# U.S. EPA Small Business Resources Information Sheet

The United States Environmental Protection Agency provides an array of resources to help small businesses understand and comply with federal and state environmental laws. In addition to helping small businesses understand their environmental obligations and improve compliance, these resources will also help such businesses find cost-effective ways to comply through pollution prevention techniques and innovative technologies.

## Small Business Programs
- **www.epa.gov/smallbusiness**
- EPA’s Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) advocates and fosters opportunities for direct and indirect partnerships, contracts, and sub-agreements for small businesses and socio-economically disadvantaged businesses.

## EPA’s Asbestos Small Business Ombudsman
- **www.epa.gov/sbo or 1-800-368-5888**
The EPA Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman (ASBO) serves as a conduit for small businesses to access EPA and facilitates communications between the small business community and the Agency.

## EPA’s Compliance Assistance Homepage
- **www2.epa.gov/compliance**
This page is a gateway industry and statute-specific environmental resources, from extensive web-based information to hotlines and compliance assistance specialists.

## EPA’s Compliance Assistance Centers
- **www.assistancecenters.net**
EPA’s Compliance Assistance Centers provide information targeted to industries with many small businesses. They were developed in partnership with industry, universities and other federal and state agencies.

## Agriculture
- **www.epa.gov/agriculture/**

## Automotive Recycling
- **www.ecarcenter.org**

## Automotive Service and Repair
- **ccar-greenlink.org/ or 1-888-GRN-LINK**

## Chemical Manufacturing
- **www.chemalliance.org**

## Construction
- **www.cicacenter.org or 1-734-995-4911**

## Education
- **www.campuserc.org**

## Food Processing
- **www.fpeac.org**

## Healthcare
- **www.hercenter.org**

## Local Government
- **www.lgean.org**

## Metal Finishing
- **www.nmfrc.org**

## Painting and Coatings
- **www.paintcenter.org**

## Printing
- **www.pneac.org**

## Ports
- **www.portcompliance.org**

## Transportation
- **www.tercenter.org**

## U.S. Border Compliance and Import/Export Issues
- **www.bordercenter.org**

## EPA Hotlines, Helplines and Clearinghouses
- **www2.epa.gov/home/epa-hotlines**
EPA sponsors many free hotlines and clearinghouses that provide convenient assistance regarding environmental requirements. Some examples are:

## Clean Air Technology Center (CATC) Info-line
- **www.epa.gov/ttn/catc or 1-919-541-0800**

## Superfund, TRI, EPCRA, RMP and Oil Information Center
- **www.epa.gov/superfund/contacts/infocenter/index.htm or 1-800-424-9346**

## EPA Imported Vehicles and Engines Public Helpline
- **www.epa.gov/otaq/imports or 734-214-4100**

## National Pesticide Information Center
- **www.npic.orst.edu/ or 1-800-858-7378**

## National Response Center Hotline to report oil and hazardous substance spills - [www.nrc.uscg.mil](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil) or 1-800-424-8802

## Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse (PPIC) - [www.epa.gov/opptintr/ppic](http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/ppic) or 1-202-566-0799

## Safe Drinking Water Hotline - [www.epa.gov/drink/hotline/index.cfm](http://www.epa.gov/drink/hotline/index.cfm) or 1-800-426-4791

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Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance: [http://www2.epa.gov/enforcement](http://www2.epa.gov/enforcement)
**Small Business Resources**

**Stratospheric Ozone Protection Hotline**
www.epa.gov/ozone/comments.htm or 1-800-296-1996

**Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Hotline**
tsca-hotline@epa.gov or 1-202-554-1404

**Small Entity Compliance Guides**
http://www.epa.gov/sbrefa/compliance-guides.html
EPA publishes a Small Entity Compliance Guide (SECG) for every rule for which the Agency has prepared a final regulatory flexibility analysis, in accordance with Section 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA).

**Regional Small Business Liaisons**
http://www.epa.gov/sbo/rsbl.htm
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Small Business Liaison (RSBL) is the primary regional contact and often the expert on small business assistance, advocacy, and outreach. The RSBL is the regional voice for the EPA Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman (ASBO).

**State Resource Locators**
www.envcap.org/statetools
The Locators provide state-specific contacts, regulations and resources covering the major environmental laws.

**State Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAPs)**
www.epa.gov/sbo/507program.htm
State SBEAPs help small businesses and assistance providers understand environmental requirements and sustainable business practices through workshops, trainings and site visits.

**EPA’s Tribal Portal**
www.epa.gov/tribalportal/
The Portal provides access to information on environmental issues, laws, and resources related to federally recognized tribes.

**EPA Compliance Incentives**
EPA provides incentives for environmental compliance. By participating in compliance assistance programs or voluntarily disclosing and promptly correcting violations before an enforcement action has been initiated, businesses may be eligible for penalty waivers or reductions. EPA has two such policies that may apply to small businesses:

**EPA’s Small Business Compliance Policy**
www2.epa.gov/enforcement/small-businesses-and-enforcement
This Policy offers small businesses special incentives to come into compliance voluntarily.

**EPA’s Audit Policy**
www2.epa.gov/compliance/epas-audit-policy
The Policy provides incentives to all businesses that voluntarily discover, promptly disclose and expeditiously correct their noncompliance.

**Commenting on Federal Enforcement Actions and Compliance Activities**
The Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) established a SBREFA Ombudsman and 10 Regional Fairness Boards to receive comments from small businesses about federal agency enforcement actions. If you believe that you fall within the Small Business Administration’s definition of a small business (based on your North American Industry Classification System designation, number of employees or annual receipts, as defined at 13 C.F.R. 121.201; in most cases, this means a business with 500 or fewer employees), and wish to comment on federal enforcement and compliance activities, call the SBREFA Ombudsman’s toll-free number at 1-888-REG-FAIR (1-888-734-3247).

Every small business that is the subject of an enforcement or compliance action is entitled to comment on the Agency’s actions without fear of retaliation. EPA employees are prohibited from using enforcement or any other means of retaliation against any member of the regulated community in response to comments made under SBREFA.

**Your Duty to Comply**
If you receive compliance assistance or submit a comment to the SBREFA Ombudsman or Regional Fairness Boards, you still have the duty to comply with the law, including providing timely responses to EPA information requests, administrative or civil complaints, other enforcement actions or communications. The assistance information and comment processes do not give you any new rights or defenses in any enforcement action. These processes also do not affect EPA’s obligation to protect public health or the environment under any of the environmental statutes it enforces, including the right to take emergency remedial or emergency response actions when appropriate. Those decisions will be based on the facts in each situation. The SBREFA Ombudsman and Fairness Boards do not participate in resolving EPA’s enforcement actions. Also, remember that to preserve your rights, you need to comply with all rules governing the enforcement process.

**EPA is disseminating this information to you without making a determination that your business or organization is a small business as defined by Section 222 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act or related provisions.**

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