Commission, for example — to establish multi-disciplinary technical assistance teams that will conduct in-depth pollution prevention assessments at metal finishing companies in Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. This program is offered to printers and wood product coaters in Maine.

CONTACT:

Austine Frawley

e-mail: frawley.austine@epamail.epa.gov

"In addition to my company's free assessment, the CLEAN program gave me access to tap the tremendous resources and knowledge of the EPA and state staff members with whom I now have ongoing working relationships. For a small company like us to be able to work with the federal government to make things better in a realistic way has been truly gratifying . . . particularly for those of us who lack resources and had always heard of things second-hand. I would now feel comfortable calling my EPA contacts anytime."
—Roland Chenard, Granite State Plating Company, Inc.

WASTEWI\$E:

WasteWi\$e offers an array of services intended to strengthen and assist company waste reduction programs including:

- a WasteWi\$e representative dedicated to each partner;
- a helpline and extensive library of resources;
- tip sheets on brief topics; and
- WasteWi\$e newsletter featuring partners' successful waste reduction efforts.

Much of our technical assistance information emphasizes waste prevention, an area of great cost-saving opportunity. Future assistance will focus on areas with the biggest opportunities, such as transport packaging and office paper reduction. More than 500 organizations participate in the WasteWi\$e program nationally. If you are not currently a WasteWi\$e partner, we invite you to join in this cost-saving and innovative effort to reduce solid waste.

CONTACT:

WasteWi\$e Helpline 1-800-EPA-WISE

Call 1-888-EPA-7341

NEW ENGLAND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE TEAM (NEEATeam):

EPA's New England Office founded the NEEATeam in 1995 to help New England businesses:

- comply with environmental laws;
- benefit from pollution prevention; and
- green their local environment while growing their own bottom line.

The NEEATeam provides an accessible, flexible assistance presence, so businesses can get straight answers to tough questions. Taking a sector-specific approach, the NEEATeam supplies in-depth background information and assistance to the following sectors: printing, metal finishing, computers/electronics, wood product coating, auto repair and refinishing, municipalities, and technical, trade, and vocational schools. With a special focus on small businesses, the team has provided:

- training workshops on pollution prevention and emerging technologies;
- round table discussions to raise and resolve issues; and
- written resources, such as compliance manuals and a guide to financing pollution prevention projects.

CONTACTS:

Automotive Repair and Finishing

Mary Dever, dever.mary@epamail.epa.gov

Computers and Electronics

Christine Bonica, bonica.christine@epamail.epa.gov

Andrew Miniuks, miniuks.andrew@epamail.epa.gov

Metal Finishing

Linda Darveau, darveau.linda@epamail.epa.gov

Municipalities

Jack Healey, healey.jack@epamail.epa.gov

Charles Conway, conway.charles@epamail.epa.gov

Printing

Anne Leiby, leiby.anne@epamail.epa.gov

Sally Mansur, mansur.sally@epamail.epa.gov

Technical, Trade, and Vocational Schools

Lee MacMichael, macmichael.lee@epamail.epa.gov

Wood Products Coating

Andrew Miniuks, miniuks.andrew@epamail.epa.gov

"We installed a high-tech ammonia etching regeneration system which reduced ammonia usage from 130,000 to less than 30,000 pounds annually, saving us tens of thousands of dollars beginning from day one, as well as making a positive impact on the environment."

—Chris Ford, Printed Circuit Corporation

Green Technologies

In New England, the environmental industry not only supplies innovative solutions to tough problems, it accounts for more than \$10 billion of the gross regional product and 150,000 jobs. Consistent with efforts throughout the Clinton Administration to work more closely with the technology community, EPA's New England Office has launched an ambitious program to promote this vital industry and to help new, cost-effective technologies find their way into the marketplace.

CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY:

EPA's New England Office has opened the Center for Environmental Industry and Technology (CEIT), which addresses the needs of the New England environmental industry by:

- improving access to state and federal programs;
- offering technology demonstration and evaluation opportunities;
- expanding access to capital;
- bringing down regulatory and institutional barriers; and
- marketing environmental products and innovative technologies both here and abroad.

EPA is achieving these goals through a variety of approaches. Since 1995, CEIT has directed \$4.9 million into innovative technologies by funding approximately 20 projects. CEIT also hosts six "Golden Opportunities" seminars with topics ranging from technology transfer to financing to international export opportunities. CEIT's Environmental Venture Capital Forum brings together environmental technology developers, investors, and regulatory experts to hear from pre-screened companies seeking funding for cutting-edge environmental services and technologies. In 1996, CEIT added a series of Technology Fairs that brings together members of the regulated community to learn about important new regulations facing their industries.

CONTACT:

Jim Cabot

e-mail: cabot.jim@epamail.epa.gov

"The new program will be good for the environment . . . And it will help the economy—especially, we believe, manufacturing—by reducing the regulatory costs of doing business in New England. We hope that this is only the start of a major effort to reduce regulatory redundancies in our region."

—Providence Journal Editorial (Oct. 9, 1996) in reference to
CEIT's Interstate Regulatory Cooperation Project

Call 1-888-EPA-7341

GREEN LIGHTS:

EPA's Green Lights Program encourages the widespread use of energy-efficient lighting; lighting accounts for 20 to 25 percent of all electricity sold in the United States. All facilities are eligible for this program that saves energy, money, and the environment. Too often, organizations treat lighting as overhead rather than an opportunity for investment. If Green Lights were fully implemented in all facility space in the United States, it would: conserve energy—saving over 65 million kilowatts of electricity annually; save money—reducing the nation's annual electric bill by \$16 billion per year; reduce pollution—eliminating carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxide releases equivalent to 12% of U.S. utility emissions, which would curb acid rain and smog and help slow the greenhouse effect.

In New England, more than 200 businesses, local governments, and other organizations have become Green Lights partners. Collectively, they have installed over 280 million square feet of energy-efficient lighting. In 1996, the installation of energy-efficient lighting in New England prevented carbon dioxide pollution equivalent to the amount produced by 12,000 automobiles. Additionally, significant reductions were realized in sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions, which create smog and contribute to respiratory illnesses. Completed energy-efficient upgrades through the New England Green Lights Program saved 156 million kilowatt hours of electricity and more than \$39 million in cumulative electric bill savings.

ENERGYSTAR BUILDINGS:

Information and guidance is available to business owners interested in achieving additional energy savings by developing and implementing an ongoing preventative maintenance plan, installing better insulation, and upgrading ventilation systems, heating/cooling systems, and lighting, with low capital expenditures.

ENERGYSTAR OFFICE EQUIPMENT:

When buying office equipment, the ENERGYSTAR label indicates lower energy usage without loss of performance. Computers, copiers, printers, and fax machines with this label "power down" when not in use.

ENERGYSTAR SMALL BUSINESS:

This program offers accurate, unbiased information on energy-efficient equipment through a toll-free hotline and an interactive website. Available information includes: how to survey and upgrade your equipment; a lender-registry of banks, utilities, and other financing available for small business efficiency upgrades; and educational and public relations material, to promote your success.

CONTACT:

Norman Willard

e-mail: willard.norman@epamail.epa.gov

"The Green Lights program has enhanced our corporate image as an environmental leader, generated limitless business, and reduced our facility operating costs."
—Paula Ziegenbein, Manager of Energy Programs Osram Sylvania, Inc.

Environmental Management Systems

STARTRACK:

EPA's New England Office has a great deal to offer companies that want to do their part to protect the environment. In some ways, our boldest initiative promoting environmental stewardship is the new StarTrack program, in which companies voluntarily agree to assess their environmental management system (EMS) and compliance performance, and to have this performance certified by a third party in a public report. In return, EPA offers limited enforcement discretion, reduced inspections, and expedited permitting. The public also benefits, through better and more readily available information about a company's environmental performance.

EPA and the participating company work together to develop guidelines for audits of the company's compliance and environmental management systems by a third party. They also develop standards or qualifications for an auditor and the substance of the compliance certification, but the company is free to establish its own internal procedures to meet agreed-upon environmental goals. Additionally, EPA's New England Office and the company develop a schedule for correcting any first-time violations uncovered during audits. So long as the company meets this schedule, and the violation: 1) is neither criminal in nature nor presents an imminent and substantial danger to human health or the environment, or 2) has not resulted in a significant economic benefit, EPA will take no enforcement action for that violation.

EPA's Ties to ISO 14000: ISO's (International Standards Organization) Environmental Management Standards are a series of voluntary standards and guidelines that include environmental management systems, eco-labeling, environmental auditing, life-cycle assessment, environmental performance evaluation, and environmental aspects in product standards. ISO's standards do not set requirements for environmental compliance or for specific levels of pollution prevention and performance.

Like ISO 14000, StarTrack encourages businesses to scrutinize their environmental compliance and management system, set goals, and establish plans for improving performance. The program strives to build on a company's environmental management system, focusing on "beyond compliance" environmental performance. Companies making efforts to meet the ISO 14000 standards will be in a great position to participate in StarTrack.

CONTACT:

David Guest

e-mail: guest.david@epamail.epa.gov

"By preventing pollution, we can have significant savings in production costs."
—Ronald V. Fernandes, Executive Vice President at Acushnet Rubber

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ENVIRONMENTAL COST ACCOUNTING:

The suggested first step in preventing pollution is to create a consistent system for evaluating and addressing the environmental implications of activities. A key component to any environmental management system is the measurement of environmental performance, although these systems often fail to recognize the significance of financial measurement in this process. Unfortunately, most accounting systems do not provide accurate and timely environmental cost information because these costs are usually included in overhead accounts.

Environmental accounting can be defined differently, depending on the situation. For a firm that uses financial accounting for external audiences, environmental accounting refers to the estimation of environmental liabilities and financially material environmental costs that are publicly reported. For those that use managerial accounting for internal purposes, use of environmental accounting refers to data about environmental costs and performance that helps in decision-making and operations.

Many environmental costs can be significantly reduced or eliminated as a result of business decisions, including the sale of wastes or clean technology licensing and more accurate costing and pricing of products, which can aid in the design of more environmentally preferable processes, products, or services in the future. Accounting for environmental costs and performance can support the development and operation of an overall environmental management system.

EPA's New England Office offers environmental cost accounting literature to help businesses move in the right direction. EPA's Environmental Accounting Project is based at our office in Washington, DC, where they perform education, research, guidance, and outreach.

CONTACT:

EPA's Pollution Prevention Clearinghouse
tel: (202) 260-1023

Regulatory Flexibility

For the first time in EPA's history, we are inviting members of the regulated community to come forward with new ideas, which may actually require us to rewrite the rules. Both Project XL and the CSI are designed to change the rules, if businesses can achieve a superior environmental outcome as a result.

PROJECT XL (eXcellence in Leadership):

Project XL encourages real-world tests of innovative strategies that achieve cleaner environmental results than traditional regulatory approaches. EPA will grant regulatory flexibility in exchange for use of innovative approaches. This flexibility could come in the form of a new interpretation, a streamlined administrative process, or the actual changing of a rule. EPA's New England Office accepts and reviews XL applications on a rolling basis.

CONTACT:

Anne Kelly

e-mail: kelly.annel@epamail.epa.gov

COMMON SENSE INITIATIVE (CSI):

CSI develops cleaner, cheaper, smarter environmental strategies for targeted sectors such as computer and electronics, metal finishing, iron and steel, petroleum refining, and printing. Under the program, EPA's New England Office has facilitated advisory committees that include representatives from industry, national environmental groups, community-based organizations, labor, and federal, state, and local government to examine the full range of environmental requirements that impact these sectors. CSI proposals may result in changes to existing and planned regulations, enforcement programs, reporting/record keeping requirements, or permitting programs.

CONTACT:

Mark Mahoney

e-mail: mahoney.mark@epamail.epa.gov

"[We] look forward to implementing our [XL project]. In our continuing efforts to be a good corporate citizen and a good steward of the environment, we believe that we can demonstrate that greater environmental benefits can be achieved through regulatory flexibility. Our project to enhance the recycling of both regulated and non-regulated waste streams will not only benefit HADCO, but will be a pilot for our industry to further these environmental benefits."

—Lee Wilmot, Director of SAFETY, Health & Environmental Affairs at HADCO Corp.

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Recognition

EPA's New England Office is committed to recognizing businesses that are going the extra "environmental mile." Those who manage to go green and stay in the black deserve special thanks and a leadership designation that will get the attention of clients, colleagues, and competitors. For too long, we have put the spotlight on environmental criminals without acknowledging superior environmental performers. The following programs are designed to make good businesses look even better by giving them the recognition they deserve.

PARTNERS FOR CHANGE:

Maybe you own a business and would like to be cleaner and greener, but have no idea where to start. As your "partner for change," EPA's New England Office will show you the path to environmental improvement. Your business doesn't have to actually be in the environmental arena—anyone can be a Partner for Change. The program offers businesses a free environmental "pocket-book" of ideas on everything from recycling and energy efficiency to waste reduction, available to every New England business. In return for implementing tips in the book, EPA will recognize and reward your company by putting it in the Business to Business Directory and highlighting it in our EPA press releases. A window decal and certificate, as well as your own marketing materials, will tell your customers, colleagues, and insurers that you are a Partner for Change.

CONTACT:

Partners For Change

e-mail: partners.region1@epamail.epa.gov

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM:

Companies who apply and are awarded the Environmental Leader designation receive more than special recognition and thanks. In return for developing and testing new approaches to environmental compliance and pollution prevention, they qualify for:

- facilitated access to EPA's assistance program including Green Lights, Climate Wise, WasteWi\$e, etc.; and
- fewer inspections, enforcement discretion, expedited permitting, streamlined monitoring/reporting requirements, and facility-specific benefits.

CONTACT:

Gina Snyder

e-mail: snyder.gina@epamail.epa.gov

Call 1-888-EPA-7341

ENVIRONMENTAL MERIT AWARDS:

Every year at a special Earth Day ceremony, EPA's New England Office presents a merit award to businesses that have had an outstanding environmental record during the previous year. Any business that has promoted and implemented an innovative idea or technology, which can be shared with others and/or will have positive long-term environmental effects, is eligible. Winners are mentioned in EPA press releases and receive a certificate of recognition.

CONTACT:

Kathleen Bogie

e-mail: bogie.kathleen@epamail.epa.gov

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION AWARDS PROGRAM:

At EPA's New England Office, we recognize that businesses can be a partner in resource protection, not just a potential source of groundwater contamination. Only by fostering such partnerships can we expect to achieve success in protecting New England's drinking water supplies. Any business that has made a demonstrated commitment to protecting drinking water supplies deserves the special recognition we provide through:

- publicity of business efforts in press releases and workshops around New England;
- participation in an awards ceremony and a unique plaque suitable for display; and
- recognition of efforts to protect drinking water sources, including certificates for all nominated businesses.

CONTACT:

Mary Jo Feuerbach

e-mail: feuerbach.maryjo@epamail.epa.gov

"At Texas Instruments, we know that what is good for the environment is good for business. Everything we have done to institute a sound environmental management system we would do whether or not the government recognized us. The recognition from [EPA Region 1, New England] for being an environmental leader is icing on the cake. It has helped [us] gain a competitive advantage and to differentiate ourselves from our competitors."

—Ray Lazotte, Texas Instruments

Small Business Assistance

SMALL BUSINESS OMBUDSMAN:

EPA's New England Office recognizes that the small businesses that fuel the region's economy often have a difficult time understanding and meeting environmental requirements while staying in the black. We've appointed an ombudsman to help small businesses make sense of environmental requirements and find assistance to improve their environmental performance.

Small businesses employ 53 percent of the private work force in the United States, contribute 47 percent of all sales in the country, and are responsible for 50 percent of the gross domestic product. Of the 3.3 million jobs created during 1994, an estimated 62 percent were produced in industries dominated by small businesses.

Small businesses are eligible for many of our business assistance programs, but to ensure that small businesses get the attention they deserve, we have expanded the activities of our Small Business Ombudsman to include the following functions:

- serve as liaison between small business and EPA to improve access to EPA;
- provide regulatory and technical assistance;
- offer a collection of informational and technical literature;
- interface with trade associations, small business organizations, and state ombudsmen who serve businesses on the local level; and
- serve as an advocate for small businesses in agency enforcement cases.

CONTACT:

Dwight Peavey

e-mail: peavey.dwight@epamail.epa.gov

"[EPA's Small Business Ombudsman] has brought the concerns and needs of small businesses to the attention and focus of our partnership—resulting in many examples of assistance and benefits for small businesses."

—New Hampshire Pollution Prevention Partnership

Call 1-888-EPA-7341

COMPLIANCE INCENTIVES FOR SMALL BUSINESS:

EPA recognized that many small businesses want to be good environmental citizens but need information on how to comply with requirements. As required by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, the agency has created a policy to help small businesses comply with environmental laws in a common sense, cost-effective way:

The objective of this policy is to promote environmental compliance of small businesses by providing incentives for them to conduct voluntary environmental audits, obtain compliance assistance, and promptly disclose and correct violations. In addition, many small businesses lack the ability to pay a significant penalty. Providing compliance assistance and having small businesses use their resources to come into compliance rather than pay a penalty is one way to maximize state and small business resources, and create incentives to compliance. Through this policy, EPA will provide small businesses up to six months, or up to one year if a pollution prevention solution is used to correct violations identified by a state or federally sponsored compliance assistance program or through a voluntary audit. By providing an extended period to come into compliance, and mitigating or eliminating penalties, EPA hopes to encourage small businesses to request assistance and/or conduct voluntary environmental audits to achieve compliance while EPA continues to protect public health and the environment.

If you have questions about how this policy can help you bring your facility into compliance, contact our Small Business Ombudsman.

CONTACT:

Dwight Peavey

e-mail: peavey.dwight@epamail.epa.gov