

# SMALLBIZ@EPA

EPA's Asbestos and Small Business Ombuds Program

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE REGULATED SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

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## FEATURE

### NEW Grant Opportunity: "Management of the 507 Program's Collaboration and Communication Activities"

EPA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) is seeking proposals from eligible entities to provide compliance assistance support to regulated small businesses through communication and collaborative services for the National 507 Program, including state Small Business Ombudsmen (SBO), state Small Business Technical Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAP), and Compliance Advisory Panel (CAP) members from around the country. Broadly, this funding opportunity seeks to support regulated small businesses through the management of the

Nationalsbeap.org website, 507 Program collaborative resources, national contact lists, and provide planning and hosting services for annual training activities to support compliance assistance for small businesses and the National 507 Program.

Applications must be submitted through Grants.gov no later than **Monday, December 2, 2024**. OSDBU will host an informational webinar for this grant opportunity on **Monday, October 28, 2024**. To register for the webinar, contact us via email at [asbo@epa.gov](mailto:asbo@epa.gov). [Review the solicitation and apply for the OSDBU funding opportunity at Grants.gov](#).



## **POLICY AND REGULATION**

### **Review of Final Rule Reclassification of Major Sources as Area Sources Under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act**

On September 10, 2024, EPA finalized requirements for sources that reclassify from major source status to area source status under the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) program. The requirements of this final rule apply to all sources that choose to reclassify after September 10, 2024. The final amendments include a requirement that sources subject to certain major source NESHAP used to meet the agency's obligations under the Clean Air Act (CAA) for seven specific persistent and bioaccumulative pollutants must remain subject to those NESHAP even if the sources reclassify to area source status. This requirement is based on the EPA's analysis of the statute and of comments received on the EPA's 2023 proposal to amend requirements for NESHAP-regulated sources that choose to reclassify from major to area source status. This final rule became effective **September 10, 2024**. [Read the NESHAP requirement update in the Federal Register](#).

### **EPA Finalizes Rule to Accelerate American Leadership in Cutting Climate-Damaging Hydrofluorocarbons Used in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Equipment**

On September 23, 2024, EPA announced a final rule to establish a new program to better manage, recycle, and reuse climate-damaging hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act. The final rule includes provisions that will reduce wasteful leaks from large refrigeration and air conditioning equipment and will support American leadership and innovation in the development of clean solutions to tackle these dangerous heat-trapping emissions. [Read the press release on the final rule on and new and improved programs and management of HFCs](#).

## Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (21-3.F)

EPA is proposing significant new use rules (SNURs) under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) for chemical substances that were the subject of premanufacture notices (PMNs). The chemical substances received “not likely to present an unreasonable risk” determinations pursuant to TSCA. The SNURs require persons who intend to manufacture (defined by statute to include import) or process any of these chemical substances for an activity that is proposed as a significant new use by this rulemaking to notify EPA at least 90 days before commencing that activity. The required notification initiates EPA's evaluation of the conditions of use for that chemical substance. In addition, the manufacture or processing for the significant new use may not commence until EPA has conducted a review of the required notification, made an appropriate determination regarding that notification, and taken such actions as required by that determination. Comments must be received on or before **October 28, 2024**. [Read the proposed rule under TSCA in the Federal Register.](#)



## KEY DATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$117 Million in Grants Available to Advance Recycling Infrastructure and Prevent Wasted Food

On September 16, 2024, as part of President Biden’s Investing in America agenda, EPA announced \$117 million for three separate funding opportunities to advance recycling infrastructure and boost food waste prevention education across the country. Two of the notices are for Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling grants – one funding opportunity for Tribes and intertribal consortia and another for communities (such as cities, counties, and parishes) across the country. The third notice is for EPA’s Recycling Education and Outreach grant program and is focused on food waste prevention and composting. All three opportunities are made possible by President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which provided the largest EPA investment in recycling in more than 30 years. [Read the press release on the new grant opportunities.](#)

### Use of Advanced and Emerging Technologies for Quantification of Annual Facility Methane Emissions Under the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program

On August 29, 2024, EPA published a request for information (RFI) on the “Use of Advanced and Emerging Technologies for Quantification of Annual Facility Methane Emissions Under the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program.” The EPA is extending the comment period. The comment period for the document published on August 29, 2024,

at [89 FR 70177](#), is extended to **November 27, 2024**. [Read the notice and request for information in the Federal Register](#).



**Dear SBEAP:**

***I recently learned that my small electroplating business may be located in an underserved community or environmental justice area. However, I am curious about how the EPA defines overburdened communities and whether there have been any changes to compliance policies from the EPA for small businesses specifically located in these burdened communities. What resources are available to help small businesses pursue environmental justice initiatives?***

***Sincerely, John Miller***

**Dear John:**

Recently, EPA redefined and stated a clear explanation about [Environmental Justice](#) (EJ) as the just treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of income, race, color, national origin, Tribal affiliation or disability, in agency decision-making or other federal activities which affect human health and the environment so that people:

- Are fully protected from disproportionate and adverse human health and environmental effects (including risks) and hazards, including those related to climate change, the cumulative impacts of environmental and other burdens, and the legacy of racism or other structural or systemic barriers.
- Have equitable access to a healthy, sustainable and resilient environment in which to live, play, work, learn, grow, worship and engage in cultural and subsistence practices.

So far, EPA hasn't made any changes to compliance policies for small businesses specific to EJ areas. Fortunately, the [SBEAP](#) continuously supports small businesses with enforcement and environmental compliance in regions with EJ concerns. Please visit our SBEAP [Environmental Justice](#) page to learn more about SBEAP services, including a brief [informational flyer](#) about the [EPA's National Enforcement and Compliance Initiatives](#) for fiscal years 2024-2027. The majority of electroplating units could release "forever chemicals," known as Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, or PFAS. Therefore, the EPA has initiated compliance and enforcement activities to address PFAS contamination and control under the [EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap](#).

To confirm whether your business is located within an EJ area, use the most recently updated [EPA EJScreen](#). For additional resources to empower communities with EJ concerns, contact your state's regional [Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers](#) (EJ TCTACs) or Kansas State University's [Technical Assistance to Brownfields](#) (TAB). As always, for technical environmental regulatory assistance, connect with the [National SBEAP](#) at 800-578-8898.



## **SPOTLIGHT**

### **EPA Issues Enforcement Alert to Address Illegal Import of Hydrofluorocarbons into the United States**

On September 6, 2024, EPA issued an Enforcement Alert regarding its work under the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act (AIM Act) to phase down production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). The agency's new alert provides information on common compliance issues observed with the importation of bulk HFCs and highlights recent civil and criminal enforcement actions. The alert is intended to help address the climate crisis and ensure that companies comply with the law and take the necessary steps to avoid potential EPA enforcement actions. [Read the press release for more on HFCs and the EPA Enforcement Alert.](#)

### **Safer Choice Partner of the Year and New Outdoor Label**

On September 24, 2024, EPA announced 43 Safer Choice Partner of the Year award winners across 20 states and the District of Columbia, recognizing their achievements in the design, manufacture, promotion, selection and use of cleaners, detergents and other products with safer chemicals. The Safer Choice program and label help consumers and purchasers at facilities find cleaning and other products with chemical ingredients that are safer for human health and the environment. The Safer Choice Product label also recently announced a new outdoor product label and search engine to quickly review products for outdoor use. [Read the press release for the full list of Partner of the Year award recipients.](#) [Read the press release on the new Safer Choice Outdoor Label.](#)

### **EPA Awards \$15 Million for Research on PFAS Exposure and Reduction in Agriculture**

On September 4, 2024, EPA announced over \$15 million in research grant funding to ten institutions for research to reduce per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances exposure from food and protect our farmlands and farming communities. These community-

engaged research projects will collect PFAS bioaccumulation data in agricultural plants and livestock and explore strategies for reducing PFAS exposure, which are important parts of EPA's commitment to protecting human health and the environment from PFAS. [Read the press release for more on this PFAS research and subsequent funding awards.](#)

### **Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$300M in Grants to Tribal Nations and a U.S. Territory to Cut Climate Pollution and Accelerate Clean Energy Transition**

On September 5, 2024, EPA announced the selected recipients of \$300 million in Climate Pollution Reduction Grants for Tribes and U.S. territories as part of the Biden-Harris Administration's Investing in America agenda. EPA has selected 34 applications to fund projects proposed by 33 Tribal recipients and the Municipality of Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to implement community-driven solutions to tackle the climate crisis, reduce air pollution, advance environmental justice, and accelerate the clean energy transition. EPA made its Tribes and Territories Competition selections following a review of 110 applications that requested a total of more than \$1.3 billion in funding. [Read the press release for more on these clean energy grants.](#)

### **Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$7.5 Billion in Available Financing for Water Infrastructure Projects**

On September 6, 2024, EPA announced the availability of \$7.5 billion of Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) funding. The WIFIA program offers long-term loans to help communities implement critical water infrastructure projects, which protect public health, deliver environmental benefits, create over 60,000 good-paying jobs, protect waterways including drinking water sources, and support local economies, at a lower cost. [Read the press release for more on these historic investments for water infrastructure projects.](#)

### **EPA Launches New Website to Support the Development of Climate-Resilient Projects**

On September 11, 2024, EPA announced the launch of a new website, the [Climate Resilience and Adaptation Funding Toolbox \(CRAFT\)](#). CRAFT is a user-friendly resource for technical assistance providers working with federal funding applicants and recipients to develop, apply for and implement climate-resilient investments. The website provides simple, easy-to-understand resources that can help users consider climate adaptation and resilience before, during and after applying for EPA funding opportunities. [Read the press release about the launch of CRAFT.](#)



## Biden-Harris Administration Launches Nationwide Environmental Justice Climate Corps

On September 25, 2024, in commemoration of Climate Week NYC, EPA and AmeriCorps announced the [Environmental Justice Climate Corps](#), a new partnership launched as part of President Biden's American Climate Corps to open doors for people to serve in careers that benefit disadvantaged and other low-income communities. This partnership will support more than 250 AmeriCorps VISTA members nationwide over three years, with each new participating member completing a one-year term of service. This historic initiative is the largest environmental partnership in AmeriCorps' history and EPA's first nationwide service effort. [Read the press release about the new Environmental Justice Climate Corps.](#)

## EPA Recognizes Two Colorado Companies for Distinguished Efforts to Prevent Pollution

On September 16, 2024, EPA Region 8 recognized two Colorado companies as winners of the 2024 Regional Pollution Prevention (P2) Recognition Program. This year's winners – Revvity and Breckenridge Grand Vacations – have demonstrated leadership in innovative pollution prevention practices by reducing, eliminating or preventing pollution at its source prior to recycling, treatment or disposal. [Read the press release about the P2 Recognition Program and the winners from Colorado.](#)



**Website :**  
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